

The Inside Scoop

FALL
2009

Deerstream Learning Center



5/6 year old Class

These little explorers took a 5 day journey to the center of the earth and back as we studied in depth each of the layers of the earth. We started our journey on the crust as we discovered the variety of geographic features that God created; we molded them in clay, drew them, and painted them after studying several of Thomas Cole's landscape paintings. Next we traveled to the mantle where we created popcorn balls of the layers to help us remember each layers characteristics. We ended our journey at the center of the earth where we learned about the cores extreme temperatures. Our class was in complete agreement when asked what was the best part of the exploration; "Build and erupt volcanoes".

6/7 year old Class 1

Ancient Rome, Roman Numerals, Salami, Provolone, Olive Oil, Gelato, Vivaldi, Violins, Leonardo da Vinci and Christina Rossetti; what do all these things have in

common? Italy! We have been studying Italy and learned that there are more tourists that visit every year than the population of the entire country. It has been a great tour, and we only wish we could all take a field trip there together.

6/7 year old Class 2

Our class has just wrapped up our unit on habitats. We loved learning about how plants and animals survive in the desert with hardly any water compared to how they survive in the wetlands with an abundance of water. We also learned about the polar bear and how it is adapted to live in the extreme habitat of the Arctic tundra. We enjoyed researching the plant and animal life of the different layers of the rain forest and creating our own replica of each layer. It was no surprise that our class voted for the rain forest as "the most interesting habitat." While learning about habitats, we also studied the wonderful art of Georgia O'Keeffe and painted one of her favorite views from the desert in New Mexico. Next we are off to explore Italy!

7/8 year old Science Class

The Deerstream 7-8 year old science class has been studying weather and the seasons. We have learned about the water cycle, the elements that make weather, the reason for the seasons, and what makes day and night. We have also enjoyed learning about weather extremes and wild weather. Through it all we have learned from Genesis 8:22 God's loving promise to us that "as long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

8/9 year old Science Class

We started off the year by focusing on microscopes. We learned about a few scientists who invented and perfected the microscope. We talked about various types of microscopes and examined all sorts of things under their lenses, from things in the carpet to some on our skin. A highlight of the unit was our special guest, father of a Deerstreamer, who taught us about work he is doing with some real high-powered scopes in his work with cartilage. And he entertained the class with special pig legs he brought in to illustrate arthritis.

9/10 year old Science Class

The 9/10 year old science class has been studying astronomy. Today

we made a model of a telescope and solar system. Next week, we will be creating our own eclipses using flashlights and balls. We plan to research the planets, different telescopes, and constellations in pairs. The children will then share their knowledge with a brief report, model, poster, or other creative presentation as a culminating activity for the unit. Astronomy has us really excited to keep our eyes to the sky and ask interesting questions!

10/11 year old Science Class

The 10/11 year old Science Class studied scientific classifications, kingdoms, and cells of Living Things. Michelangelo's Creation of Adam and Hebrew poetry related to our topic emphasized man's uniqueness. "We are the work of God's hand." (Isaiah 64)

With the guest lab instructor guiding students in the dissection of a sheep brain, we delved into the fascinating study of The Human Brain. Captivated by Gifted Hands, the story of neurosurgeon Dr. Ben Carson, our class also explored technology for building a Mega Memory and took an inventory of personal learning styles.





11/12 year old Science Class

Our class just finished a study on levees. We completed a project that involved creating a waterfront-town, made of cardboard boxes and cans set inside a small pool. We gradually added water and observed the

effect of a hurricane and its storm surge coming ashore. The water eventually caused major flooding on our town due to unseen cracks in the levee construction. From this we recognized our need for a strong foundation in construction and in our spiritual lives. Next we will be moving to another type of protection, that of the Immune System. We will also learn about preventing infections and about preparing and storing food safely following healthy food storage and preparation techniques.

Junior Division Life Science Class

We just completed an in depth study of cell structures, functions, DNA replication and a quick look at the formation of cancer cells. It has been amazing to look at God's tiny universe within us. We have built organelles, DNA and the mitosis process. Our first class debate on patients rights vs. medical advances was a blast. The next few weeks we will continue our exploration by looking at genetics and heredity. We will learn about dominant and recessive alleles, Punnett squares, Gregor Mendel and probability in heredity. As a class project we are "breeding" paper animals and sampling genetic outcomes. What a wonderful group of students, I am so proud of them!

