



TWLS Connections

The Monthly Newsletter of The Whole Learning School



May 2010

Dear Friend,

Recently, **we asked TWLS teachers to tell us** what they liked about teaching our students. Here's what Sue McCrary had to say:

"I love my job at TWLS. Every day is an adventure with lots of smiles, hugs and guaranteed laughter. I also see the students grow daily, both academically and socially.

Today, a student in math class worked on counting money independently. She felt so proud that she beamed at me with joy! On Friday after karate class, I asked another student how she did, and whether she sat down during the class because she usually needs to rest several times. She held up one finger and said with great pride, 'Only once!'"

Dreams Come True!

On April 27th, hundreds of TWLS community members, friends, and supporters came together at the Golden Valley Country Club to make a difference in the lives of the wonderful, vibrant students of TWLS. Together, we raised almost \$250,000 in five-year pledges and contributions, with \$71,000 (our goal is \$75,000) raised to-date to meet our operating expenses through our fiscal year ending July 31. We are so grateful for your support. [Read more on our blog](#), or [see a photo album of the luncheon on Facebook](#)

Learning Made Fun

Almost every week on our blog, Kim Gallant, our Sensory Integration teacher, [provides tips and tricks](#) for teaching your child spelling, math, and other basic academic skills at home through games and challenges that also build their motor skills. Her ideas work wonderfully for children of all learning abilities and developmental stages - here's one of the latest:



Recess is a great chance to re-energize between classes!

Quick Links

[Our Website](#)
[Donate Now](#)
[In the News](#)
[Email Us](#)

Follow us on Facebook or Twitter



In Pictures: Recess



Counting with Water Balloons

Purpose: To reinforce your child's counting skills, improve time telling, enhance motor planning and coordination, and have fun.

Fill up 14-16 water balloons and keep them in a large bucket. Have your child stand a short distance away from you (keep it close at first and then back up to make it more of a challenge). Toss one balloon gently back and forth between the two of you. As the balloon goes back & forth count by 1's, 2's, 5's, 10's, or 25's (depending on what your child needs to work on). Or, count a number of seconds between throws - one, then two, and so on. Once you reach a designated number, if the balloon is still intact, allow your child to break the balloon on you or a designated spot. This is a fun way to practice a seemingly boring task, but beware - you will get wet!

Materials needed:

- Sink or hose
- Driveway, sidewalk, grassy area, or patio
- Water balloons



Thank you for being a part of The Whole Learning School community!

The Whole Learning School - 12325 State Hwy. 55 - Plymouth, MN 55441 - (763) 231-2700