

Learning about insects at Harmony School,
September 2011.



Preschool/K News and Notes

Our insect studies started with discovering the main body parts of an insect: a head, thorax and abdomen. We have talked about fireflies, and the differences and similarities of a butterfly and moth. The classes made insect homes using aquariums and have an ongoing experiment outside in the playground. We made a bug catcher and so far we've caught some earwigs, spiders and ants for our insect homes. One student in Ashley's class brought in a walking stick, and the children have found crickets, other insects and a large caterpillar that's made a cocoon in Debbie's class insect home. In the classrooms, we watched caterpillars turn into chrysalis and then hatch into butterflies! Walt (Jamie's husband) brought in his tarantula to show the children at circle one day. It was an interesting experience to see

a huge live spider! We've talked about insect metamorphosis and are experimenting with mealworms to see if they will turn into beetles. Through music and acting, we explored the stages of metamorphosis and how some insects go through an incomplete or simple metamorphosis like crickets, grasshoppers, dragonflies and cockroaches.

Our field trips to the Children's Theater to see Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No-good, Very Bad Day were quite the adventures. When Debbie's class got back from the play, Carroll's class loaded up on the bus, but the bus wouldn't start! Many thanks to Tim and Jasper, Debbie's field trip drivers, who also drove Carroll's class since the bus had to be towed to Keith's garage for repair. The diagnosis was burnt wires

and the starter was replaced — ouch! The next day, Ashley's class had an adventure, too. The bus was fixed but there was a huge rainstorm with flash flood warnings! You might say we understood what Alexander meant when he said I'm having a terrible, horrible, no-good, very bad day! The children and grown ups enjoyed the musical play and had plenty of laughs in spite of the misadventures.

Reminder to parents: When picking up children in the afternoon, please be sure they are not wandering without your supervision into classrooms. Some small materials have been missing from some classroom lessons. Children are not allowed to play with or use the classroom materials in the afternoon when parents are picking up. Thank you so much for understanding!



Elementary News and Notes

Our classroom of aspiring shutterbugs and curious learners enjoyed a great September!



Our class trip to Saluda Shoals to enjoy the beauty of nature will long be remembered, particularly because of all the amazing images students captured with their cameras. Our photographs were even displayed at the park as part of the Unearth Saluda Festival. We went back to Saluda Shoals to see our photographs up in public, and we found out we had some winners! First place, out of 17 entries in Junior General Nature, was won by Max Hyjek! Harmony

students won all three places in Junior Human Nature: Anna Maria received third place honors, Aidan McInnis got second place and Arron Robertson earned first place! What a great experience it was for all of us!

Around our classroom, we've had many hummingbird sightings around the feeders and the caterpillars that appeared on our classroom plants have added to our nature encounters. All the stormy weather these last couple of weeks has provided great material for journal writings as we share our storm stories with one another! In other classroom news, we welcomed a new second-grade student, Arina. Welcome to Harmony School to you and your family!

We took a class trip to the Sonoco Recycling Center where we were shown how our community tries to manage its garbage, and how recycling can play a big part in management. In October, we'll have a visit to the historic Columbia water/power plant and to the current water plant.

This month, we welcome back physical education as part of our elementary week on Wednesdays. We look forward to getting to know our new PE teacher. Don't forget to wear sneakers on Wednesdays!

Don't forget to visit the Elementary Blog at harmonyelementary.wordpress.com

Cookie Money

The children decided to send their September Cookie Money to UNICEF. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) was created to work with others to overcome the obstacles that poverty, violence, disease and discrimination place in a child's path. UNICEF helps prevent the spread of disease, provides clean water and builds schools for children.

october	leaves	chilly	boo!
	10/5 EFT Workshop, 7-8 pm in the green building	10/12 Elementary Field Trip	10/14 No Afternoon Kindergarten, 12:15 pm early pickup
	10/18 Sesqui Field Trip— Debbie's class leaves at 9 am	10/19 Sesqui Field Trip— Carroll's class leaves at 9 am	10/20 Sesqui Field Trip— Ashley's class leaves at 9 am
	10/25 Kooky Spooky Family Halloween Event 6:30-8 pm	10/31 Classroom Halloween Party 8:30-9:30 am Dress up--NO scary costumes or weapons	11/19 Annual Oyster Roast and Silent Auction at Harmony School, 6:30 pm

Sixth Annual Oyster Roast and Silent Auction

Saturday, November 19 enjoy great food, music and friends along with steamed oysters, homemade chili, beer, wine, live music and a silent auction. Tickets are \$30 per person and the action starts at 6:30 pm.

Live performances by Jahson and the Natty Vibe Band, J'Ouvert Steel Drum Band and the Next Door Drummers. Silent auction items include a weekend at Myrtle Beach at the Hilton Oceanfront Resort, tickets to Ripley's Aquarium, Brookgreen Gardens and the NASCAR SpeedPark; a week at the McDonald Family beach house on Edisto Island; a pair of Skorpion Multi Terrain adult skates, a pair of Skorpion Quadline Urban Street Skates for adults and a pair of Skorpies Quadline Urban Street Skates for kids. Plus, original art and gift certificates, too. Stay in the know at www.harmonyauction.blogspot.com.

Kooky Spooky Family Halloween Event

Join us Tuesday, October 25 from 6:30-8 pm for age appropriate Halloween storytelling, magic and a surprise or two. Wear a costume if you like!

Happy Birthday to You!

Rowan McAngus 10/4
 Jackson Clements 10/13
 Veronica Turner 10/21
 Marissa Solita 10/26
 Taylor Muckenfuss 10/27

Harmony Day at Monkey Joe's

Enjoy Monkey Joe's awesomeness Thursday, October 6 between 10 am-7 pm for just \$7.99. Go to the Monkey Joe's near Clemson Road on Harmony Day and 35% of ticket sales are donated back to the school! Great day to take the stay-at-home kids out for a bounce-around!

Like Harmony on Facebook yet? We'd like you to!
<http://www.facebook.com/harmonyschoolsc>

Emotional Freedom Technique

On Wednesday, Oct. 5 at 7 pm in the green building, Debbie is offering a free workshop on Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT). This new healing technique is based on the ancient art of acupuncture (minus needles) and modern psychology. An alternative method for stress free living, the technique is for children and adults. This workshop is for adults to attend, be introduced to, learn about resources and learn to teach your children the method to help with their emotions. This simple method can do amazing things for your physical and mental health. Hope to see you there!

Positive Parenting Program by Professor Matt Sanders

As a parent, you want to do the best for your child, but how do you know what's right? What do you do when your child answers back? Or is being bullied at school? Or starts telling obvious lies?

This year in our newsletter, we're sharing some of Triple P's proven tips for the best ways to handle common behavioral and developmental problems in children. From battling disobedience to encouraging homework routines, we'll highlight everyday issues and "parent traps" and help you work out some strategies to suit your family.

Harmony School hopes to bring parents the Triple P program as a seminar or eight-week group program so watch for details. For more information, see Debbie or the posters, flyers and blue notebook in the office.

Parent/Teacher Work Day

Our Fall parent/teacher work day will be held Sunday, November 6, 2011 from 1-4 pm.

Work days are a great way we come together as a community to spruce up our facility and enjoy some fellowship. Harmony provides childcare on parent teacher work days.



Guest Speaker

In September, Harmony School had a guest speaker, Justin Lewandowski. Justin came to talk with us about insects and showed us a presentation of some great pictures of insects. He also brought and shared some wonderful insect specimen boxes, too. Justin was full of information and shared with us a lot about insects.

Thank you, Justin!