

Lubavitch School Open House Brought World Closer to Home

Lubavitch of N.C.

What's Right about Education

Have you ever been asked to name your favorite teacher? If so, you probably recalled someone like Courtney Pickett, a truly gifted teacher. Just ask her first and second grade students!

They come to school anxious to start each school day because they never know what wonderful delights await them. Will it be a vaudeville show? Will they become scientists and follow the scientific process to discover how water is displaced? Will they create their own spider maps using coordinates and a map key?

There are no limits to what her students can accomplish because Mrs. Pickett believes that existing parameters are there simply to be stretched. Seeing is believing, and you have to visit the classroom to see how involved the students are in learning. Courtney Pickett's



Courtney Pickett

classroom is an example of what's right about education.



Students Experience Economics

Educators today believe that children learn best through direct experience. At Lubavitch School, first and second graders in Mrs. Pickett's classroom learn economics first-hand because their classroom functions on a strong economic base. If students work, they get paid. If they want "extras," they must pay for them.

The money used is printed at Pickett's City Bank and resembles actual one, five, ten, twenty and fifty dollar bills. Students earn a basic weekly salary of \$40, subject to raises and cutbacks. They have opportunities to earn extra dollars by publishing a book, producing quality homework, working on projects and activities, taking tests, etc.

After earning \$100, each student can purchase a business. Three students have each bought a computer and printer. Each time a computer is used, the "owner" of the computer must be paid \$5. One student owns the classroom library and issues

library cards — for a fee, of course. Two students own headphone companies and make \$5 each time "their" headphone is used for listening to language arts tapes. One student owns the Energy Company. If students forget to turn off the bathroom light, they are fined. Their business enterprises include the Bathroom Company, the Reading Rug Company, the Maintenance Company (an incentive to keep the desk area clean because if the Maintenance Company has to pick up trash around a desk, get ready to pay!), and the Bingo Company (people using incorrect grammar have to pay the price — "Bingo" means pay \$1).

Does the system sound familiar? Only as familiar as real life. Many life skills are learned, including responsibility and the child's relation to our basic economic system. Children are excited about the project, and, most of all, it's fun!

An exciting program hosted by Lubavitch Day School and Preschool attracted over 200 people to visit and discover life around the world. Eight countries were represented at the international tour; each country featured its food, garb and music.

Two locations were utilized for this event, one at the Chabad House on Jefferson Drive, and the second was at the new Lubavitch property at 6619 Sardis Road. The program entitled "It's a Small World" was a miniature world's fair which involved both young and old.

As visitors were welcomed to the school, they were issued "passports" which allowed them to "travel" around the world. Each country offered the visitor the opportunity to participate in activities unique to its culture, more importantly, to create replica artifacts of the land visited.

Most prominent was the land of Israel, which was set up in the largest room at the Chabad House. There were scenes from Israel, a replica of Jerusalem of gold, and the Holy Temple in the center of the room with people from different countries, clothed in their distinctive garb making Aliyah to permanently live in Israel.

Visitors enjoyed authentic Israeli foods along with fruits that have made Israel famous. Chayah Feigenson and Chanie Weiss, both Judaica teachers at the school, guided visitors through the various displays on Israel and shared information on geography, society and history of Israel.

The upper grades at Lubavitch Day School converted their room to a little Mexico, where facts, pictures and maps were on display. Mexican music and delicious kosher Mexican food greeted eager visitors, who had their "passports" stamped as they entered the country. Mexico was hosted by Leslie Pruce, third and fourth grade teacher. Mrs. Pruce had been teaching a unit on Mexico to her students, and used this opportunity to share it with her visitors.

From Mexico, people traveled

Preschool and Dayschool Are Registering for '92-'93

Lubavitch Preschool and Day School are currently accepting applications for the 1992-1993 school year. The preschool program includes one-year-olds (the Exploration and Play program), two, three and four-year-olds.

Lubavitch Day School includes kindergarten through fifth grade.

Inquiries can be made by telephoning the school at 366-3984. School visitations are encouraged.



Mrs. Pickett's class performing a Broadway play.



What a choral group! Hollywood's future hopefuls!



Jeanne Steele conducting Chinese teatime.

back in time to visit with native Americans and learn about their culture and customs. Visitors participated in baking bread and painting about life in native America. Courtney Pickett, who teaches first and second grade, tastefully decorated her classroom to represent Native American culture.

As the world has been focusing attention on the economic success of Japan, kindergartners at Lubavitch Day School were being introduced to the language, customs, art and unique dress of Japan. For several weeks, children were learning about the history and geography of Japan. Susan Doobrow, kindergarten teacher, collected colorful Japanese posters and authentic artifacts which were in abundant display. Japanese dolls in full gear, Japanese huts and palaces adorned the classroom. Signs in Japanese and a huge dictionary made visitors feel welcome in the far east region of the world.

From Japan, visitors moved in to China, where Jeanne Steele, a Lubavitch preschool teacher, helped visitors design bright, colored Chinese costumes. Children enjoyed the kosher fortune cookies.

Italy, France and Argentina were all located at the Sardis Road property. Ms. Jeanne Feigler had decorated her room with Italian flags and shared delicious pasta coated with tomato sauce with visitors who ranged from age one to eighty-five. Martha Huxter, early child development, and Beverly Wakfield helped visitors with a little bit of Spanish as they toured Argentina and learned about its history.

Mary Anne Lynn, who teaches the three-year-olds, welcomed her visitors to France, where visitors enjoyed delicious French croissants and studied some French culture and customs.

The event was an opportunity for visitors to become better acquainted with the excellent quality in education offered at Lubavitch Day School and Preschool. It also allowed the parents, many of whom volunteered to make the event the success it was, to meet with each other and share in the joy and pride of the work of their children and their teachers. Many grandparents were visibly moved by what they saw and experienced.

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