

February 25, 2011

Dear Families,

We hope you enjoy the photographs from our recent visit to the Museum at Eldridge Street and from our two recent simulations. We have posted a link to view them on flickr. Please ask your child to narrate and explain the photos to you. This is part of each child's homework tonight.

Simulations are a wonderful way for children to put themselves in the shoes of people from another time and place, and to experience in some ways what it may have been like to live a different life. Our two simulations last Friday, Kids at School and Kids at Play, were quite popular according to the children's self-reflections. A few comments that are quite telling are:

"I'm more open and less stiff at LREI. I'm not afraid to be me, but I had to be perfect in the [Kids at School] simulation."

"I felt like my classroom was transformed. I expected a school day from 1911 and that's what I got."

"It was challenging to hear the stereotypes that boys are smarter and stronger than girls. It made me mad."

"The teachers were really strict. I could barely tell it was them!"

"I learned that I love stickball and kick the can!"

We hope you will have a chance to view the wonderful Art show. Many of our fourth graders enjoyed being the docents for the show and did a wonderful job in explaining their creative wonders to the many visitors.

We are so sorry we had to cancel our field trip today but will reschedule for very soon. The children are now studying the history of The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire and labor laws. There will be a PBS special airing this coming Monday evening marking the 100th anniversary of the events of March 25, 1911.

Lastly, we are wondering if anyone is available to take care of our dear Wizzie over March break? We recognize it is a bit late in the asking, but if at all possible, even for just one of the weeks, we would greatly appreciate the help. Please let us know if you are interested. She is a quiet houseguest!

Best,

Dina and Farrah