3/20/16

Dear Julia Green K-2 Encore Parents,

I hope your spring break is terrific! Your children have been stretching their brains in our Psychology of the Brain and Math units. 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 reading sensory input by not reading the words just the color the words were in.

We summarized the book The Essential Guide of Inside Out. It’s about a family who moved from their happy home in Minnesota to their new home in San Francisco. It focuses on Riley who is an only child. The brain is the control center for Riley’s thoughts and emotions. Her emotions: joy, anger, fear, sadness and disgust are battling for control of Riley’s emotions as she transitions to her new home. In the end, they all work together to help Riley adjust to her new circumst. The children did a great job writing/drawing details of Riley’s emotions in the story.

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 made one ourselves.

We are having a great time in our Brainetics Math. 1st and 2nd did magic squares where all vertical, horizontal and diagonal sides add up to the same number. They 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. 2nd graders did 5X5 magic squares on a 25 block grid where the number chosen must be divisible by 5. They got a set of rules to take home to so they can make their own magic squares. Kindergarteners did dice games of Race to 100, Twins’ road map, Odd and Even, and Adding cards in a game.

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/