

THIDA MEP Newsletter

November 2013



P5 Science: All About Matter



By: Teacher Jade

After a nice long October break, school has resumed and we're all very busy. We're especially busy in our MEP5 Science class this term where we're talking *All About Matter*. We're discussing different types of materials, how to classify them, and what their uses are.

This topic has been difficult for the students because there are some rather abstract concepts. Students are required to classify whether a material is natural or synthetic, and whether it's organic or inorganic. It's also important for students to identify how a material can be used and from where it came.

We've also been discussing the properties of different materials, such as hardness, flexibility, transparency, and elasticity. Students have learned to determine whether a material has compressive or tensile strength, if it's a heat or electrical conductor, and if it's a heat or electrical insulator.

We have a lot to do this term. Soon we will discuss force and pressure, hearing, and even Astronomy!

Sing-a-long Club!



By: Teacher Cat

This semester in *Sing-a-long Club*, we are taking ourselves into the woods and singing about animals. Having found a wonderfully fun song through the power of YouTube, the kids are having a great time.

The song is entitled, "What Does the Fox Say?" and it explores the mystery for which it's titled. Have you ever heard a fox? What does it say?

There are so many animals whose sounds we know, but it's hard to pinpoint what a fox actually sounds like. This song puts a whimsical spin on this idea and allows for fun animal crafts, like mask making, to go with the song.

Finally, the students will also be learning a Christmas song as the holiday will be arriving shortly.



Music: the Best Tool for Learning

By: Michael Teacher

Every day in our P3 class we begin with a morning song, transition to math with a math song, and end class with a fun song. We also learn and sing many songs in Science, as well as some in English.

Music is a fantastic tool for learning and for transitioning between subjects. Music makes the students interested, lifts the energy of the class, and teaches the students many new words and ideas. We listen and sing to songs about the weather, the water cycle, health, adaptation, and many more topics. Any new word or idea I can find a song for, I use, and the students always learn these words and ideas much more quickly.

Last semester in the *Thida-may-rock-ya Music Club*, we learned about instruments and listened to many rock songs. This semester our club focuses on finding story in music, art, and poetry. We also practice listening to music with our eyes

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closed to hear every word, every instrument, and experience every feeling.

I feel that music truly is the best tool for learning.

All About Animals Club!



By: Teacher David

This semester, my club is the *Learning About Animals Club*. I love learning about animals and I know that most of my students do also. Our club will involve watching videos, singing songs, reading interesting things, looking at pictures, listening to sounds, and drawing animals.

Each week we will study something different in the animal kingdom. The first week we studied camouflage in animals. We saw some pictures of tigers hiding in the grass, chameleons hiding on a leaf, insects that look like branches of a tree, and mice that are the same color as the sand in the desert. We also watched videos of leopards and cheetahs hiding quietly so that they can catch something to eat. We saw polar bears walking around in the snow looking for seals. Then, I asked the students to draw animals hiding in different places. Maybe it's a grasshopper hiding in a tree, or a frog hiding in the water. Who knows?

Next week we'll study animals changing colors and shapes again, but this time they will be in the ocean. Some other topics we will study are how mother animals take care of baby animals and how animals protect themselves from being too hot or too cold.

I love learning about different animals because it's fun and I am excited that my students are too!

SPORTS CLUB



By: Teacher Jade

Every Monday we have English clubs to give the students extra exposure to English as well as the chance to learn from the other MEP teachers. This semester my club is the Sports Club.

In the Sports Club we learn all about different sports and how to play them. Students have to discuss the rules and equipment needed for each sport. For example, last week we played badminton and all of the students learned to refer to all of the rules of the game in English as well as identify the net, racket, and shuttle.

Other than badminton, we've also played *capture the flag*, football (soccer in the USA), and many others.

Soon we'll watch some videos from famous matches in sport's history and discuss them. We'll watch videos from the World Cup, World Series Baseball, Olympics, NBA Finals (basketball), and even the Super Bowl (American Football).

Learning about sports is another great way for students to have exposure to English. It's also a nice break from all of the classroom time we spend together. I hope the students continue to have as much fun in Sports Club as I do!