

Elementary – October 12, 2018



This week the elementary teachers continued to tell the **Great Stories**. For example, Upper Elementary heard about the Third Great Story, The Coming of the Human Beings. In this part of the story, the children hear about the human being who can work with their hands, think about things, and have a heart that loves. The story creates an **impression** of humans, like themselves, that can adapt, solve problems and care about the earth and people.

The Elementary children show us their response to this message in many different ways. This week, the children **explored** how nature works. This student is making discoveries about the different temperatures of a solid. Other children were writing reports on various topics from teeth, to animals, to full biographies on famous people.

Many of the children were exploring geometrical shapes. In one room, children were working on quadrilaterals. In another room, children were exploring the relationships between circles and learning terminology such as concentric, tangent, externally tangent and secant. The beauty was not in the concept of the lesson, but in the follow-up work that the students created. The exploration of circles led to a creative drawing of pumpkins having various eyes based on the terminology such as secant. Another young student was drawing bats on her rectangles, adding **artistic and creative style** to work that may not have become so interesting if it had just stayed on various types of quadrilaterals.

Going-Out Trips are an important part of the Elementary program. The children have the opportunity to practice skills they have learned within the classroom and apply it in the community. This week a group of third-year students went to the Wilton Library. There, they learned how to use the Dewey Decimal System. After the presentation, the children were invited to ask questions and hands shot up in the air. Their **developing imaginations and curiosity** about the world around them led to questions such as, "How many books are in the whole library?" (The answer was roughly 120,000) "Where was Melvil Dewey born?" (The librarian needed to look that up.) "Was Melvil his real name?" (Yes.) The children's faces seemed amused yet **accepting** of this new word.

Warm Regards,

Lisbeth and the Elementary Team