

THE INSIDE SCOOP

Deerstream Learning Center - Chapel Hill



SPRING
2011



5/6 YEAR OLDS

Our 5/6 science class is exploring the wonderful world of living things. Drawing pictures, making puppets, reading books, reciting poetry, signing and singing Scripture memory work, sequencing the life cycle of a frog, assembling puzzles, and putting together impromptu plays that make our class giggle, all contribute to the learning process. And there is so much to learn about those amazing amphibians, reptiles, fish, birds, insects and mammals.



6/7 YEAR OLDS

We have had a wonderful time in our class studying "Living things and their Environments". We have had the opportunity to really focus on the River Otter and were able to make our own river otters and create a drama incorporating elements of their environments. Our parents came to see the original River Otter play including props, scenery, script and of course, the stars of the show, our handmade River Otters.

7/8 YEAR OLDS SECTION I

The Deerstream 7/8 science class has finished its unit on insects including our visit with our favorite teen entomologist, Andrew Bauer. What fun we had studying God's creation and creativity in the insect world!

We have begun our unit on the human body and the wonders of man who was created in God's image. As we put together a paper human skeleton, we are learning the names of many of the 206 bones that help us walk, bend, play and run. We will move on to the body systems including the respiratory, nervous, digestive and circulatory systems. As we study each body system, we will add organs to our skeleton until we have our own paper human body. We have some extremely talented scientist/artist in the 7/8 classroom. Who knew skeletons could be so colorful!

7/8 YEAR OLDS SECTION II

Our science class, is learning about the miraculous human body! Did you know that your bones are alive? That babies have about twice as many bones when they are born? Or how to take care of your skeleton, or how it takes care of you? What's your favorite thing to do? Your favorite food? Next, we'll find out how muscles and nerves give us the ability to do all our favorite activities, and how our food supplies our bodies with the energy and nutrients they need.



8/9 YEAR OLDS

The 8/9 year old science class has been traveling all around the world most of this year, all while in the classroom. After getting a good grounding in geography, we traveled the globe learning about the Earth's biomes, and what makes each unique. We created a lapbook of animals in the biomes--from the Tundra to the Rainforest. We topped off our unit with a trip to the Duke Lemur Center, where we saw a variety of lemurs in action. With spring here, we are now learning all about honey bees and beekeeping.



9/10 YEAR OLDS

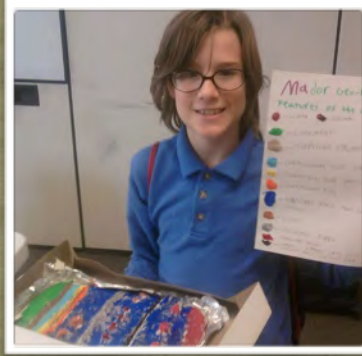
The 9/10 year old science class has traveled the world's Biomes for the last few months! We have seen the Arctic, Desert, Taiga, Grasslands/Prairies, Rainforests, Tundra, Oceans, and Freshwater habitats around the globe.

Next, we are off to observe the Lemurs at the Duke Lemur Center in Durham! What are we going to learn there? That is a great question! Be sure to ask us all about it after we get back!



10/11 YEAR OLDS

Our spring semester covers God's creation from the depths of the ocean up to the furthest star in the heavens. We learned about ecosystems, made food webs on the whiteboard as well as food chains out of paper. A speaker from the Dolphin Research Center came and told us about some of the research going on with marine mammals these days. We did a unit on the ins and outs of heredity in our genetics unit, making "paper bag people" with "paper bag parents", learning about genetic disorders and figuring out how to use Punnett Squares. This week we've moved up to the planets in our solar system, the galaxies in the universe, and the laws of gravity that bind them all together.



11/12 YEAR OLDS

We have been having a lot of fun studying the ocean and Jesus the Creator and Master of it all. We have memorized Psalm 107: 28-35. We got messy with salt dough and made beautiful models of the ocean floor, and we read a few poems about the powerful and majestic ocean including "The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner" which we unpacked and discussed the meaning of. Studying the waves and tides has also been awesome.

JUNIOR DIVISION LANGUAGE ARTS

Second semester started off with a bang! Eight of the Junior Division English students were chosen to be published in a poetry anthology. We entered an essay contest as well and eleven students have been chosen for publication! What an amazing group of writers we have this year!

So far we have studied Animal Farm, Anne Frank, essays from classic writers and drama. We have created an audio drama which will be available to hear on the Junior Division English website sometime mid-April. (Check it out at: <http://deerstreamenglish.blogspot.com/>) Our last unit will focus on short stories. The students will be writing and crafting short stories of their own for this unit.

JUNIOR DIVISION PHYSICAL SCIENCE CLASS

News Flash: Chemical equations are balanced by Junior Division Physical Science class!

