

The Inside Scoop

WINTER
2010



5/6 Year old Class

Our 5/6 year old class is currently learning about the 6 major biomes of the world: tundra, desert, evergreen forest, deciduous forest, grasslands, and rain forest. We just finished learning all about the desert and next will safari through the grasslands. We learned that each biome has different animals and plants, or fauna and flora, which have adapted to the environment. The camels that live in the desert have long eye lashes so that they can continue walking through the sandstorms. It is also fun that the kangaroos and rabbits use their saliva to cool themselves.

6/7 Year old Class - Section 1

After a refreshing and in depth study of the ocean the 6/7 year olds have taken a journey to France. There we have discovered incredible artist (Monet and Cezanne) and musicians (Debussy, Ravel, and Jacky Terrasson). We dabbled in French history and geography and tasted a few of the 365 different cheeses. Now we are just trying to figure out how to get there on a Deerstream field trip.

6/7 Year old Class - Section 2

This winter we have been busy diving into the ocean and learning about its geographical features, its different layers and some of the creepy, fascinating creatures that live in the deep. Currently Kenya is our topic of study. We are learning to count to ten in Swahili and have been amazed by the beauty of the savanna and the animals that live there. We have made good friends and we are all enjoying working and learning together.

7/8 year old Science Class

The Deerstream 7/8 Science class has been studying about incredible insects. We have been amazed at God's creativity in making these amazing creatures. Our students have learned that insects not only fly, hop, and run, but they also drink blood, make themselves practically invisible, and can be quite tasty. Our insect unit included beautiful insect tessellations inspired by the artist M.C. Escher. We concluded our unit with a visit from a knowledgeable homeschooler who shared with us some amazing insects and arachnids from the Museum of Life and Science.

8/9 year old Science Class

On our last day studying classification, students dissected owl pellets, sorting through the smelly goo for bones from tiny creatures. While student reactions ranged from "cool," to "disgusting," everyone agreed it was an unforgettable experience! From there, life in our class looked heavenward for our last unit as we learned all about astronomy. We studied the sun, moon, planets, and stars, making lapbooks and even enjoying "moons" made out of cookies along the way. Our unit culminated with presentations by the students, who made a model of their subject and taught their parents much they had learned about their favorite planet or star, space stations, and even black holes.

9/10 year old Science Class

The 9/10 year old science class has been learning about Classification. We started with all living things and now are focused on plants. We dissected flowers, leaves, stems, and roots. We will observe algae and elodea using a microscope. In the spring we will use leaves to classify and identify trees on a field trip to the North Carolina Botanical Gardens.

10/11 year old Science Class

The 10/11 year old Science Class studied the classifications of animals, and then took a closer look at fish, amphibians, reptiles, mammals and birds. Our geology unit was earth-shaking! Volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, the Ring of Fire: God's great power revealed in his creation. Our study of meteorology led us to consider the most powerful storms on earth.

11/12 year old Science Class

Our explorations of Living things and Chemistry have led us to understand how God is the great Creator of order. We learned how methodically his creation was classified by scientists: Even an annoying house fly's characteristics were categorized by body structure including its wing structures, eye locations, and leg joints. We also reviewed the structure of cells and role of each cell organelle.

We are now deep into Chemistry, learning about Mendeleev's insight in assigning the original placement of atoms on the periodic table, leaving spaces for atoms he thought existed. In the past week we learned how to use the Periodic number and mass, along with group and period arrangement, to determine an atom's orbitals. To finish the unit, we will study specific laboratory instruments, such as pipets, flasks, scales, and petri dishes, and their uses in discovering and quantifying the created order.

Junior Division Life Science Class

Animals, Animals! We are closely studying the 8 major animal phylum while sharpening our ability to hypothesize, classify, conclude and report what we are observing. Our hands get dirty and sticky; artistic juices flow; occasionally things get smelly as we perform many hands on explorations into the wonderful animal kingdom God has made. Over the next few months, there will be a strong focus on developing our scientific skills and professionalism in presentation.

