

October 3, 2014

Education is about, among other things, rich learning and relationships. This has been a very busy week illustrating both. In the preKindergarten, the children have been working on how to make letters with wood, paper, magnets and collages. In Kindergarten, the students learned about the harvest and our relationship with the earth by picking apples out of the tree in the school's front yard (which T. Andrea planted approximately 20 years ago with her preKindergarten class.) Those apples together with apples donated by parent Jamie McFadden served as a way to talk about measurement and the harvest. The students peeled and cut up the apples, made apple bread and enjoyed the fruits of their labor.

The book fair was also a great success in many respects. It celebrated some of the finest of recent children's literature but it also raised money for our library, and was evidence of the generosity of so many of our families who volunteered their time setting it up the fair and working as cashiers. Thank you all, and thank you especially to T. Jacqueline, whose vision, organization and energy brought it all together.

We also had a very successful day of service on Thursday for the first through sixth grades. The first and second grades picked up trash, the third and fourth grades cooked for the homeless, and the fifth and sixth grades tended to street trees in Upper Darby. Our service connects the outside world to the curriculum and helps build relationships among our students and various community organization.

Our chili dinner on Thursday night was a way for us to celebrate community. There were so many people who helped by cooking, baking, setting up, serving and cleaning up. The chili and corn bread were delicious and to a person, we loved the fellowship of the meal. Thank you to the parents who supported us by attending and to the parents who supported us by working in the kitchen.

Finally, it was great to see you all for parent conferences. I have learned from teachers and parents alike that this week there have been innumerable rich conversations about how our children are growing and learning in impressive and inspired ways.

Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

John McKinstry  
Head of School