

handprints

NOVEMBER
2011

Bobbing for apples at Kooky Spooky,
October 2011.



Preschool/K News and Notes

We're into insect studies and the children are finding good specimens on the playground—dead and alive! We've talked about true bugs (aphid, water bug, stinkbug and bedbug) and experimented with mealworms. We saw the larva shed its skin and develop into the pupa stage and then beetle! Beetles go through a complete metamorphosis and have an extra pair of feelers and chewing mouthparts. Pesky flies are one of the fastest insects and are very sensitive to motion. Flies love garbage and spit on our food—gross! We learned how some like praying mantis, katydids and walking sticks are great camouflagers. We also learned how ants have social colonies and underground rooms. They work all day feeding and cleaning.

We also learned about bees and their various jobs throughout their lives. The children played the honeycomb

game, where one is the queen and all the worker bees search for the nectar. The first bee to find the nectar and bring it back gets to be the queen. Another game, Life in a Beehive, gives children a chance to do jobs for a week like bees. The week before Halloween, we talked about spiders and why they are not insects but arachnids.

We thank Marguerite for coming to talk to us about insects and to show specimens under her microscopes.

Our field trips to Sesqui with Ranger Stacey worked out well despite the weather. We reviewed what we knew about insects and then went out to find insects using nets and jars. Thanks again to all the parents who drove and chaperoned. We are so grateful for all you do!

Thanks to Tyler Holmes, John McDermott, Keaton Rodland, Kyle

Nuccilli, Alek Weiner, and Sadi Ranen of Warren Wilson College. They performed a silly skit about mountain adventures for the Harmony children.

Our family Kooky Spooky event with Sarah Dippity's magic, apple bobbing, marshmallow roasting and costumes a plenty provided an evening of excitement and joy. Our Halloween parties were great, too! Thanks to the many volunteers who brought goodies and helped in the classrooms. More thanks to the elementary students who escorted the pre/k children through the haunted house. We had many heroes, princesses, insects, witches, tigers, fairies, and characters from stories and movies. The children enjoyed playing games, pulling guts and seeds from the jack-o-lantern, eating sweets, fruit and veggies and, of course, slamming open the pinata!

Elementary News and Notes

October was a month of creative ideas and learning. On October 12th, we spent a day on the river. We learned about the old power plant at Riverfront Park, and then toured the nearby municipal drinking water plant. Parts of the old power plant date back to the Civil War, and the machinery is awesome! We also saw turtles in the canal and watched for alligators, too. After enjoying lunch at the old power plant, we drove across the parking lot to the modern water plant. The lab was very interesting. We saw water running continuously from taps — they test every area, every hour around the clock. In the control room, they showed us how they keep watch on all of the water towers and pipes in the city. It was really cool!

We are learning about a lot of history as we prepare our Winter Festival play. As part of the study, we visited a cotton field in Hopkins, and then some students even went to a cotton gin in Mayesville to see the height of

the harvest season. We had a great time as we toured the plant and saw the process — emptying semi truckloads of cotton, going through the gin and then baling them for shipment. The children were able to climb into a semi trailer filled with the other product of the process — pure cottonseed. After lunch by a local puddle (it once was a pond!), we headed back to school. We're glad the students got to see this vanishing part of Americana, and a major part of our state's history.

The students are working hard honing their math and writing skills. Each day they are getting better at dissecting the daily sentence, and at their weekly spelling lists and fast math facts. We have all enjoyed many presentations on maps, animals, and astronomy. We are learning a lot about our solar system, and many of the boys got together and did a



fantastic project involving planning a very long trip to the galaxy M-81. They did such a good job synthesizing facts with the creative ideas that could get them to a multi-generational trip through space. We could have listened all day!

November promises to be a very exciting month. We will continue to see community sights that most people never see and some that most people don't even know about! We love our Harmony Elementary class, and look forward to a fruitful fall!

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

Fall Parent/Teacher Workday

Coming on Sunday Nov. 6 is our Fall Parent/Staff Workday from 1-4 pm. We understand everyone is busy, but we do expect at least one person from each family to participate. Childcare will be provided, so you can bring the little ones to play on the playground. Projects will include trimming, pruning, painting, planting, cleaning, washing, stacking and making some Oyster Roast preparations. Please bring gloves, trimmers, clippers, wheelbarrows and rakes if you can!

Cookie Money

The children decided to send their cookie money to Gills Creek Watershed Association. The largest impaired urban watershed in SC, the association is dedicated to restoring the watershed through education, grassroots action, public and private partnerships, remediation projects and controlled development.

november	feast	thanks	love
	<p>11/6 Parent/Staff Workday, 1-4 pm</p> <p>11/16 Congaree Swamp Field Trip—Carroll's class leaves at 9 am</p> <p>11/22 Thanksgiving Potluck Lunch, 11 am</p>	<p>11/8 Triple P Parenting Workshop, 7:30 pm</p> <p>11/17 Congaree Swamp Field Trip—Ashley's class leaves at 9 am</p> <p>11/23-11/25 Thanksgiving Holiday</p>	<p>11/15 Congaree Swamp Field Trip—Debbie's class leaves at 9 am</p> <p>11/19 Annual Oyster Roast and Silent Auction at Harmony School, 6:30 pm</p> <p>12/14 Winter Festival, 7-8 pm</p>

Sixth Annual Oyster Roast and Silent Auction

Please turn in ticket money by Friday, Nov. 4th. Please turn in auction items by Friday, Nov. 11. We need volunteers for set-up/clean-up and last call for chili makers. Please sell tickets. This is our major fundraiser!

Triple P Parenting Workshop

Learn tools to help you teach your child to comply with adult instructions, to follow family rules and routines, and to manage frustration and disappointment. Join us November 8 at 7:30pm. Barbara Austin will lead the informal seminar with opportunities to ask questions and explore solutions to some common childhood behavior challenges. Please RSVP if you plan to attend, but if you decide you'd like to attend at the last minute, come!

Annual Potluck Thanksgiving Feast

Please join Harmony students for lunch on Tuesday, Nov. 22 at 11am. This annual potluck lunch is fun for the kids and for grownups, too. Plus, there's tofurkey. What's more tempting than that? Sign-up sheets will start appearing soon. Don't miss it!

Happy Birthday to You!

Amelia Reeves 11/8
Henry Graves 11/11
Lillian Mirosovich 11/15
Joe Graves 11/16
Kat Cantey 11/19
Will Trumpeter 11/27

Board Openings

We need board members with affluence, influence or just hard-workers who believe in the cause. If you're interested, please see Debbie.

Family Pictures

Any families interested in picture day on Sunday, Nov. 13th? A \$50.00 advance payment gets you the CD with all images on it. Great for the holidays!

Harmony's on Twitter! @HarmonySchool1

Parents please remember **NO** candy in children's lunches!