

Primary Circle!

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Dates to remember:

- Thursday, January 17, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.: Step Up Night (See SRV website for more info.)
- Monday, January 21: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (no school)
- Friday, January 25, 11:10: Jane's group hosts Assembly
- Friday, February 1, 11:10, Sara's group hosts Assembly
- Thursday, February 7, morning: PC makes candles (see below)

Clothing~

Primary Circle has started a second unit of study focused on a cultural universal—a basic human need and social experience found in all societies, past and present: clothing. The study is designed to develop ideas in depth and with attention to their applications to life outside of school. Not only will we learn that people around the world wear many different kinds of clothes, but also why these different kinds exist. We'll consider the geographic, economic and cultural reasons that have led various past and present societies to develop their characteristic clothing styles.

We began by formulating what we believe are the most important ideas for children to learn about clothing. These include its basic nature (garments are woven from thread, which is spun from cotton, wool or some other raw material) and purposes (protection, modesty, decoration and communication of personal identify or values). Other important ideas include knowledge about the ways in which clothing has evolved over time, clothing worn in different places and cultures, clothing worn in different settings (business, work, play) and issues to consider in making decisions about clothing.

The general purposes or goals of the beginning of the unit, which we started this week, are to help students (1) understand why people wear clothing (protection, communication, decoration and modesty) and (2) acquire an appreciation for cultural diversity that exists in the nature and functions of clothing.

Our hope is that children emerge from the unit with connected understandings about how and why humans in different times and places have developed contrasting responses to their clothing needs, along with greatly enhanced knowledge about cultural, economic and technological aspects of clothing in today's society.

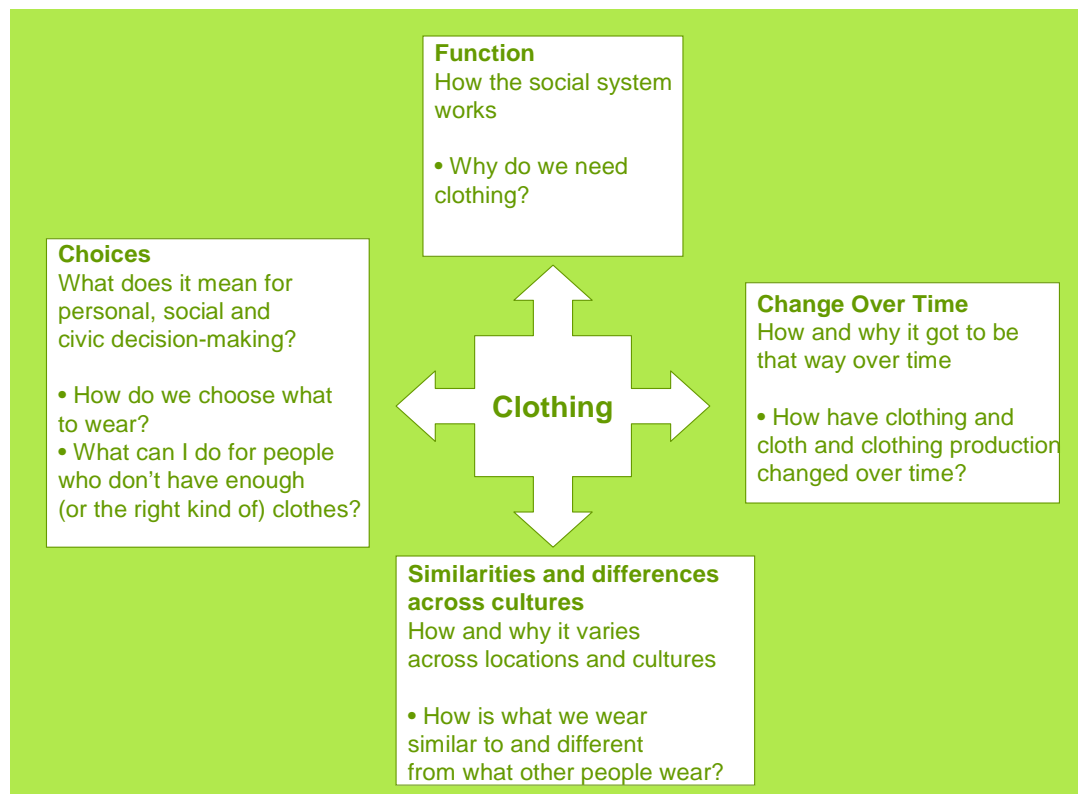
We welcome your additional thoughts, impressions and questions.

PC Newsletter

We encourage you to ask your child to share with your family what she/he has learned about the functions of clothing and to bring a clothing example to school that serves one or more of the functions. We'll create a display, so unique items are desired. Also, look at the closet inventory exercise below. As students complete the inventory, they can revisit the functions of clothing and realize that many articles of clothing serve more than one function.

One Example of Curriculum Integration...

In library second graders will soon begin some research on clothing using online catalogs, and first graders will explore the history of clothing through literature. All will build an understanding of the difference between fiction and non-fiction. They will also learn where they can find more information.





Heifer International Penny Drive Continues!
Keep those pennies coming!

We need paper grocery bags to support our classroom paper recycling. Thanks!

Please send in extra clothes for winter, including pants, long-sleeved shirt, socks, undies and shoes.

Candlemaking
Primary Circle will make candles on Thursday morning, February 7. Class parent Dorothy Cumby will contact you about volunteering.

Suggestions

- Reading experts agree that young children should read or be read to a minimum of 30 minutes per evening.
- Please make every effort to arrive at school by 8:10. 8:10-8:30 is a time when children complete unfinished work, get extra practice, and sometimes get their coveted "choice time."

- **Closet Inventory**

With a parent or older brother or sister, look through one or more of your closets. List articles of clothing that represent each of the clothing functions (protection, communication, decoration, modesty). One article of clothing might serve more than one function. For example, a shawl might serve as protection from cool air and it might also be decorative..

As a family, discuss functions of clothing. If possible, bring articles of clothing to school for a display on the functions of clothing.