

# The Inside Scoop



DEERSTREAM LEARNING CENTER

(919) 382-5562

Spring 2008

## Celebrating Deerstream's Tenth Anniversary!

5/6 year olds

Science & Social Studies

Our young adventurers have been enjoying their unit on Japan so much! One of the highlights has been our work with origami. *Pink Paper Swans*, a picture book by Virginia L. Kroll, inspired us to attempt whales, dolls and our own origami swans. Had you spied on us during snack, you would have enjoyed watching us learn to use chopsticks on marshmallows and gold fish crackers. In reading about samurai warriors, we were surprised to learn that they enjoyed gardening, dancing and writing haiku poetry when not in battle! One Japanese legend revealed to us why another name for Japan is "Dragonfly Island." We decided that the dragonfly is a rice plant's best friend. Not only can our amazing group of students count to ten in Japanese, they can count down from ten! We could stay in Japan for the rest of the spring, but now, on to safari....

off for a month in outer space! We learned a fantastic song which really helped us remember the order of the planets. One of our main questions: Is Pluto a planet or not? The last two weeks included a small study of the earth, and now we know the difference between geography and geology. It was fun to taste the different layers of the earth. The core tasted best; it was strawberry jello!

6/7 year olds

Science Unit Studies

After spending quite some time in Europe (mainly France, Italy and Spain), our world travelers blasted



7/8 year olds Science Unit Studies

The 7/8s are studying about our incredible bodies. We have just learned about the skeletal and muscular systems, and now we are moving onto the digestive and circulatory systems. As we study each system we are building a human skeleton out of paper and adding organs. We are also memorizing the names of our major bones and are becoming more amazed each week as we study God's creation.



8/9 year olds Science Unit Studies

One of the highlights of my year with our wonderful science class was the first day of our unit on classification. I brought in my extensive button collection which included contributions from my mother and mother. Students divided up into two groups, and we dumped hundreds of buttons on the tables. They then set out to develop some classification systems that would adequately categorize the buttons. It was amazing to see the creativity (ie, the "big and ugly" category), reasoning process, and teamwork that went into the exercise. We went on to discuss the development of the classification of living things; it was a great unit!

9/10 year olds Science Unit Studies

Mrs. Wilder's science class has been busy building bridges! We have made draw bridges, suspension bridges, beam bridges and arch bridges. We made them from poster board, cereal boxes, popsicle sticks and sugar cubes! Bridge building is great fun! Ask us about it!

10/11/12 year olds Science Unit Studies

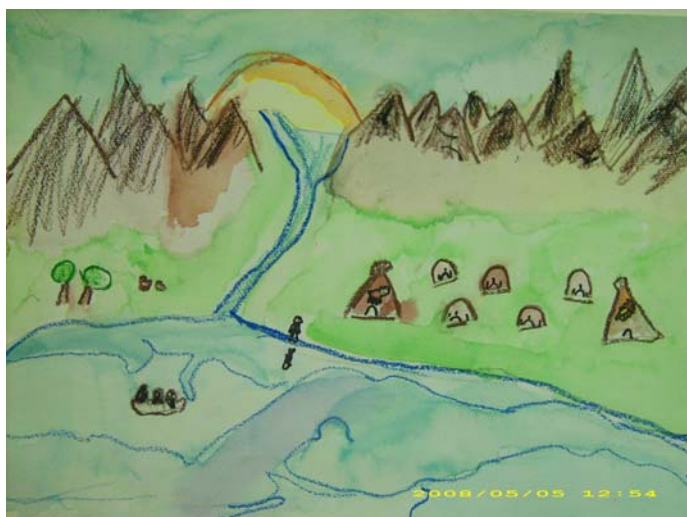
Our class is currently in the middle of a chemistry unit. We are learning how varied and complex everything is - air, water, rocks, living tissue, and the almost infinite number of other objects and material around us - and how all is made up of actually only a limited number of chemical elements. We have studied many of the great early chemists and have looked at the first theories of atoms and elements. With our ever growing knowledge of the elements, we have made compounds, experienced chemical reactions, written chemical equations, and balanced these equations. With a little bit of creativity, we have written poems to help us better understand specific elements and created paintings of what these atoms might look like when magnified.

10/11/12 year olds Physical Science

Our class has been having a great time studying God's Legos. These Legos I speak of are atoms, the ultimate building blocks of everything in the universe. We have been truly enjoying learning about the strange, the bizarre, the mysterious atomic world. We have just finished discovering what the atom is made of and seeing what makes atoms come together to make molecules. Next, we will study why these molecules take the forms that they do. If everything is made of molecules, than why do some groups of molecules form solids, liquids or gases? What is the difference between various forms of matter and what are the properties of each? All these questions will be answered and all these answers will be questioned as we dive further into our study of science.

