



PRINCIPAL CORNER for October 5th
Embrace, Educate, Empower through Writing

During my recent visit to Kindergarten, students were reviewing words they knew that begin with the letter D. I sat down next to Michael and asked him what begins with D. Immediately three students came over, all eagerly sharing their favorite D-word along with Michael. I said to him, "Your baby brother Diego's name starts with D." His eyes lit up as he said, "Yes, my baby brother Diego! I have to go tell Ms. Carson!"

All of the words on the letter posters were student-generated. Students are integral to the learning of the whole class and to the overall curriculum.

While September includes a letter-sound review, it also includes the beginning of Writer's Workshop. Ms. Carson shared her small moment story with students. Then each student chose the topic of his/her small moment story, taken from a life experience.

Students used invented spelling to write their own small moment stories; they wrote the sounds they hear which initially include mostly consonants. As the year progresses, Kindergarteners begin to include vowels. It's miraculous to watch our young writers develop as a result of daily writing.

Each Kindergarten student's family and life experiences are integral to their learning and to the learning of their peers. Students are very invested in their writing. They relish the fact that what they say and what they feel can be communicated through their writing.

Students are embraced; their own stories are part of the writing curriculum.

Students are educated; they become writers through engaging in daily Writer's Workshop.

Students are empowered; they communicate their own stories through writing. Their voice and their experiences are matter and they know it.

With joy,
Susan Kilbane