



## Having Fun Learning to Be Friends

Recently Third Grade Girls' Friendship Club Tea Party celebrated the end of a great club session in during club session 2. The ten girls in the club, from both the 3-1 and 3-2 classes, enjoyed a lovely tea party feast complete with an etiquette lesson. Many of the girls chose to dress up. Others felt comfortable to "come as they were."

When the delighted girls entered third grade teacher Mrs. Torano's classroom, they discovered a banquet table adorned with a festive tablecloth, flowers, and fine china. They learned how to pass plates of food correctly and how to drink "tea" (pink lemonade) in cups of fine china. Tea cookies and bite-sized brownies were served, along with fresh strawberries, clementines, and sliced apple wedges. Chocolate-covered mints were carefully passed around in delicate china bowls, as well.

The girls shared beautifully and helped to serve one another, saying "please" and "thank you" frequently and sincerely. While daintily snacking, they discussed many of the lessons learned through the Friendship Club and via the "Second Step" character education program. Common discussion themes revolved around inclusiveness, forgiveness, and tolerance.

They also felt that they, through the club, had become more aware of their own unique strengths and special gifts. They acknowledged many of the special qualities that each of their third grade friends had. Their comments were touching and memorable, and their growing knowledge of what it means to be a kind and concerned friend will hold them in good stead as they move through Indian Creek's Lower and Middle Schools.

This popular Friendship Club will be offered again for Session 3 for the remaining third grade girls. It will then be offered to a combined group of fourth and fifth-graders later in the year.

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