Elementary Humanities Level I

Our second, third and fourth graders have been studying Sequoyah and the Cherokee Indians along with the story of the Trail of Tears. After looking at the paintings of George Catlin, students have been painting their own portraits and making Indian masks. Currently we are studying the book of Ruth and learning how God can take a difficult trial and turn it into something amazing.



Elementary Humanities Level II

Our fifth and sixth graders this year studied art from pre-history through Leonardo Da Vinci. They wanted to make a living art exhibit for the end of the year art show, so... Three teams worked intensely on making a life-size display based on a piece of art in our studies. One group used a picture of a seated pharaoh from a tomb painting and dressed "pharaoh" up with handmade gold foil accessories. The girls' team used an early Renaissance Madonna painting and had a sleepover to plan their elaborate and effective arrangement. The third group, using a photo of a statue of King Tutankhamen, wrapped one of the students up and gave him authentic-looking accessories, including a life-size wooden staff. Throughout the year our students learned to work as a part of a team, and the culmination of the year's exercises in teamwork was a successful and fun event. Well done, students!



Junior Division Life Science

Our class has spent the latter half of spring exploring the animal kingdom, starting with the simplest and ending with the most complex organisms. Noteworthy was our "Animal Adaptation" project, in which students researched the defensive and feeding adaptations of an animal of their choosing. We have had lots of fun hypothesizing about and observing animal behavior with living test subjects – planarians and earthworms! The highlight of the spring (so far!) has been the earthworm dissection; we got a hands-on, close-up experience with what really goes on in an Earthworm's body! In the coming weeks, stay tuned for various class "visitors" – insects, reptiles, who knows what might stop by!!! Students can also look forward to an end of the year field trip to Carnivore Preservation Trust in Pittsboro, NC, in May.

## Junior Division Literature & Logic

Our Junior Division Literature Class concluded the year with studies of drama and poetry, which included opportunities to analyze structure, discover meaning, explore varied poetic forms and learn to use the vocabulary of poetry (meter, rhyme, rhythm, alliteration, etc.). We read and acted aloud several comedic plays, one drama written for radio, and one adaptation of a scene from Les Miserables. We discussed related concepts such as stage directions, and script directions and learned to apply those to our readings.

Our Junior Division Critical Thinking Class completed its studies with a discussion of propaganda techniques such as appeals to fear, tradition, hi-tech or pity, exigency, bandwagon, and others, that are often evident in advertisements. Just prior to these exercises, the students used their skills in research, analysis and critical thinking to build arguments on two public policy issues of national significance. They subsequently used these to construct a public policy affirmative case and appropriate negative rebuttals which they presented in class. Through this exercise each student became proficient in the basic vocabulary of policy debate such as stock issues and their components, alternate causality, unintended consequences, quantitative vs. qualitative significance, structural vs. attitudinal inherency, etc.



## WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS

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### DEERSTREAM

#### Introduction to Spanish (Primaries)

We have been working up an appetite in afternoon Spanish class this spring! Our focus has been food/mealtime words. We created our very own restaurant menu, and took turns ordering various foods from it. Next time your family goes out to a Mexican restaurant, see if your child remembers what “Yo quiero...” means! We also learned about animals, in particular pets, and did some graphing to show which were the most popular animals to have as pets in our class. We will end the year learning “Around the House” words, while exploring the differences between our lives at home and Latin American homes. Also, who could forget about Cinco?!

#### Introduction to Spanish (Elementaries)

Besides learning common phrases to use in everyday conversations, our Spanish class is learning how to conjugate verbs and make complete sentences. In the past few weeks, we have worked on describing our emotions, as well as learning how to describe other people. In addition, we are constantly learning new vocabulary words and useful tools, such as how to tell time or how to ask questions. Each class offers a fun interactive activity, like playing Spanish bingo, having students act out words while the others guess, or making crossword puzzles with our vocabulary words!

#### Afternoon Writing Workshop (Juniors)

In expository writing for middle schoolers, students have been working on various writing assignments. One recent Wednesday, students wrote a “how to” paragraph, and we learned how to do make a variety of clay figures, how to do a split, and even how to draw Mickey Mouse. The students interviewed each other to write about each other's hobbies--from dancing to fishing to horseback riding. We'll finish up the year by writing a five paragraph essay.