

handprints

MARCH
2011

We love Valentines Day!



Harmony Preschool/K News

Our Earth studies have included mountain formation, the different types of mountains and how erosion forms mountains. We demonstrated how glaciers come down a mountain and how rain sprinkled on a miniature mountain helped to introduce a discussion of the water cycle and showed the effects of erosion.

Our cave discussions included formation, stalactites and stalagmites, what it would feel like to be in a cave, the darkness and creatures that might live there! We created a cave in a shoebox with stalactites and stalagmites then viewed it with a flashlight. Finally, we used sugar cubes and an eyedropper to simulate the formation of a cave and demonstrated erosion. We talked about earthquakes, how a volcano erupts and now we are studying about rocks.

Thanks to Jeannie Eidson for coming to talk about water. She shared how it can be polluted by lawn fertilizers, animal manure, oil and detergents. We need to do our part and take care of our wonderful planet Earth.

Thanks to the USC students that came to circle time to read to our children! They enjoyed the stories.

Diana (Emma's Mom) came and spoke with the preschool/k classes about Chinese New Year! We appreciate the gifts you gave us, too: a flowering plant, oranges and fortune cookies! The children made an accordion rabbit puppet as 2011 is the year of the rabbit. Thank you, Diana!

We also thank the Marionette Theater for coming to Harmony and performing a musical play. They taught us how litter should

be placed where it belongs: in a trashcan! Help keep our state beautiful and pollution free.

Our Valentine parties were fun! The children enjoyed games, cards and candy! Thanks to the parents who helped. We appreciate all you do!

Wendy came to talk to the children about the Hawaii! She taught us a song, did a Hawaiian dance and gave each class a picture of a volcano and the Hawaiian Trigger fish. Thanks for your presentation, Wendy.

Many of the children enjoyed the Alice in Wonderland performance by Children's Theater. It was a whimsical version with different characters than you usually see or read about in the movie or book. It was very entertaining!

Elementary News and Notes

The Elementary students had a busy and fun February! We enjoyed a field trip to the Beauty and the Beast ballet and had third-row seats! The visit from the Columbia Marionette Theater “Litter Trashes Everyone” gang was fun, too. Most students also completed artwork for the related PalmettoPride contest.

Emma’s mom and sister came to visit us for Chinese New Year, 4708. The students enjoyed learning the holiday customs — especially the ones involving fortune cookies!

We had an amazing Valentine’s party thanks to our class moms. Before the party, Delaney’s mom did interviews with students to learn about their classmates. Those interviews came to life in very unique, personalized cards!

We went to the “dissection” of the South Carolina

Philharmonic in February, too. We saw Ms. Hopkins, our artist in residence! The students loved hearing music from Star Wars and Harry Potter!

Preparation for the March 16 Science Fair is clicking along. Many students are already putting their showboards together! I hope home experiments are going well and that data will soon be arriving at school. The Science Fair is March 16!

We have been doing some remarkable poetry work. The students’ “poetry on demand” exercises have been very creative! In the exercise, they have five minutes to write a poem about a natural object, such as a feather, before moving to the next station and another collection of items.

This month begins our forces and motion unit, as well as our study of Africa. Aidan has put in a standing order for a field trip to the continent, and Julie and I wanted to go to the

Happy Birthday to You!

Lily Burke 3/17

shuttle launch. Sadly, we do not have a magic bus like Miss Frizzle!

Third years are working on a measuring unit and using graph paper to show what the school looks like from viewpoint of a Cooper’s hawk, like the one that watches us from his perch at recess.

We are thrilled that Beth is back in the classroom on Fridays. Natural History homework is temporarily suspended to free more time at home to concentrate on Science Fair work.

In March, the students will have an “African Adventure” at Riverbanks Zoo and we’ll participate in Jump Rope for Heart, too. Parents, please plan to attend the parent workday on March 27. We may be painting our old classroom.

And last, thanks so much for helping us move our classroom! Both rooms are clean and organized, the computers are nicely arranged, and the fixtures work. Thanks to Aidan’s parents, Tatum’s parents, Hanna’s dad, and Alex and his mom. The students are very excited about the science, math, and language nooks, the cockatiel and other animals, and the plants as they work beautiful, natural light from the windows. What a way to go into the home stretch of the year!



march	leprechauns	projects	spring
	<p>11 Jump Rope for Heart Event and Activities</p> <p>23 Field trip to Congaree Swamp - Debbie's class, leaving 8:50am</p> <p>27 Spring Parent/Teacher Workday, 1-4pm</p>	<p>13 Daylight savings time begins! Move clocks ahead one hour!</p> <p>24 Field trip to Congaree Swamp - Carroll's class, leaving 8:50am</p>	<p>16 Harmony School Science Fair, 7-8pm</p> <p>25 Field trip to Congaree Swamp - Ashley's class, leaving 8:50am</p> <p>april 4-8 Spring Break</p>

Science Fair

The school science fair is Wednesday, March 16 from 7-8pm. Any student can participate in the event, however, **all kindergarten and elementary students are required to participate.** Please, NO gooey, sticky, mess-all-over-the-floor experiments!

Cookie Money

The children decided to send this month's cookie money to the Rainforest Alliance. This organization protects beautiful landscapes, safeguards species and helps with good agricultural practices for the communities that depend on the forest for a living.

Jump Rope for Heart

On Friday, March 11, Harmony is supporting the American Heart Association with a Jump Rope for Heart event. Please help us support this worthwhile cause and get some great exercise!

Harmony School Board Update

Spring will bring some remodeling at Harmony. The elementary will move their classroom to the newer portable and elementary aftercare will be in the old portable.

In addition, the elementary is excited to welcome Beth back to the community. She is now spending Fridays at Harmony.

Other projects include installing a new water fountain on the playground and Carroll's classroom will get a permanent wall at the end that now has the curtain. Parents will be building this wall during the Parent/Teacher Workday on March 27. During spring break, the wall between Lauren's nap room and the small aftercare room will be removed. Combining the spaces into a single, larger room will allow us to better utilize the space.

We look forward to these changes! Thank you in advance to all the teachers and parents that will put

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