

Mrs. Irre's Class Notes
March 2020

March 28, 2020

Dear Parents,

I seem to be the only one fortunate enough to have followed through on Spring Break plans. My husband and I just returned from James River State Park. It was a quiet, lovely time far away from people and close to nature. Since our trailer is totally quarantined, we were able to enjoy some stress-free time away from our current virus worries. One of the highlights of the trip was hiking with our dogs to an overlook where the Tye River meets the James - it's almost a perfect T, which is unusual for converging rivers. We saw many marshes, identified a lot of plants (my husband is a wetland biologist, so I asked and he answered), and read, played games, and listened to the sounds of nature. I also spent a lot of time thinking about your children and our current situation. I brainstormed many academic-like Montessori activities for your children to do at home with your guidance. I have since been in touch with Mrs. DeMato to spend time at the beginning of this upcoming week to work on a format for you to access this information. Since Montessori is such an individualized curriculum you will use some of the promised activities for your own child but, depending on age, perhaps not all.

In addition I will be choosing a poem or nursery rhyme to send via snail mail to each of your children this upcoming week. First of all children love to receive mail. Second of all, mail from their teacher is really fun. Third of all, it will hopefully inspire your family to do some or all of these things:

- read the poem aloud to your child as much as they would like to hear it
- read other poems about the same topic or by the same author
- have your reading child read some or all of it if they are able
- point out the rhyming patterns in their poem
- identify letters they may recognize in the poem
- illustrate the poem (this is a FAVORITE activity for your children!!)
- memorize the poem to recite

It would be so fun to then contact Mrs. Burling with pictures of their illustrations or video of a child reciting their poem. It's a big job to memorize, but our kindergarten kids typically memorize poems for the end of year. It would be good practice.

I miss school and all of your children and I truly appreciate the many contacts I have had from you. I have seen pictures of art and nature and have heard kids reading aloud and celebrated a

few birthdays. It is unusual for me to say, but I am grateful for technology and grateful for all of you.

Stay well and I'll be in touch later this week. Keep the contacts coming!
Carrie