



Our Community

Points to consider:

Religion: *We are Easter People:* We are joyful in the resurrection of Jesus. The events of Holy Week were difficult for the children to understand. We brought these experiences to them in very symbolic ways in the Washing of the Feet and the Last Supper. The story of Benjamin's Box and the accompanying eggs to support the telling of the Passion allowed the children to experience the events of Holy Week in a tangible way. Our readings now focus on the 40 days of the Easter Season and Jesus among us.

Mathematics: Children connect value to coins. They sort coins by type—noting the differences. Naming the denominations of coins as penny, nickel, dime and quarter and then assigning values to penny, nickel and dime. Children are counting on one and two cents to the three coins. Children have many ideas of where money comes from. From the mouths of babes...

- ❖ My whole house is full of money.
- ❖ Mom and dad earn change at work. If you do a good job you get more change. If you do a bad job you get less change.
- ❖ You go to the bank and you tell the girl what you want, like how much money you need and she give you the money and a lollipop.
- ❖ The Dollar Store (makes dollars)
- ❖ You press buttons on a calculator and you get money. It comes out the back.
- ❖ People give us money...My parents find it on the ground.

Math (continued) As we begin to think about money and our economic system, we think we have much to do in financial education. Take every opportunity to work with coins at home and help your child build an awareness of the value of money and its role in our lives. A new literacy bag is on its way: **Benny's Pennies**.

Literacy/Reading/Writing: Children should have an immediate association with letters and sounds. Pulling up these sounds and the symbols and writing the symbols quickly is essential in the writing process. Long and short vowel sounds and spelling pattern rules are in place. Children know to scan to the end of the word to look for silent e and to change the vowel sound to a long sound. In reading text, they need to be flexible in manipulating sounds to make the word fit and to hear when it does not.

Art: As we pack our bags and depart China, children have many experiences to bring with them. We investigated the design on blue willow china and related it to the story, Blue Pattern Story. We all learned so much from the story depicted in these designs. Children recreated the designs but added a new layer of learning to the experience as they made up their own stories for a new representation.

Geography: Children are imagining where our travels will take us next. We explored the atlas today and gave hints that we would fly across the ocean yet again. Our country has famous buildings that we will design on the block table; amazing museums filled with works by famous artist that we will investigate in our art work; a beautiful language that will roll off our tongues; a saint that we will learn about from Liseux. If you have an idea where we are going and have any materials to share, we would gladly welcome that opportunity.

Auction Update: Mrs. Saulino and Mrs. Noret have the auction project well underway. Thank you for your donations. The children designed tiles for a fire pit and made their personal mark on the Adirondack chairs. You will be updated with photos of the final items. Hope to see you all at the auction.

Registration for the next academic year: It always brings us much joy and a sense of accomplishment as we are able to witness children learning and growing across the grades. My first class here at SJS will graduate this year. So, it is always our hope that the children we now have in kindergarten will continue along at SJS.

If you have not yet registered for the next school year, please consider tackling this task this weekend. If for some reason you will not be returning or on the fence, please let me know where your decision lies at this time. Simply drop me a note, send me an email or call the school office. Let us know how we can support you in this decision for your child.

Blessings to you,

Linda LaPlume