

Deerstream Learning Center

The Inside Scoop

FALL
2010



5/6 Year Olds

The 5/6 year old class has become expert weather watchers. Over the last month we have made daily observations and predictions of the weather and preformed experiments that made lightening and clouds. Did you know that lightning has been observed on the planets Venus, Jupiter, and Saturn? We also enjoyed watching the patterns that are created when raindrops hit a pool of water and recreated these patterns in artwork. We have learned that some forms of weather are more likely during certain seasons and were amazed

when we found out that some places in the world only have two season each year.

6/7 Year Olds

Our class has had a great time exploring the five senses. It has been interesting to figure out that it is our brain that does all of the sensing even though it seems to be other parts of our body. One fun fact that we learned: Children have more taste buds than adults do.



7/8 Year Old Science Class - Section 1

The 7/8 year old science class has been learning about the weather. We have learned what makes clouds and how to read them. We also have made weather instruments such as rain gauges and weather vanes, and learned about wild weather like hurricanes and tornadoes. The 7/8 year olds have painted weather, given weather reports, and read great books such as, *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*. We will culminate this unit with a trip to the North Carolina State Climate Office to talk to a meteorologist.



7/8 Year Old Science Class - Section 2

Our 7/8 year old science class has been getting wild with weather! After discovering how Earth's orientation makes the seasons, we zoomed in to the atmosphere and the water cycle. We discovered how a storm gets started and had fun learning about extreme weather: hurricanes, tornadoes, and lightning! We are very excited about going to the Climate Center to see the professional versions of some of the weather instruments we made in class.



8/9 Year Old Science Class

Our class started off the year meandering down the Mississippi with our favorite snapping turtle, Minn. In addition to sharing her adventures, we have made maps, river rafts and learned about rivers around the world. Each student researched a river and presented their findings to their class and parents on project day, when we learned about rivers from the Ohio to the Ganges and the Volta.

9/10 Year Old Science Class

The 9/10 year old science class has been traveling the world with Geography. We have learned the Five Themes of Geography and can all tell you that "GEOGRAPHY IS MORE THAN MAPS!" We are currently traveling the planet studying BIOMES. Ask us how the Arctic Circle, Antarctic Circle, Tropic of Cancer, and Tropic of Capricorn affects the world's climate regions and world biomes.

10/11 Year Old Science Class

The 10/11 year old Science Class started off the year learning about flotation, hearing the story of Archimedes and using their knowledge to try to create the most effective aluminum foil boat. We moved on to flight next, studying the Wright Brother's experiments together before branching off to work on individual projects about flying animals, flying machines and important historical figures in flight. We've just launched into our unit on light, optics and color; so far the students have learned about the electromagnetic spectrum and made their own "light" with pipe cleaner "wavelengths" and "photon" beads. Along the way we've seen how our units tie into Gestalt psychology, pointillism, haiku poetry and even the functioning of lava lamps! Our class is off to a great start - everyone is full of enthusiasm and scientific curiosity.

11/12 Year Old Science Class

Can we live without light? Our class has concluded that the light from the sun and the light from the Son are both very necessary. We have explored through scripture Jesus as the light of the world, and we now know that there is more to light than what we see at first glance. We had fun making prisms to refract the light so we could see the spectrum of color like Sir Isaac Newton. Experimenting with water and convex and concave lenses to refract the light and how mirrors reflect was also cool and educational. Finally, to finish up the students researched the use of lenses, mirrors and prisms in binoculars, microscopes, telescopes, and cameras. Now we are ready to learn about another of God's awesome creations, the eye. In a few weeks we will have hands on knowledge of the parts of the eye after dissecting a cow's eyeball.

Junior Division English

We started the year off diving straight into literature! Through *The Bronze Bow* we explored Jewish culture and relationships through a critical literary eye. Then we moved into the wondrous world of Narnia as we read *The Last Battle*. Exploring the parallels between the novel and the Bible turned out to be a favorite activity of the class. In addition to reading literature we have been working on writing Choose Your Own Adventure Stories where the reader is able to partially control the outcome. The stories varied from a dating show, to a fighter pilot and even a space adventure to Mars!

Next in line this semester will be a unit in poetry. As part of this unit the students will have the opportunity to craft their own poetry in a style that suits them best. Following poetry will be my favorite unit of the year...A Christmas Carol! It combines two of my most favorite things: literature and Christmas. We will explore the cultural and moral aspects which Charles Dickens was trying to impress on his readers in 19th century London. As much as we love the story of Scrooge's change of heart, Dickens always intended his story to do more than simply warm our hearts at Christmas.

Junior Division Science

Balls! Shopping Carts! Buses colliding with bugs! We are currently studying God's laws that define how things move and are held together on this earth. As we have explored the unique laws of inertia and momentum, we have continued to work on our ability to hypothesize, conduct an experiment and analyze our results. We've explored a world without electricity, designed balloon rockets as models, and discussed the importance of seat belts. As we continue to learn more about the history of science and the unique forces that God has designed, we will strengthen our scientific skills of measuring, recording, and presenting our results.

Humanities I

The Deerstream Humanities I class has been traveling across America during the 19th century. We have learned about life in a Conestoga wagon and what provisions a family must take to make a six month trip on the Oregon Trail. Along the way we each made a story quilt to tell a story about a family event. We also learned how the mail got from the East out to California via the Pony Express. What exciting lives those young men led riding hard with potential dangers around every bend! We are presently working on western clay relief pictures inspired by the art of Fredrick Remington.

