



Field Trip! Cotton Gin in
Mayesville, SC, Fall, 2012.

Preschool/K News and Notes

Our study of the environment has been a journey and along the way we have learned that we all have important responsibilities as stewards of the earth—to protect her waters, air, land, animals and forests so our earth will be a clean place to live for a long time.

Jane Hiller of the Sonoco Recycling Center came to Harmony to talk to the children about the importance of the three R's — recycle, reuse and reduce! Jane performed a puppet show for the pre/k classes about keeping our garbage to a minimum as much as we can so our garbage dumps don't fill our town.

Our field trip to Saluda Shoals for the wetlands program had us bundled up, but happy to spend time outside exploring the wetlands and realizing how it filters our waters and provides a home for many living creatures! The children had fun using nets to catch tadpoles, fish, frogs, and dragonfly

larvae from the pond and expressing dislike of the poop smell coming from the decomposition of matter in the pond. Thanks to the parent drivers and chaperones! We wouldn't be able to do it without you.

Thanks to Viral (Aarav's mom) and Arti (Prerana and Niyati's Mom) for talking to our students about Diwali an important holiday in India. It's the "Festival of Lights" and lasts about five days.



Winter Festival

The annual Winter Festival will be held Tuesday, Dec 18 at 7pm at Crayton Middle School's auditorium. All students will perform and all families are invited. The students have been working hard since the beginning of the school year in preparation for this event — it's a can't miss annual event.

Cookie Money

The students chose World Vision as the recipient of November's cookie money. This donation will fund the purchase of two chickens and five ducks for needy families around the world.

Many Thanks

Thank you to Barry Brandes (Caroline & Connor's dad) for repairing the lattice on the elementary portable. Thanks to Gerritt DeGood's grandparents, Dan and Maryann, for donating a heavy-duty work ladder to the school. We will definitely put it to good use!

Elementary News and Notes

What a wonderful, inspiring November we had in the Upper Elementary! We began early with a Saturday field trip to Camden to witness a skirmish between the British, the Loyalists, and their paid-for soldiers the Hessians, against our ancestors the Patriots, who wanted freedom from British rule. We learned so much from the patient, passionate re-enactors as they showed us their clothes, weapons and skills. We all agreed we can't wait to go back next year for the third annual Battle of Camden!

We can't thank everyone enough for all they did on the Parent/Teacher workday! The deck is stained and ready for frosty mornings, Jonathon replaced many more bathroom tiles than I thought he would have to, and our windows are sparkling. Thank you so much for all you do!

On the 5th, we went to USC to see Sophie's stepmom's Doctoral Thesis defense. I was so proud of the kids as someone in the audience mentioned making history with the youngest audience for a defense ever. They were very interested, and got it!

Our study of life on Earth continues in the Lower Elementary. We are exploring classes of vertebrates: fish, amphibian, bird, reptile and mammal. Much project classwork revolves around prehistoric animals, particularly types of fish, amphibians and reptiles. Students are creating wonderful booklets, posters, and presentations about their selected animals. Plant study has started as well, and learning the parts of the plant helps to develop a greater appreciation for this form of life. Students explored plant life with upper elementary and carefully excavated plants from their homes in pots in order to study them closely. They drew the entire plant in their art journals and created amazing sketches.

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The 6th was Election Day. We'd prepared for the excitement and patriotism of it all. Mary, Noah and Jessica led our celebration of that wonderful right of voting and the three first-time voters told their stories and we celebrated our freedom. Mary also told us about and tested us on the test she recently took to become an American citizen. It was a wonderful day!

On the 7th we went back to USC to visit the Marine Geology lab. We saw the research being done to find climate data through the foraminifera in core samples that the lab collects in the Caribbean and the Pacific, and even identified the different species ourselves through microscopes. It was very neat to see how science really works!

During the week of the 12th, we went to Hammond School for two days for our second annual Primitive Technology Week. We learned again about the first 1.5 million years of human technology, observed the day's classes after a fun lunch in the woods, and then went back on the 15th to take our chosen day-long classes. Our students made burn-and-scrape bowls, Cherokee-style rivercane flutes and deer-foot toolkits. When I toured the classes I was thrilled to watch them use early skills and tools to make creations!

We also found time to enjoy our studies of math, language, spelling and reading. The students also performed very well on the quizzes I give them to test how well they listen, and, also participate, in the class segues. This month's included

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Happy Birthday!

