

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DR. SEUSS!

BY RayD • February 22, 2011

Why The Route 70 Goddard School celebrates March 2nd!

-- The idea for this birthday celebration actually began back in 1997, when a task force at the National Education Association, nea.com, came up with an idea to create a day that celebrates reading! After all, they argued, don't we promote school pep rallies to get children excited about physical activities, like sports! And we hold assemblies to show them that character counts! Why don't we do something to get children excited about reading?

That task force issued a call to develop a unique campaign, that became the *Read Across America* movement, and they decided to celebrate it on the birthday of Dr. Seuss (a.k.a. American author, Theodore Seuss Geisel.) So on March 2, 1998, this event was born - the single largest celebration of reading this country has ever known.

And the teachers and staff at The Route 70 Goddard School, www.goddardschool.com/Schools/Toms-River-II-NJ/Schools.gsp, decided early-on to join the movement because Dr. Seuss made such a unique contribution in sharing his brilliant imagination, and offering the children of the world an opportunity to see into the extraordinary potential that exists within all human beings.

Dr. Seuss said that his stories and illustrations were based on logical insanity, a phrase that sounds like a paradox but really isn't. As he once explained, I start with a two-headed animal and I never waver from that concept. There must be two hats in the closet, two toothbrushes in the bathroom and two sets of spectacles on the night table.

When his stories introduce another aspect, it tends to satisfy the rational brain and permits the reader to enter into the fascinating imagination of the story.

His own illustrations, he explained heighten the insanity side of the formula!

His animals may be slightly alien-looking, and though soft and furry, they appear to have no bones or joints My animals look the way they do because I never really learned to draw, he once said - suggesting that his art is like that of an innocent child.

Moreover, physical objects in his stories seem to have an unsteady relationship with gravity and their surroundings. His homes don't exist in the city or a town, but rather perch on the cliffs of mountains. Cars drive along impossibly winding roads, their tires barely staying in touch with the ground. Plates and cereal bowls balance in ten-foot high piles, each item wobbling in-and-out of place, the whole stack just a hair away from total collapse --, all of which is designed to delight the imaginations of young children.
