

Dear Parents,

Later this week kids will be bringing home their latest “sewing” efforts. We wanted to keep them at school for a while so that they can be displayed on the hallway boards, so kids can see the variety of taste and skill.

Previously they got familiar with the technique, poke, pull, cut off the needle, etc. This time there was a little, no, a big difference. Each foam board had a figure or some lines drawn on it by a teacher, and the teachers were saying “Try to sew on the lines.”

Some kids were not attracted by this challenge, or by sewing at all. But most were eager to try, and we had to beat them off from the table before we were smothered with these clamoring gladiators so we could have just four at a time.

Staying on or near the lines is not an attractive or necessary (to them) guideline for kids. Really, why should they? It all depends on whether they want to accept that challenge, but they feel free to move their needle in all manner of kinetic directions at will.

Nevertheless, even the kids less confident in their skills made good efforts to get on, or near, or back to the lines. And many kids showed an extraordinary ability to focus and maintain physical control even as their fingers were strained. Some of the stitches were so tight and precise, you will think a seamstress or tailor had done it.

By the end of the second day a couple of JK girls had an idea to decorate their boards after they had sewn. We were using permanent markers to write names, or having kids write their own names. We don’t let kids use permanent markers usually, but with a teacher supervising and giving one marker at a time to just a few kids, we thought it was safe enough.

The results are fabulous.

Thanks,

Amanda, Joseph, David