It all started with Marshmallows, syringes and Boyle's Law. (Marshmallows will never be the same again). Students were exploring matter's properties, the different phases that matter exhibits and what can cause a change in the state of matter. Then the question was posed, "How do we know a chemical reaction takes place?" In order to understand chemical reactions, students delved into the world of tiny structures. Molecules, atoms and subatomic particles were explored in model form. The discussion of elements led to the dissection of the Periodic table. To add to their base of knowledge, students chose the elements near and dear to their heart to research and promote in the form of advertisements. Space will not allow the depth and breadth of knowledge that was conveyed. Suffice it to say, these kids are natural born agents. The next logical step had the students combining elements in all sorts of ways. Blue and White electrons (candies) could be seen whirling about elements as we discussed covalent and ionic bonds. How molecules react with each other can be written in code language -aka "chemical equations". With a little practice, the students mastered the art of balancing chemical equations on paper.

HUMANITIES I

In the Deerstream 7-9 Humanities classroom we are studying the lives of famous Americans. We began our unit with the life of George Washington Carver, my favorite horticulturalist and one of the people I am looking forward to meeting in heaven. This godly and talented scientist turned down a job working with Thomas Edison which carried an offer of \$100,000.00, a lot of money in the 1890s. He did this to give back to his people and help educate African American scientists. We will also explore the life of Thomas Edison, Harriet Tubman, Alexander Graham Bell, and Grandma Moses. With each person we are looking at both their accomplishments and character. As we study we are memorizing Micah 6:8, "He has showed you, O man, what is good and what the Lord does require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Our studies have also led us to immigration, the Statue of Liberty, and the Emma Lazarus poem. We have done some wonderful artwork of our own images of Lady Liberty based on the paintings of Peter Max and our desire to put the great statue in a venue of fireworks. Come see our results at the spring art show!

"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses
yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse
of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless,
tempest-tossed to me,
I lift my lamp
beside the golden door!"
by Emma Lazarus



HUMANITIES II

We are still having fun traveling around the world and looking at different art cultures. In Europe we were inspired to work on a stained glass project. In Africa we had a lot of fun making an African 3D mask which was a little messy working with the plaster but lots of fun! The Japanese people showed us how to carve a block in order to make prints. Our most recent project has come from the Aborigines in Australia. Shimmering dots and the “x-ray” technique were used to create our Australian masterpieces. Be sure to check out our international creations at the upcoming art show!



HUMANITIES III

Our class study of ancient civilizations continued as we learned more about the fascinating culture of Ancient Greece. The Greek people were inspiring and innovative in so many things. While learning about the Greek development of the first theater, the students created theatrical masks of plaster gauze representing different forms of comedy and tragedy. They also designed and crafted beautiful, bold shields in classic designs of the Greek armies.



MONDAY AFTERNOON ART

Our afternoon art class has had tons of fun this semester exploring different mediums and techniques. The class has used watercolors, tempera paint, pastels, markers, plaster gauze and clay - to name a few. They've learned about texture, pattern, design and even some color theory while creating some great pieces of art.



Two projects we have worked on are animal related. After listening to Anansi the Spider (and discussing cooperation), we made our own spiders with plaster gauze strips and pipe cleaners. Using clay slabs that they pounded flat, the young artists formed fun fish of their own designs which they later painted. Their creativity has been amazing!

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON CHORUS

Our afternoons are full of music! In Chorus we're learning songs using memorization and call and response. We've been learning about how to use our whole bodies to sing - we've been singing folk songs, Christian songs, and patriotic songs, and we've had a special treat in getting to use handbells to prepare to perform a song or two for our final concert.



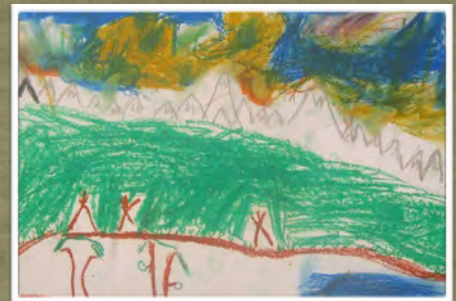
WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON ART I

Our afternoon art class has been learning all about landscapes and the importance of fore, middle, and back ground. To get a better understand of these concepts we have been studying the works of Vincent Van Gogh and Canadian landscape artist Ted Harrison. After creating our own landscape drawing we completed one after each artist style.



WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON ART II

Our middle school art class has just finished some wonderful mosaic tiles based on animal life and nature inspired by the New York subway mosaics at 81st Street depicting the Museum of Natural History in New York City. These mosaics are wonderful, and we can't wait for you to see them at the spring art show!



We are now working on linoleum block relief printing using 2-3 colors. The students are learning to register their prints and think through the process of printing darker colors on lighter colors. I'm excited to see how these prints will turn out. We've got great artists in this class!

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON FIELD GAMES

The Wednesday afternoon field games class is enjoying working out and playing hard. Students start off with a lap or two around the field, followed by some tried and true calisthenics. Next, we learn a new game--like down, down, down, which we tried for the first time this year--or play one of our old favorites, including capture the flag, kickball, what time is it Mr. Fox or one of the many variations of tag. The younger set also are having a great time learning all kinds of games with the hula hoops.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON FRENCH

Afternoon French class loves fun and games! We've learned how the French play boules in the park and used games to practice numbers, colors, and action words. We wrote a letter to Madame Lebrun's grandmere in France and can't wait to hear in her words what life is like there. We are even working on an extra special project to show everyone at the end of the semester!