Dawsyn McLaughlin 12/4
Anna Maria Munn 12/11
Cody Sutton 12/17
Ian Miller 12/19
India Herrington-Garrett 12/22
Jennifer Mancke 12/27
Noah Roberts 12/29
Benjamin Aiken 12/30

december	brrr	happy	snow?
	11/14-12/7 Parent Teacher Conferences 1/21/12 Martin Luther King Day — School closed	12/18 Winter Festival, 7-8pm 1/15-1/17 Pre/K Field Trips to Fire Station	12/20-1/1 Winter Break — School closed 2/14-2/15 Pre/K Field Trips to Columbia Children's Theatre

Another Oyster Roast Success

We're excited to announce the proceeds from this year's oyster roast and silent auction total: \$14,617.00! Our charity partner, St. Lawrence Place, will receive a donation totaling 20% of our auction sales. Thank you all for your participation and support in making this year's event a success! Special thanks to our event sponsors, donors and musicians:

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| 3leroy's | Heather's Artisan Bakery |
| Aesthetic Smile Studio | Hollis Brown Thornton |
| Amsa Yoga | Immaculate Body Piercing |
| Anonymous | K.D.'s Treehouse |
| Ashley Ervin | Kimberly Richey Roling |
| Be Beep Toys | Laptop Lunches |
| Big Blue Marble/Lango | Law Office of Timothy S. VanDenBerg |
| Brookgreen Gardens | Lee Ann Kornegay |
| Carroll Bruno, Diana Kingsbury & class | Liz Fly & Andy Hollis |
| Carrollee Hevener | Lower Elementary class |
| Casey's Fireworks | Mad Platter |
| City Yoga | Marcia Merritt |
| Clarion Hotel | Mary How |
| Columbia City Ballet | Maryann DeGood |
| Columbia Marionette Theater | Mast General Store |
| Columbia Museum of Art | Middleton Place |
| Copper Lane Art Boutique | Millwood Coffee Company |
| Cupcake | Moe's |
| Cypress Gardens | Monkey Joe's |
| Dark Corner Distillery | NASCAR Hall of Fame |
| David Ward | Nickelodeon |
| Debbie Holmes | Palmetto Pride Landscaping |
| Discovery Place | Reaves Woodworks |
| Dollywood | Research Planning, Inc. |
| Drayton Hall | Ripley's Aquarium |
| Drip Coffee | River Runner |
| Econ-O-Bug | Riverbanks Zoo |
| Edible Arrangements | Salty's Board Shop |
| EdVenture | Shelly Robertson |
| Ernest Lee "The Chicken Man" | Soaring Adventures of America, Inc. |
| Frontier Movement | StaceyOstudio |
| George How | Stone Mountain Park |
| Georgia & Jeff Coleman | Stowe Botanical Gardens |

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|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| The Acupuncture Clinic | Ashley & James Ervin |
| The Carolina Opry | Debbie & Joe Holmes |
| The Comedy House | Emily Heberlein & Team Chili |
| The Raptor Center | Jessica Malovic |
| Threads | Lucien & Carroll Bruno |
| Trustus Theater | Melanie Cherrington |
| Village Idiot Pizzeria on Forest | Stacey & Joey LeRoy |
| Walt Disney World Resort | Tiffanie Aiken |
| Wildewood Aesthetic | Wendy Early |
| Dentistry | Pharaohs in Space |
| Yesterday's | The Plowboys |
| Young's Landscape Service | The Rival Brothers |
| Sox & Freeman | Chris Lawther |
| Red Bull USA | Zach White |
| Superior Southern Landscaping | James Ervin |
| | Bobby Sutton |

Upper Elementary

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the atom and isotopes, the Department of Revenue and other tax items, indicator species, disease vectors, freedom of religion/Thanksgiving, weather vs. climate, deciduous, persuasive writing and computer hacking. Tangents rock!

On the 29th, Aidan made a wonderful presentation about his trip to Washington, D.C. His experiences on his bicycle tour of the U.S. Capitol fit in well with all we have been talking about this month and throughout the school year, and he definitely got to display his superpower

of history and politics. Aidan, thank you for taking us on your field trip!

November filled us up with learning, and yet there's so much more out there. Having come from other teaching venues, I can't stop thanking Harmony for all the freedom we have to discover and learn through our experiences.

Thank you all for your wonderful students, and thank you for supporting Harmony!

Lower Elementary

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Morning work time is a busy, steady flow of academic work mixed in with art and games. Math and language work for first graders has grown more complex, and second graders are great sources of inspiration and guides. Studying compound words, antonyms, synonyms, and homophones is surprisingly rewarding work! First graders are learning how to confidently use a dictionary. Many older students are starting "dynamic" addition and subtraction (carrying and exchanging), compound multiplication, and graphing. Sentence "symbolizing" is a daily activity where students write sentences and draw symbols for articles, nouns, verbs, and adjectives over the corresponding parts of speech.

Practicing the plays for the Winter Festival with upper elementary students is something students look forward to every week. We have also started the curriculum with Jennifer for The Orchestra Sings program, and love the music!

Conferences are going on now, so be sure to sign up for a time in the classroom if you haven't already.

