

Enjoying time at the
Read-In April 12, 2012.



Preschool/K News and Notes

Once spring break was over, we jumped right back into our space studies. We have discussed and finished the eight planets in our solar system. We touched on the first four planets closest to the sun being the rocky planets and smallest and the last four planets being the gaseous giants. We discussed the asteroid belt, talked about the sun and used the sun to make sun prints on special paper and handprint suns with paint.

We discussed our moon, and its different stages. We talked about eclipses and learned about the first people to walk on the moon. We will finish the year with discussions about stars, constellations, Native American myths, meteors, nebulas, comets and space exploration!

Our classroom field trips to see the musical *Rumpelstiltskin* had a mixed

bag of reviews. While some children liked the play a lot, some felt the troll was scary. Some younger children climbed into our laps to hide their eyes or to feel safe. Nevertheless, the play was well done and the acting was great; however, it could be made less scary for younger audiences. Generally, the children's theater does a wonderful job in creating musical productions for children.

Yay to the families who came out for a late night at the Melton Observatory Monday, April 23! We were all able to see Saturn, the crescent moon and Mars.

Poetry night was filled with the sounds of children's verses and more. Thanks to all the children who participated in poetry night, and special thanks to Cassie Premo Steele

for her readings and involvement with the children on poetry night.

There are only a few weeks left of the school year. The kindergartners will be heading to Table Rock State Park in days. The school year flew by!

Daytime Use of Main Parking Area

We are now locking the front driveway gate every day between 10am-2pm. If you need to come to Harmony for any reason between those hours, please park in the gravel lot and walk over. This is to ensure the safety of students who may be going to and from the garden or other outdoor areas of the campus.

Elementary News and Notes

The elementary had an active April. On April 11 we were going to see a jazz program at the public library on Trenholm Road and we decided to walk. While thinking about the walk, we noted parts of the route had no sidewalks. The students made signs to highlight that fact and got almost 100 honks in support round trip! After the walk went faster than we'd planned, we visited Forest Acres City Hall and got an audience with city administrator Mark Williams. After an impromptu session on sidewalks, the students asked questions and shared ideas to raise money for more sidewalks. After our city hall visit, we headed back to the library and enjoyed a lesson on jazz. We learned one great musician for each of the common instruments of jazz, and had a great time.



On April 12, we packed picnic supplies and books, and went to the Read-In at the State House. There were some famous South Carolinians there, and many students got an autograph from a Marvel Comics Spiderman illustrator.

Earlier in April, students completed presentations of their Elder Travel projects. It was wonderful to see the products of their conversations with their elders. Thanks to Alex's Mom who came to talk to us about her trip to Brazil. Throughout the month, students presented their charitable organization project. They each created a charitable organization to help the world in some way. While some created a group to help animals or to promote world peace, each project was thoughtful, idealistic and worthy.

We spent two days helping local artists with a Rangoli project for Artista Vista. The students were impressed with their work after seeing it from the top of a nearby parking garage. It was amazing to see the lines become a beautiful design of bird food from the air.

Poetry night was fun, too. The students really enjoy flash poetry, creating a poem from eight stations in the room in just five minutes.

May will surely be memorable as we live off the map and off the grid for three days at Turtle Island in the North Carolina Mountains. Preparations for the trip are underway and we're sure great stories will follow. The end of the year is too close!



may	flowers	fun	summer
	5-9-5/11 Elementary Camping Trip to Turtle Island	5/14-5/18 African Drumming Residency with Lee Ann Kornegay	5/16 Kindergarten Graduation and Potluck, 6:30-8pm
	5/18 Drumming Concert, 7pm at Tapp's Arts Center on Main St.	5/22 Family Picnic, 6-7:30pm on Harmony Playground	5/24 Last day of school (Summer program begins 6/1)

End of Year Events, Dates and Times

Our always-fun **Kindergarten graduation and potluck** will be Wednesday, May 16 from 6:30-8pm. The end of year **family picnic** will be Tuesday, May 22 from 6-7:30pm. *The picnic is NOT May 10 as listed in the tie-dye calendar given out at the beginning of the school year!* Please bring a blanket and dinner for your family to enjoy as you talk and mingle with Harmony families. The **last day of school** is Thursday, May 24. It's a half-day for kindergarteners and elementary students. Preschoolers have a regular full day. **School is closed** Friday, May 25-Thursday, May 31. The **summer program begins** on Friday, June 1.

Drumming Residency

Lee Ann Kornegay will be our Artist in Residence May 14-18. During this week she will teach our students West African drumming. On Friday, May 18 at 7pm, the children will perform at the Tapp's Arts Center downtown. Lee Ann has worked with our children for many years and we are looking forward to her coming back again for this very fun event involving ALL our children at Harmony! The cost is \$12 per child and due by May 11.

Bus²

To accommodate growing preschool and elementary classes, Harmony School got another bus!

Bikers and trikers raise more than \$1,000.

The Bike & Trike for HEART was a very successful! Harmony students raised \$1,378 for the American Heart Association. Congratulations to preschooler Ian Miller for raising \$400 — the most raised by an individual student! T-shirts for those students who raised \$40 or more should arrive in about 6 weeks. Thanks to everyone who participated in this fun event.

Happy Birthday to You!

Alex Anderson-McLeod 5/8
 Evan Early 5/13
 Tatum McDonald 5/20
 Jacob Roberts 5/29

Harmony school is vegging out!

The veggie co-op has been a big success. Our families have been getting fresh fruits and veggies and the SC Produce Co-op has donated more than \$100 to Harmony. The co-op should continue through May.

Book Fair

We hope everyone enjoyed the book fair. The book fair earned the school about \$350 worth of new books and materials for the classrooms and library.

Books, Books and more Books

If you'd like to buy a Harmony yearbook for your child (ren), please complete the online form and pay \$15 by Friday, May, 11. We still have a few poetry books if anyone missed out. The cost is \$10. Please call or email Shannon if interested.

Cookie Money

This month's cookie money went to a project some of the boys researched: The Carter Center's program for Guinea worm eradication.