

April 9, 2009
Heather Haskell

5H Updates

5H - Hunnewell School / 781-446-6275 x424

Three Questions

5H is immersed in the study of Ancient China. We have integrated our study of both Language Arts and Social Studies. In addition to our study of geography, history, art and culture in Social Studies, we are also studying folktales and writing our own versions in Language Arts.

5H has read many Chinese folktales. We have been examining character traits, common themes, morals, styles of writing, illustrations and what we can learn about a culture by reading folktales. Ms. Vachani has read familiar tales such as *Yeh Shen* and *Lon Po Po* that are Cinderella and Little Red Riding Hood tales. Lastly, 5H is in the process of writing our own Cinderella tales using traditional elements of a folktale while setting tales in our own culture with "objects of affection" that range from baseball gloves to puzzle championships! Publishing these tales will take a variety of avenues; picture books, cartoons, panel graphics and computer art to name a few.

Taking the study of folktales and culture one step deeper, we read *The Three Questions* during a recent class meeting. This is a children's picture book based upon a story by Leo Tolstoy and a Vietnamese folktale (based upon an even older Chinese folktale.) We discussed how not only goods were traded along the Silk Route, but ideas as well. Many

themes and messages in folktales cross borders. In this particular book a young boy is searching for the answer to three questions;

*"When is the best time to do things?"
"Who is the most important one?" and
"What is the right thing to do?"*

Throughout the story his animal friends help him search for the answers to these questions. In the end, his friend the tortoise helps the boy see that he has the answer to all of his questions.

"There is only one important time, and that time is now. The most important one is always the one you are with. And the most important thing is to do good for the one who is standing at your side."

The conversation that followed the reading of this book was fantastic. Children made very concrete connections to everyday life. Children also made connections to our Pennies for Peace project. In analyzing the literature, children were able to note the types of animals that the author chose to use to represent wisdom, fun, healing and importance. Several children noted that we should not only "do good" for other far and wide, but that kindness starts at home, with those in our classroom, school, family and community. Thank you 5H! What a perfect tie to our CARE values!

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.wellesley.mec.edu

Upcoming Projects and Dates in 5H

April 13 New Book Groups begin

Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson

Dragon's Gate

Star Fisher

April 15 Middle School Course
Registration due - (green forms)

April 17 Math Assessment

April 13-17 Regular RRJs & Word Study
due

April 27 Author Grace Lin visits

April 30 Visit Middle School

May 4 Disabilities Speaker - grade 5

May 5-8 Thompson Island (arrive at
school regular time. Students will return
to school early on Friday for pick up)

May 12 Parent Info Session - Puberty
Unit 8AM Library

May 13-15 & 20 Grade 5 MCAS (*there is
no Social Studies this year - only
Science and Math*)

June 1 Men Read at Hunnewell 8:30AM

June 10 Gr 4 & 5 Field Day 10:45-11:45
AM

June 11 Field Trip to Peabody Essex
Museum

June 15 Grade 5 Celebration 6:30PM

June 23 Clap Out 11:45AM

Assistance

Grade 5 has many field trips, activities and expenses. We want all fifth grade children to be able to participate in these experiences as members of our community. Please contact Dr. Boris-Schacter if you need assistance for any of these expenses. All requests will be kept confidential.

Ms. Vachani

Ms. Vachani will complete her full time week of student teaching April 13-17th. All semester she has been learning to teach all subject areas of the curriculum. We have co-taught lessons and I have observed lessons. I am here in school every day; Ms. Vachani will just be taking the lead this week. 5H has been very fortunate to have Ms. Vachani with us. She will be completing her internship work here at Hunnewell on May 15th.