3/20/16

Dear Julia Green 3rd & 4th Grade Encore Parents,

I hope your spring break is terrific! Your children have been stretching their brains in our Psychology of the Brain unit and Brainetics Math. We began by brainstorming what the brain does. We made wearable brain hats and we studied the central nervous system including sensory and motor nerves. We did a mystery bag activity where students were blindfolded and pulled items out from a bag. Using their sensory & motor nerves, they guessed what the items were. They did a Stroop Vision test where they overruled their normal reading sensory input by not reading the words just the color the words were in.

We learned about brain neuron with its dendrite receivers and axon senders. We were very fortunate to have Dr. Drury (Matt’s mom) demonstrate to his Encore class how you can see and alter your brain waves. Dr. Drury is a Clinical Neuropsychologist. She can train your brain to overlook distractions and focus better. <http://www.nbaNashville.com>

We did a Blooms Taxonomy activity aligning the thickening dendrites with higher level learning. We learned about Piaget’s Stages of Cognition, Maslow’s Hierachy of Needs and Mischel’s Delayed Gratification activity with a marshmellow/tootsie roll test. We learned as you get older, the short-term memory weakens. We did some short term memory tests where 7 items were covered and we waited 30-60 minutes before we could write them down. These young minds did pretty well! We saw some optical illusion tricks on TedEd and did one ourselves with flipping cards.

We are having a great time in our Brainetics Math. We did magic squares where all vertical, horizontal and diagonal sides add up to the same number. We did 3X3 magic squares using a number that is divisible by 3 on a tic tac toe board. That quotient goes in the middle box and you use the 4 numbers higher and lower than the starting number. We did 5X5 magic squares where the number chosen must be divisible by 5.This is more complicated on a 25 block grid. Every student got a set of rules to take home to so they can make their own magic squares. Next, we did a calendar game where students can tell you what day of the week your birthday was on. Students were given a chart and steps to follow to practice at home.

We have two save the dates enclosed in this email. The EPAC (Encore Parent’s Advisory Council) 6 PM meeting on Thurs. 3/31 at West End Middle School. The other is “Take me out to the Sounds’ Game” Encore Event at 6:15 PM on Tuesday 4/12 at First Tennessee Park. I hope to see you there!

I love what I do and your children are the reason! Nancy Sneed M.Ed K-4 Encore Teacher Julia Green, Waverly Belmont and Haywood http://juliagreenencore.weebly.com/