

Sometimes when it's too warm to snow, it snows!
Harmony School | Winter 2009



Preschool/K News and Notes

Our reptile and amphibian study started with dinosaurs — the first reptiles on Earth.

The children were placed in groups to create body parts of a dinosaur (head, legs, body, neck, tail, etc.) and each group put their part together with the other groups to create a large dinosaur on the floor using their bodies!

We had the children place pictures of dinosaurs on a sheet of paper in the Mesozoic Age according to what period they were usually found such as Triassic, Jurassic or Cretaceous. We talked about reptiles and pretended to be and move like a turtle, lizard, snake and alligator. Later, we dug in a pan of sand to find raisins that felt a lot like real snake eggs — leathery and squishy.

We hope you're starting to hear songs about our studies and enjoying the variety of reptile and amphibian artwork.

Our classroom field trips to Saluda Shoals were fun, educational and experiential. We started out in the classroom as Ranger Steven talked to the children about amphibians (frogs, toads and salamanders) and had pictures of amphibians, a frog puppet and live tadpole to show. The children played a game that allowed them to see how difficult it is for a predator to find a frog in the wild if many of them are all croaking at the same time. Then we went outside for a walk along the pond to see if we could find a frog. We certainly heard them croaking.

Our own Jennifer, from the

elementary school, came over to talk to the preschool/k classes about reptiles. Jennifer brought several snakeskin examples — a rat snake and python. Jennifer also brought a snake skeleton and had her live tortoise, corn snake (that wrapped around her head and slithered through her hair!), python, and bearded lizard for the children to see as she took them out of their habitat and handled them.





Elementary News and Notes

We haven't had any snow days yet, but have had wonderful days in the elementary!

Our study of the states began with the first three to reach statehood: Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Some students brought their coin collections, and we shared the classroom sets, to learn about each state. What's so important about each state that they included it on their quarters? We're looking at their symbols and state flags, too. Grades 2-4 are also studying each state's highway, satellite, lake and river, and elevation maps. It's neat to see all the maps and interest in the classroom!

We're getting to know more about our own state every day, too. We're looking at the soils of the sandhills region. The students collected two different soil samples from home for a project. Many were fascinated with what their soils said about their home base — particularly after our first field trip. On the trip they got the Dirt on Dirt from Ranger Jay. They saw the difference between types of

soil, and its' components of sand, silt, clay and loam. After the class they got scavenge in the riverbank, and then enjoy lunch there. We all had such a good time, and a big thanks to Rachel (Madison's mom) for joining us!

Back at school we sifted the soil samples and made paint. Each student created a South Carolina nature-related design. Wait until you see the exceptional results of this project! Some paintings are already on display in the classroom.

We prepared for our day off on January 16 by studying the life and times of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. The students were very interested in the history and first person accounts involved, and we enjoyed reading *If You Lived at the Time of Martin Luther King* together.

Julie and I enjoyed meeting and speaking to families and students at the Open House. It was wonderful to see their interest and enthusiasm as they perused your children's

wonderful projects and we got to boast about what they do in here every day!

The kindergarten students have begun visiting the elementary on Wednesday afternoons. They got to see the soil painting in progress, and then got to share a book with the older students, and visa versa. It is fun to have them here!

Thanks to all our parents for their support. We look forward to more adventures in February!

Check out the new library!

Students are welcome to stop by and check out a book from Harmony School's newly renovated library. We have lots of storybooks, early readers, leveled readers and chapter books!

february	love	winter	hearts
	<p>2/14 Pre/K classroom Valentine parties, 8:30–9:30 am</p> <p>2/16 Registration paper work for 2012–13 due today!</p>	<p>2/16 Field Trip to Children’s Theatre — Carroll’s Class, leaving at 8:50 am</p> <p>2/17 Field Trip to Children’s Theatre — Ashley’s Class, leaving at 8:50 am</p>	<p>2/16 Field Trip to Children’s Theatre — Debbie’s Class, leaving at 10:30 am</p> <p>2/20 School holiday — President’s Day</p>

January Cookie Money

The children decided to send their cookie money to Reptile Rescue of the Carolinas, a nonprofit organization for the welfare and education of both native and captive bred reptiles and amphibians. Reptile Rescue of the Carolinas works in cooperation with North Carolina State University's Herpetology Club, Pre-Veterinary Club and Zoology Club.

New Program: Healthy Eating and Living

Starting next month we'll be sharing information on topics such as:

- Eat a rainbow – Ideas and tips for getting children to eat more fruits and veggies
- Why organic and how to eat organic on a budget – Produce, dirty dozen and clean 15, dairy and meat
- Sugar – Hiding in plain sight
- Eat more real foods – Tips and ideas for replacing kids’ favorites with more wholesome, less processed alternatives
- Eating local
- Dyes and other additives – Why it's best to avoid them
- Eat healthy today for tomorrow’s health

For now, please visit these websites for great information: www.healthychild.org and www.ewg.com.

If you have an interest in topics not mentioned, please let us know!

Happy Birthday to You!

- Jeremiah Trimble 2/1
- Niyati Patel 2/3
- Trey Fletcher 2/8
- Jackson Robinson 2/11
- Luke Trimble 2/15
- Stacey Leroy 2/17
- Allison Simms 2/19
- Griffin Reaves 2/20
- Fionn and Stephen O’Connor 2/21
- Atticus Reeves 2/26

Flip Phone Flopping?

Recycle Small Electronics, Monday - Friday 8am-5pm

Not sure what to do with those broken digital cameras, laptops, flip cameras, cell phones, ipods/mp3 players, GPS devices and graphing calculators? Bring them by Harmony School’s Drive-Thru Drop-Off and mark it off your green “to-do” list. Items don’t have to work. They will be recycled — not re-furbished — and cases, cords and cables are not required. Please donate any unwanted working items to the charity of your choice, but save the damaged goods for Harmony School!

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