



AT&T Classroom

RCET
Spring II 2007

Kindergarten Children Study Weather

Ravenna kindergarten children spent six weeks in the AT&T Classroom looking at the always changing spring weather. Daily trips to the outdoors to film the clouds led to the construction of a timeline. This slideshow reflects the diverse spring weather. Mrs. Carolyn Black, a former AT&T Classroom teacher supervised the photographing sessions. Weather instruments were examined and sensors were used to take temperature, wind speed, humidity and barometric pressure. **Mrs. Becky Farrar**, their West Park Elementary teacher, provided the students with a variety of activities including reading stories with the Wolf Vision camera. Students used digital cameras to record nature walks where they examined evidence of wind, precipitation, sun and shadows. Many parents accompanied the class to assist with the supervision of the activities. Dr. Tom Schmidlin, meteorologist from Kent State University and Priscilla Bridenstine along with Dave Nicosia, meteorologists from the National Weather Service, did presentations highlighting weather instruments. A trip to Channel 2 on the Kent State University campus was highlighted by individual students doing mock weather reports in front of the "green screen" with the general manager of the station, Merideth Jones. Students journaled on their Alpha Smart keyboards. They became well acquainted with software like Kidspiration, KidPix and Graph Club. Students used personal response systems to voice their opinion on various topics. On the last two days children shared their favorite representations with the class while sporting their weather-design tee shirts.



Folk Tales Come Alive in Puppet Shows

Mr. Shawn Jones of Walls Elementary School in Kent taught both science and language arts in the AT&T Classroom. The activities were many and varied. DANA keyboards were used to document daily reflections. Students utilized the available technology to produce many representations.

- The students learned about sound and light through the use of many hands-on experiments, web quests and programmed activities on CDs associated with their science textbook. In conjunction with the activities, students kept a virtual science journal.
- Each student brought in family photos and spent some time using the scanner to make digital copies of the pictures. These were incorporated into a Mother's Day program on a CD with transitions and music.
- A unit on folk tales began with two of the students reciting stories from their family heritage. A variety of bookmarked websites gave students a wide variety of tales to explore. Folk tales were read and each cooperative learning group selected one folk tale to transform into a puppet show. The student groups wrote scripts around the folk tales which included sound effects and lighting techniques. Dr. Suzy Campbell from Theatre and Dance, along with her graduate student Mitchell, put on a wonderful presentation highlighting the variety of ways of making puppets. She stressed using everyday items from around the house, many of which would normally be discarded. By re-using materials students were able to create puppets without any substantial cost. Puppet shows were practiced and performed. Each puppet show was videotaped and students enjoyed watching the performances.

