

handprints

MARCH
2013



Valentine's Day Party Fun!
February, 2013

Preschool/K News and Notes

Our transportation study now involves cars, buses and trains. The children set up rows of chairs to pretend they were riding in a bus. A driver took the money and drove the bus as we ventured to different destinations. We also read about different types of trucks and how they are used. We discussed how the first bridges were rocks or logs across

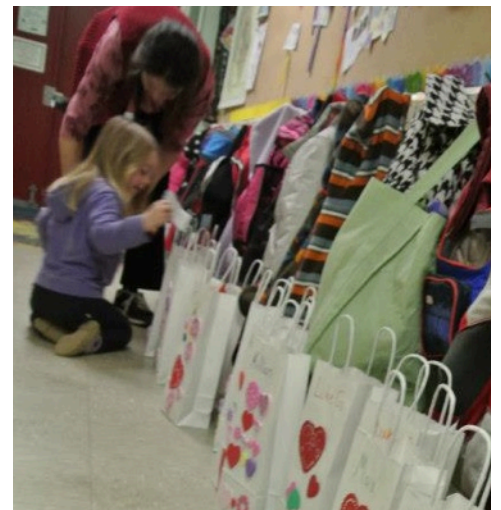
a river and then made a suspension bridge using yarn and a yardstick. We read about freight trains — the different types of cars and what they could carry.

We ended February discussing different kinds of boats. The children used tennis racquets as paddles to learn to paddle a canoe. Carroll brought in a real camel saddle! We had fun putting it on and pretending we were camels giving a ride.

Our field trips to Columbia Children's Theater for "Frog and Toad" were fun! They chose a few stories from the series and we enjoyed the playful antics of the characters. While Ashley's class was unable to see the play, her class did see "Beauty and the Beast" at the Marionette Theater. The children enjoyed the show and got to go backstage to see and play with the puppets.

Our Valentine parties were filled with games, snacks, music, art and love. Thank you to the parents and helpers who made our parties so special!

Reminder for parents of children who nap at school: Each Friday, please take your child's nap items and bedding home to wash.



Elementary News and Notes

Lower Elementary

Thanks to our parents for the goodies and time spent in our classroom at our Valentine's Day breakfast. We also all enjoyed the upper elementary students' famous oatmeal!

Dick Holmes recently joined the students for a great poetry session. They wrote lines of "reasons to like you" to a person, animal, plant and thing. They look forward to his visit in March. In other arts, the students worked with various mandalas and geometric designs on paper as well as painting. Our co-creation project was submitted in a poetry book cover contest held by local poet, Cassie Premo Steele. The students were thrilled to hear their work "made her heart do a happy dance."

Mornings are full of practicing math and language skills. Playing addition or subtraction bingo is popular as are multiplying and doing double-digit work using the "checkerboard." In money work, students are creating restaurant menu items and calculating order totals. For one recent project students wrote a thank you letter to an organization or place where

they'd experienced something positive. In language arts, students are working on use of apostrophes and quotation marks, as well as root, suffix and prefix work. We have also been working hard on science projects.

Our field trip to the Koger Center to participate in the "Orchestra Sings" project with the S.C. Philharmonic was a great experience. Thank you to the parents who were able to go and share this experience with our enthusiastic singers!

Students were happily surprised in PE last month with a hip-hop dance class! They enjoyed it so much they practiced during inside recess on rainy days!

Upper Elementary

The short month of February was a full one. In between rainy days, our class planted two cloned dogwoods and became reporters for the National Phenology Network. We are looking forward to the first open buds.

Another thoughtful event was researching the topic of gun control for what became a spirited debate. The students divided into pro and con teams — especially challenging for some students, who did not initially agree with their team's stance! In an effort to do a good job for their team,



they learned both points of view and gained real insight into the gun control issue. They hope to further hone their debate skills soon.

The students have really worked hard to refine their science fair projects. Science Fair is an enjoyable experience that introduces students to the thought process of answering questions with trial and evidence. They are further boosting their science acumen through the MESAS science knowledge contest.

The latest writing challenge of writing survival story began with a rainy day lunch viewing of the movie, "Castaway." Included in the research is learning about basic survival skills including how to make fishing spears, craft cordage from dead Spanish moss, and how to process and cook a fish with vegetables in a pit.

In February, the elementary students participated in an amazing concert by singing with the S.C. Philharmonic. They learned a range of pieces for the concert and put on quite a show. Thank you to all of the parents who came with us.

Did we mention February was a very full month?



march	lion	leprechaun	lamb
	<p>3/13 School Science Fair — 7-8 pm</p> <p>3/26-3/27 Upper Elementary Overnight Field Trip — Charleston, SC</p>	<p>3/19-3/21 Pre/K Field Trips to Sesquicentennial State Park</p> <p>3/29 Teacher Work Day — No kindergarten and elementary classes!</p>	<p>3/24 Parent Teacher Work Day — 1-4 pm</p> <p>4/1-4/5 Spring Break — School closed</p>

2013-14 Student Registration

Registration contracts for the 2013-14 school year were emailed to current Harmony families on 3/6/13. Please review the document thoroughly and contact the office with any questions before signing. Registration deadline is Friday, March 15, 2013. A \$200.00 registration fee is due upon completion of the new contract.

Current preschool contracts expire at the end of May, 2013. The Harmony summer program begins on Monday, June 3 and lasts 10 weeks. Priority for the preschool summer program goes to: 1) returning students 2) new students 3) current students not planning to return in August. If any space remains after registration for current and new students is completed, it will be offered to current preschool families who are not returning for the new school year. Please contact the office if you would like to add your name to the preschool summer waiting list.

Contracts for the elementary level summer program will be available for alumni students and families toward the end of March as space permits. Please call or email the office to be added to the elementary summer waiting list.

Nutty Weather

Our students go outside every day unless it's raining. Please be sure your child has an appropriate coat. A parka or raincoat is not enough when the temperature is in the low 50's.

Happy Birthday!

Tate Edwards 3/6
Griffin Hastie 3/11
Aarav Vakani 3/15

Fun Friday Eats

Here are links to the Friday lunch online order forms. Orders are due by WEDNESDAYS AT NOON.

[Hooligan's Lunch Order Form](#)

[Earth Fare Lunch Order Form](#)

Please complete separate orders for each student and contact Stacey or Sue at 787-1899 with questions.

Cookie Money

This month's cookie money is going to support Danielle Howle, a local musician and songwriter and longtime Harmony School supporter. Danielle was in a car accident that destroyed her car and equipment and left her injured with medical issues. We wish her a speedy recovery and hope our cookie money helps.

Welcome & Congratulations

Congratulations to Claire, Jeremy and Zoe Becraft who welcomed little baby brother Silas in February.