Junior Division English Class

The Junior Division English has wrapped up a unit in the depths of the frozen Yukon by exploring Jack London's classics, *The Call of the Wild* and *White Fang*. We constructed traces or the straps that connect huskies and wolves to sleds and their drivers. Amazing what creativity came out of our Deerstream kids! We thought it turned out to be a fitting snowbound unit of literature given our unseasonably cold winter here in the Piedmont.

With hopes that spring is soon here we are on to poetry through limericks and haikus. We are buzzing like bees with onomatopoeia. We are perfectly personifying poems and studying character development in short stories. As always, we are writing with passion and purpose. We are even making games of the hard work of research paper writing such as note taking, citing published works, and developing theses statements. If you know a Deerstream English Student cheer him or her on for their great work this season.

Humanities I

The Deerstream 7-9 Humanities class has been revolting! Our revolution has taken us back to the 18th century when our forefathers took their stand against King George III and his taxes on our economy. We learned that there is more than one way to throw a tea party and that minute men need to be light sleepers. We also learned that portraits of the 18th century were often created by limners who were traveling artists. The students created their own limner portraits of their friends with block printed backgrounds. Finally we found out that even when revolting, American history is fascinating.

Humanities II

We are still having a great time traveling around the world and looking at different art cultures. We've been to Europe and had so much fun working on our quilt patterns inspired by Gustav Klimt from Austria. In Switzerland we sharpened our scissors and we cut symmetrical flowers to work on our collage. We enjoyed looking at faces expressions and uniform badges to make our Royal Guard portrait from England. Finally, we packed up to cross the Atlantic and land in America. We had a warm start in Mexico using a mix of media to create a cactus landscape, and picked up feathers for our "Arte Plumario" project. Now we are ready to travel to North and South America to discover more beautiful places.

Humanities Class III

In our Humanities class, we have been continuing our study of Modern Art, focusing on specific artists and techniques. Alexander Calder, the inventor of the mobile as a sculptural form, was our inspiration a few weeks ago. After studying about his life and career, we sketched multiple designs for mobiles, critiqued the drawings as a class, and then used the successful sketches to make reed and tissue paper mobiles. The students used gloves when handling the Super Glue, but their teacher, who had taken off her gloves, managed to glue her fingers together for a few minutes! It was a comic moment! We have been printmaking for the last two weeks, and we will soon move on to acrylic painting and abstract painting. It has been a great year!





Afternoon Spanish Class

Como estan? Muy bien, gracias. The students in the afternoon Spanish class have been learning Spanish greetings through different games and drawings and asking to their classmates "Como estas?" Enjoying the winter weather and the snow we are learning the weather vocabulary, but we are all ready for spring!



Afternoon Chorus Class

With plenty of fun and music and movement, chorus class vibrates with joyful sounds of singing and laughter. In addition to the truthful songs that focus on worshipping our great God, we also sing silly songs about Bill Grogan's goat and cherry pies that may or may not wave good-bye. Rhythm and timing and listening carefully for directions are part of the favorite musical games we play. Reciting the poem Rachel Fister's Blister provides just the right amount of drama for our class of characters. But mostly it's fun because we sing and sing and sing.



Afternoon Field Games Class

Our theme for field games this past few months has been "get creative." It seems most Wednesdays have included some sort of wintry precipitation, and a lot of wind. But that hasn't stopped us from getting out most of them. Students have contributed creative ideas for games, like a student's game of "wind tag" that we played on a particularly blustery day, which was a big hit. We have also enjoyed our favorite running and tag games on the blacktop. We're just hoping the field will dry out soon so we can play in the grass!



Afternoon Middle School Art

The Deerstream Junior Division Art class has made great use of sculpture supplies that are most often found in the kitchen and (formerly) in the hospital. We have been using aluminum foil to create armature for plaster of paris gauze animal sculptures. The subjects range from dragons to dolphins with all manner of furry and feathered creatures in between. These students should be proud of their hard work and successful creations! Our next project will be a realistic painting based on a photograph. I can't wait to see what these talented students paint!