

January 27, 2012

Dear Families,

We have had a week of many meaningful discussions this week. This is a very wise group of young people who have many interests, passions, and visions about what life can bring. It is insightful to take a step back and notice what each child brings to the group. As we grow into this new year, the group is changing and evolving. We always have something to learn from one another. Keep an eye out for knitted items coming home soon! We are knitting up a storm right now! I consider it a special moment when I have five boys standing in front of me with needles and yarn saying, “Erica, that looks really fun, can I do it?” If any of you have needles at home that you do not use, we could use short needles – ideally sizes of 7 and 8. The kids are also very interested in making hats. So any 16” round needles that you could spare would be great! Thanks!

The Week at a Glance:

Martin Luther King Jr and the Civil Rights Movement:

Speaking of someone with a vision, we have talked about what it means to have a vision – great or small – and how one person can make a big difference if they have a strong vision. Over the last week we read a story about the life of Martin Luther King written by his sister. Most of the book was written about his childhood and then how he

We learned new vocabulary this week. We’ve worked on creating definitions and examples for these words and more: Justice, segregation, integration, citizenship, boycott, protest, courage, dignity, injustice. We had fruitful discussions about the meaning of these words. They are complex and the students worked with dictionaries and each other to gain a deeper understanding of this vocabulary. The song, *What Can One Little Person Do?* has taken on new meaning now that we have a clearer idea of what Justice means. We also watched and listened to a part of MLK’s *I Have a Dream* speech. After reading many books about the time period, the class was able to make many connections between what King was saying and what was happening at that time in history.

Thanks, Mr. H for the Feelometer lesson!

The Feelometer is a thermometer for feelings. It is a tool that helps us identify, name and be in control of our feelings. Mr. H. talked to the group about what to do when you feel different ways on the feelometer. For instance, what do you do if you feel that you are getting into the red zone and you have a very short fuse? What can you do to cool down and grow your fuse so that you have more patience? Today, a few students made our own version of the feelometer and now the whole lower school will be able to have a visual of these feeling words to use when we need help. We will continue to talk with Mr. H and gain new skills for when we are at either end of the feelometer. Have a conversation with

your child. What helps you when you feel really hot? Really cold?

I hope you have a restful weekend,

Erica and Pam

