Everybody Talks about It …

Observing and Recording the Weather

“Everybody talks about the weather…” Adding weather observations to a classroom calendar will allow students, measure, and describe the weather as they experience it and to record and evaluate data they collect.

Assembly
1. Display the calendar (chart) where it can be seen during the day.
2. Prepare or collect weather symbols and words and a thermometer (if desired).

To Do and Notice:
1. Weather observations can be added to an already established calendar or a separate calendar can be added. Decide whether to include weekend weather observations. (Teachers may want to add the job of “weather watcher” or “meteorologist of the week” to their classroom job lists.)
2. Introduce students to the weather calendar. Discuss weather terminology and brainstorm ways to gather data using the five senses (and measuring devices such as a thermometer, if desired).
3. Work with the students to decide what weather symbols will be used.
4. Student(s) decide each day what symbols should be displayed.
5. Review the data periodically and note trends and patterns. Students can present their observations on a bar or picture graph.

The Content Behind the Activity
Weather is everywhere - all around us all the time. Although it is an important part of our lives, we aren’t able to have much effect on it. Young students can learn that weather can be observed, described, and recorded. As they review the data they have collected, students will learn that they can anticipate daily, weekly, monthly and seasonal trends.

Taking it Further
1. Add a literature component to your weather study. Start with your favorites. Googling “kids books about weather” will yield many suggestions.
2. Make a simple wind sock to determine wind direction. Acquire and learn to use various meteorological instruments (e.g., a barometer, wind gauge) and record the data collected. Also, see RAFT Idea Sheet As the Clouds Go Bye.

Web Resources (Visit www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=594 for more resources!)
- www.weather.com - forecasts local & world wide, great photos, and information
- www.noaa.com - The definitive site for weather