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St. James preschool celebrates the 108th birthday of Dr. Seuss



Anna (from left) Briar, and Jackson all 3 year olds in Mrs. Serricchio's St. James School preschool class tried green eggs and ham while celebrating literacy as well as the 108th birthday of a beloved author, Dr. Seuss. Not sure about the green eggs, the 3 year olds were definitely sure they loved all the Dr. Seuss books that were read to them!

RED BANK — On March 2, as part of Read Across America Day, 3- and 4-year-old students at St. James Preschool celebrated the life and legacy of the nation's most beloved children's book writer, Theodor Seuss Geisel, who wrote under the pen name Dr. Seuss.

Theodor Seuss Geisel may have died almost 18 years ago, but his influence at St. James Preschool lives on in a legacy of funny hats, discolored eggs and lessons on a variety of topics with reading, whimsical rhyming and rhythm, counting, endearing characters and helpful messages.

All of the children and their teachers came to school wearing their pajamas to comfortably curl up with their favorite Dr. Seuss book, which they brought in for show and tell. They began the day reading the old favorite "Green Eggs and Ham" and then all were treated to a delicious green eggs and ham breakfast.

Across New Jersey, parents have tried to coax their kids to try new foods evoking the cautionary tale of the food snoot in green eggs and ham. Students had mixed opinions, Ethan in Carol Leth's 4-year old class, said he liked all the stories but didn't care for the green eggs.

Ellen Serricchio and Leth, both preschool teachers, also took class time to work Seuss into the curriculum and had a variety of fun and educational activities throughout day to help their students appreciate Seuss' books. After reading part of the book each student had crafted and donned a red and white striped tall hat, very similar to those worn by Seuss' Cat in the Hat. Many other 'favorite' books were read, games and activities were played and enjoyed, especially a hop scotch game called 'One fish, two fish, red fish, blue fish,' Dr. Seuss puzzles, and at the end of the day a vote was taken on which book the children liked the best.

Serricchio, a teacher for 3- and 4-year-olds, said, "Motivating children to read is an important factor in student achievement and creating lifelong successful readers." She added, "Celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday is one of the ways in which we motivate our youngest students to become adventurous learners throughout their lives."

Leth, a 4-year-old teacher, said, "We wish Dr. Seuss a happy 108th birthday and celebrate the joy of reading! It was a birthday bash that Dr. Seuss himself would have been proud of!"