

The Inside Scoop



DEERSTREAM LEARNING CENTER

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Spring 2007

!Celebrating Deerstream's TENTH Anniversary in 07/08!

5/6 year olds Science & Social Studies

Our class has enjoyed finding where we are on the map and studying our neighbor, Canada, with its various cultures and symbols, climate and animals. We learned that the beaver is the national emblem and is even featured on a Canadian coin! Because students were so interested in the northern regions and native peoples, we finished up our study of Canada learning about Inuit stone structures (inuk-suk) and building igloos out of sugar cubes and royal icing. It has been wonderful to see how each of the students has enjoyed learning and sharing information. For these last few weeks we will head south to visit our neighbors in Mexico – a festive way to end the year!

6/7s Science & Social Studies

The six/sevens have had a wonderful time traveling around the Western hemisphere throughout the year. Starting in Canada, we have now made our way down to South America, keeping a journal along the way to keep our memories fresh. Recently a guest came to our class and brought us food from Columbia. It was yummy.

7/8s Science Unit Studies

The Deerstream 7/8s have gone inside the human body. We first explored and named bones in the skeletal system; learned a song about the names to the familiar "Dem Bones" melody; and built a paper skeleton. Since then we have traveled to muscles, the digestive system and the respiratory system. Each journey has given us an opportunity to build out our paper skeleton adding lungs, stomach and intestines. Next we will explore the circulatory system and talk about our amazing hearts. All along the way we have given God the praise for making our bodies so wonderful and unique.



8/9 year olds Science Unit Studies

Our class has recently changed gears from the study of animals and their ways to the study of the human ear and principles of sound. It was a raucous few weeks of exploration and demonstration understanding how sound travels and what makes vibration. We discovered high and low pitches with the help of rubber bands, bowls and rulers. Did you know that you can actually "act out" how vibration travels through the inner ear? A vibrating nine year old is something no one should miss! Our remaining class time will be spent studying the history of rockets and the principles of combustion and propulsion. On May ninth we will celebrate our learning with our very own Robert Goddard Day. On this day students will become teachers as they, among other things, conduct balloon experiments, recap the parts of a rocket, show off student-made models, share rocketry poetry, and actually set off a few rockets in the field behind the school! I can't think of a better way than this to end a year that has involved so much explosive learning!!

water rockets using the bottle rocket launcher provided by Matthew Baxter's family and having two gentlemen from a local rocketry club give us a lecture/demonstration. They let us launch black powder rockets and burn a solid fuel rocket motor. What a blast!



9/10 s Science Unit Studies

Students spent much of the spring studying earth science. A couple of nature walks on the Bible Church property allowed us to observe a microcosm of ecological and geological phenomena. As we learned about volcanoes and other types of mountains, we explored how mountains may be formed and thought about ways they influence our lives. We learned about many aspects of water drainage as we studied the parts of different types of rivers. The students made wonderful individual presentations on Mt. Everest, Mt. McKinley, Mt. Mitchell, the active volcano of Montserrat, Angel Falls, and the Nile, Amazon, Yangtze, Mississippi, and New rivers. Smetana's *Moldau* and Moussorgsky's *Night on Bald Mountain* were fun music appreciation tie-ins. We wrapped up the year with physical science: rocketry! Highlights were experimenting with air and

10/11/12s Science Unit Studies

We have begun a study of the human brain and spinal cord. Our Scripture memory verse for this unit reminds us that our Creator has thoughts about us, and if we were to count those thoughts, they would outnumber the grains of sand. Students have learned that neurons in the human brain number one hundred billion—more than the number of stars in the sky. How can all that we think, remember, feel and learn be kept in a three pound pinkish- gray tissue encased by a protective skull?! We have learned that when we are thirsty, hungry or tired, it is not our body but our brain that has a need. Students will be taking a closer look at each lobe of the brain, marveling at its function. We will answer the question, Does our brain really "freeze" when we eat or drink very cold things? To wrap up the unit, students will dissect a sheep's brain in class.

Elementary Humanities Level I

Minds and hands have stayed busy as students have learned about some of the great things that happened in America during the late 1800's and early 1900's. The children learned about Buffalo Bill and the Pony Express, reenacting the race to get mail to the next post on time - despite robbers! They listened to the literature of Mark Twain and, in groups, composed their own adventure stories similar to those of Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer. Student-made dioramas offered glimpses into various scenes of these adventures. Thanks to American painters Edward Hopper and Winslow Homer, students were inspired to create their own watercolors, similar in style to these great artists—works so good they should be framed! Our study of the Wright brothers highlighted a great invention that took place right in our own state! Making model airplanes out of popsicle sticks challenged the children with the same patience Orville and Wilbur may have felt, with resulting pride in the final outcome. We are preparing and looking forward to our Wax Museum on Monday, May 7th from 11:30-12:10. Come out to see some famous Americans in our history!



Elementary Humanities Level II

Mrs. Holloway's students have been studying the kings and queens of England and working hard to prepare an original production. Their highly entertaining game show-style play *Crown on the Hill* incorporates research the students did on a monarch of each student's choosing. You are all invited to attend the performance May 14th at 11:30 am. Students have also been making castles out of papier mache, sewing tapestries, and generally having a great time learning together about the history of England and her monarchs.

Junior Division Physical Science

ELECTRICITY has sparked some interest in the junior division science class! Mr. Robert Baxter, one of our own Deerstream parents, put together wonderful electricity kits for us! We were able to build voltaic pile batteries, series circuits, and parallel circuits. We studied static electricity with balloons, took apart flashlights and tried to come up with creative ways to build our own switches. As a culminating activity, the students worked in two groups to build their own flashlights using a variety of household materials. They had to be sure it included a switch designed by students. Each group created different switches, but both flashlights worked! This unit was especially interesting; thanks to Mr. Baxter for his help!

Junior Division English

In junior division English, students are ending the year with a unit on poetry. They have done excellent work reading and interpreting poems written by a wide variety of authors. In addition, they have taken on a research project about poets. Each student chose a poet, created a research question, formulated a thesis statement, searched multiple sources for information, organized notes, learned to cite sources correctly, and outlined a paper. They are now in the final process of writing and editing their research masterpieces. What great work our junior division students have done this year!