Humanities II

We started off the year by having lots of fun learning and knowing about each other, drawing our portrait, and building our very own Dream Tree House. Now we will travel from the Caribbean Sea all the way to the Antarctica to be inspired by all the lines, shapes, colors, space, textures and patterns that we find in the arctic tundra.

Humanities III

This year our humanities class has been traveling way back in time to study ancient civilizations. Our first destination was deep in some caverns of France and Spain, learning about the Pre-Historic art of cave paintings. We reproduced these paintings and even had individual "hunting practice". As one of the earliest civilizations, Mesopotamia was our next stopping point. We learned about their history, developments and achievements. Through the drawing technique of 2 point perspective, students designed and drew ziggurats while they listened to a reading from the Epic of Gilgamesh. Recently, we



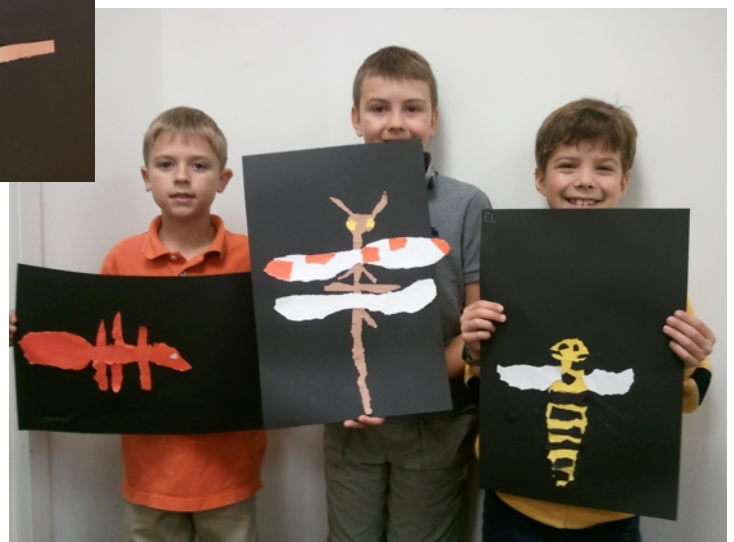
have been immersed in the rich history of ancient Egypt, studying and re-producing hieroglyphics and personal cartouches. In addition, we are mimicking the Egyptians love of color and pattern as we create designs to decorate coffins.

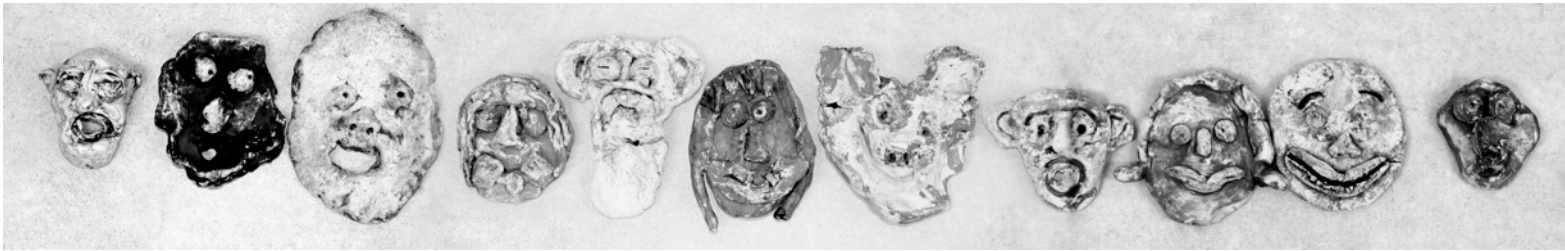
Afternoon Chorus

The afternoon Chorus Class has been alive with music and laughter! So far we've learned about the importance of warming up your voice (which extends to your whole body!), rhythms and beats, and some music theory. We're also practicing dynamics (soft and loud) by talking "forte" or "pianissimo," and learning about tempo by bouncing a ball either very fast ("presto") or very slow ("largo"). We've been learning a few songs and we're excited to perform them at the end of the semester!

Afternoon French Class

The French class has had so much fun learning through acting with French greetings, animals, action words, and body parts. Our favorite game is "Jacques a dit", the French version of Simon says. Everybody was surprised and impressed when we sampled French cheeses and saw pictures of Versailles castle. Now we're working on new vocabulary for family members and the rooms in a house.





Afternoon Art I

We are exploring the elements of art: line, shape, form, space, texture, value and color. The elements of art are both fun and useful. Knowing these elements help us to analyze, appreciate, write and chat about art. They are also very helpful for creating art. We started by learning all about lines; while most would consider the line to be rather simple we learned that it may be two dimensional, like a pencil mark on a paper or it may be three dimensional (wire) or implied (the edge of a shape or form) often it is a outline, contour or silhouette. Using this information where we designed turtle shells using as many different lines as we could.



Afternoon Art II

The Middle School art class started the semester creating gourd art! We used dipper gourds to create vessels, musical instruments, and bird houses. The results were wonderful! We have now moved on to making masks with plaster gauze. This project has always been a personal favorite of mine because there is so much room for experimentation and creativity. We look forward to sharing the results of our creativity with you in our art shows.



Afternoon Field Games

On Wednesday afternoons, students taking field games are enjoying getting fit and playing hard. We start with some warm-ups, including jogging, jumping jacks, squats, and stretches, and then follow-up with various games. So far, we have played kick ball, sprite ball, cops and robbers, and cats in the corner, to name a few. Of course, capture the flag and many forms of tag are also on our list for the semester.

All art work done by Deerstream students this year.

Creative Designer Anne Frana