Junior Division English Class

Junior Division English has begun by digging into the riches of literature, poetry, grammar, and vocabulary, all with the purpose of shaping us into better writers. In formal literature we began the school year with the classic by C.S. Lewis, *The Magician's Nephew*. While many of the students were familiar with this classic and others depicting the land of Narnia, we pressed our imaginations to understand the symbols found in the book such as Aslan as the Christ figure. Currently we are working through Corrie Ten Boom's story of faithful courage during the Holocaust, *The Hiding Place*. We have explored classic American poets such as Robert Frost, Langston Hughes, and Maya Angelou. We are constantly reviewing grammar and adding new tricks and tools to help us understand language more fully. For instance, we are dissecting words and finding patterns of prefixes and suffixes to help us make educated guesses at the meanings of unfamiliar words. Finally, we are integrating new vocabulary into our writing so that we can creatively expand on the quality of our pieces.

One of the most important aspects of effective writing is confidence and commitment to the process. It is easy during adolescence to claim that one is not good at certain things, and writing is a popular skill to put in such a negative category. This class is committed to finding the writer in each of us. We all have something to say and write by calling upon our own unique gifts.



Humanities I Class

The 7-9 year old humanities class has been discovering The New World. Our studies have included the Native Americans and the first English colonies in Jamestown and Plymouth Plantation. We made lovely portraits of Native Americans after studying the wonderful American Indian art of John White and George Catlin. We also studied the lives and struggles of the Pilgrims as they made their journey to Plymouth Plantation and began a colony in which they could worship God freely. Our unit recently culminated in a celebration of a harvest/thanksgiving feast that included 7-9 year old Pilgrims and Indians.

Humanities II Class

This year our class is having fun traveling around the world and looking at different art cultures.

So far we have been to Australia where we experimented with mud painting and created our own “Dreaming” like the aborigines did. During our trip to Africa, we really enjoyed using a collage technique to make our own masks. After Africa the students travelled all the way to Japan where we had an experience with block printing and created our own “Gyotaku”. A short way from Japan, in China, the class



worked on an portrait of the giant panda based on Jing Jing’s story. Our next destination is several countries in Europe. After Christmas we’ll go across the ocean back to the Americas.

Humanities III Class

This year we are studying Modern Art, and so far it's been lots of fun. Sometimes I hand out 25 million virtual dollars, and we have an art auction. One of Henri Matisse's paintings went for 13 million two weeks ago! (Deerstream better ramp up the insurance policy!) After we look at artwork and talk about the artist of the day, we usually get in 2 different projects related to the style and media of the artist. For example, last week we did cubist drawings of our homes and a cubist-inspired painting/collage. What a great group of artists!





Afternoon Choir Plus

The children in the afternoon music class are learning all about the music around us and how we can make music anywhere and anytime. We are learning music theory, rhythm and learning about pitch. With this new knowledge, we are learning the recorder. Right now we are working on a series of Christmas songs that will be performed by the children before the Christmas break. Our class is always exciting and never long enough!

Afternoon Field Games Class

Students in the afternoon field games class have been working on their fitness--ask them how many jumping jacks we did last week! We have also tried several new games--ball punch, 500 and the question game, to name a few--as well as our tried-and-true favorites, including kickball, cops and robbers, and capture the flag. The time surely flies each week, as we are having so much fun.

Afternoon Middle School Art

Deerstream's Middle School art class has been an adventure in modern creativity. We first explored the art of Alexander Calder and made our own Calder wire sculptures of portraits of animals and people. We found that drawing with wire was both challenging and fun. Next we explored printing as an art form when we looked at the creations of Andy Warhol. We made our own prints from linoleum blocks and explored

All art work done by Deerstream students this year.



printing our art with different colors and techniques. We even tried printing our blocks over a friend's block to experiment with design. These middle school artists are developing their senses in both color and design as they create some outstanding art.

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