

# Question-Understand-Experiment-Share-Think

*Week of January 30, 2011*



## **WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY?**

### Social Studies:

The students will wrap-up their social studies unit this week and move on to science. The final project for social studies will be a news report about the Great Depression and its impact on people's lives. The students will pretend that the Great Depression has ended and that the news is doing a special report to remember what it was like and how it changed America. The news segment will include three parts: news broadcast, interview with someone who lived through the depression, and a commercial on a product that was available at the time.

The students did an excellent job studying the Great Depression. We had a lot of interesting conversations in class and I enjoyed working with them on the various projects and assignments!

The students also did a wonderful job on their Great Depression PowerPoint presentations. If you would like a copy of the presentation, please email me and I can email it to you (I highly recommend this, as they are very impressive projects!).

### Science:

Your child will soon begin a unique science experience that utilizes hands-on and problem-based learning. In this unit, students will take an active role in identifying and resolving a real-world problem constructed to promote scientific learning. Specifically, the students will learn about electricity and circuit components by building and wiring a model city. Students will begin the unit by studying the concepts of "systems". What is a system and what are the elements of a system? Students will look for examples of systems in nature and examples of systems that are man-made. We will re-visit this concept throughout our study of electricity.

More detailed information on our science unit, as well as requests for parent volunteers will be coming in the next few weeks.