



February 2008 Newsletter

Learning in First Grade

by Ms. Goldberg

The Academy for Global Citizenship's inquiry-based learning helps students to develop their skills and nurture questioning attitudes necessary to continue the learning process throughout their lives. Inquiring is a process that begins at birth. Babies try to make sense of the world around them as they observe voices, feel objects, and put things in their mouth. Similarly, inquiry-based learning within the classroom utilizes information gathered through the five senses: seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, and touching.

Although content is important, our philosophy focuses not just

on memorizing facts and data, but instead, learning how to interpret and make sense of the plethora of information we are faced with today.

In first grade, our students will be studying the unit of "How the World Works" through the exploration of different materials, their uses, and their properties. We hope to take students out of our everyday classroom to see how different materials change states.

We will investigate different materials through observation and investigations. We will see how different musical instruments produce different sounds depending on the properties of that material. We will make our own felt from wool yarn, and in

Doing an investigation at Family Inquiry Night

the end, use the knowledge we have gained to create a home made out of material suitable for a particular climate.

Through the process of inquiry our students will be able to make sense of the materials around them and focus on developing attitudes and skills needed to continue their quest for knowledge throughout their lifetime.

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The Academy for Global
Citizenship

2009

The Academy for Global Citizenship empowers students to positively impact the community and world beyond.

In pursuit of this mission, AGC is committed to: *Serving the whole child, modeling excellence in academics, developing inquirers, cultivating international awareness, fostering environmental stewardship, and facilitating collaboration within the community.*

Overheard at AGC

We are continually amazed at the insightful questions we hear our students ask at school. Here are some of the things we've been hearing!

Why do plants exist?

Why do schools in Africa look different?

How do you say my name in German?

Why does pasta get soft when you cook it?

Why are drinking cups made from different materials?

How do we count to 10 in 10 different languages?



Mixing colors investigation

Announcements

Health and Nutrition Night
Tuesday, February 10th
6:00-7:30

You are invited to attend a special evening about our healthy breakfast, lunch, and snack at AGC. You will be able to take home a cookbook of recipes from our kitchen and make Italian dressing with your students.

2009-2010 Enrollment

If your current student has a sibling who will be entering kindergarten or first grade next year, he or she has automatic enrollment at AGC. However, you **MUST** complete an enrollment form and submit it to the office by Friday, February 13th. If you do not, his or her space will be given to another applicant and your student will not be able to enroll at AGC until a space opens.

If you have any friends, relatives, co-workers, or neighbors who may be interested in enrolling their student in kindergarten, first grade or second grade for next year, enrollment forms are available in the office or online at www.agcchicago.org.

Shoes 4 Africa Success!

Thank you to all of the families who donated shoes to our Shoe4Africa project. Students worked for a week during our after-school program called Inquire. They collaborated on writing a letter, creating posters, and preparing to collect shoes. **We collected 253 pairs of shoes!** Isn't it amazing what 13 young students can organize! 15lbs of shoes will be sent by AGC directly to the Shoe4Africa organization in Kenya. These shoes will be used to support health initiatives and AIDS awareness for children. The other shoes will travel to

Africa through a local Chicago organization called Share Your Soles. The founder and director of Share Your Soles, Mona Purdy, was very excited to receive our donation of children's shoes. She works with orphanages all over Africa and told me that AGC shoes will make a difference in the physical and emotional health of many children. Thank you again for your strong support of this project! If you are interested in learning more about the difference a pair of shoes can make, please visit <http://shoe4africa.org> and www.shareyoursoles.org.

Important Dates	February	March	April
	<p>10 Health and Nutrition Information Night for Families 6:00-7:30</p> <p>12-16 No School-Lincoln's Birthday, Professional Development, and President's Day</p> <p>20 New student enrollment forms due to the AGC Office</p> <p>26 PTA Meeting 6:00-7:00</p> <p>27 Family Coffee 10-11:00</p>	<p>2 No School - Professional Development</p> <p>5 2009-2010 New student enrollment lottery</p> <p>10 AGC's Spanish Program Information Night for Families 6:00-7:30</p> <p>13 Portfolios and Report Cards sent home</p> <p>26 PTA Meeting 6:00-7:00</p> <p>27 No School - Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences Noon-7:00</p>	<p>6-10 No School - Spring Break</p> <p>14 International Awareness Evening for Families 6:00-7:30</p> <p>15 Spring photo day-Group pictures</p> <p>24 Family Coffee 10-11:00</p> <p>30 No School - Professional Development</p>



We're using worms to compost our food waste.



Doing the plant dance!!



Learning how blubber keeps whales warm



Eating salmon for lunch!



Our kindergardeners are learning about plants