

Sidewalk Math

A student presentation from Kindergarten

by Amy Clouter, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Introduction

Thanks to the generosity of Professor and Shrewsbury resident Martha Barry McKenna, students and teachers at Coolidge School were able to join Lesley University's Sidewalk Math Collaborative Inquiry Project, a joint initiative involving 20 Kindergarten teachers across Massachusetts.

The purpose of the project is to study how a creative approach to developing number sense in young children helps them to build counting skills. Using a range of techniques from a text called The Footbook and a colorful collection of rugs designed to support counting activities, students explore number relationships in a "hands on" way. Starting in September, students at Coolidge School began practicing with several different rugs. This evening the Committee will have an opportunity to see one of these rugs and to hear about how they are used.

The Sidewalk Math project is just one of many collaborations made possible through Lesley University's Creative Commons. We're hopeful that ongoing collaboration with Professor McKenna and her colleagues will help Shrewsbury educators learn more about how to infuse creativity into our curriculum.

