

Around Dawson

**With Assistant Principal Barbara Diamond
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A refreshing change for children of the computer revolution was provided when a character actress in the role of Mother Goose visited the kindergartens. She had our youngest students mesmerized as she talked about nursery rhymes. She explained the vocabulary, dramatically recited rhymes, talked about her period costume and had students interact with the rhymes.



Many of our fifth graders enjoy reading so much that I am starting a Book Club for 5th Graders that will meet biweekly at recess. All the fifth graders were offered the opportunity to join. The only requirements are a love of reading and a desire to talk about books. It was a pleasant surprise to have enough students sign up so that I may have to divide the group in half! I'll be looking forward to learning about the participants' expectations and ideas for specific reading selections. It is my hope that some students will discuss books they wouldn't normally read, that others discover new genres and that the enjoyment of discussion will encourage students to finish a book that may be challenging.



Finally I would like to share with you some thoughts about traits seen in responsible students that came across my desk from The Parent Institute. We can probably agree that

responsible students set goals for themselves about what they plan to accomplish for the week and even for the year. Knowing where they want to be lets them focus on what's important and helps them succeed in reaching their goals. They plan their time and understand that they may need to do homework at a different time if they have an after school activity but homework still must be completed. Responsible students also study every day and take notes during instruction. They understand when a teacher points out important material it's likely to show up on a test. They have the tools they need with them in class, they complete assignments on time and they plan ahead. Perhaps preparing ahead for the next day so the morning routine at home flows easily allowing students to arrive at Dawson calm and ready to learn are the best ways to ensure a successful day.



*Until next time,
Barbara Diamond*