

handprints

APRIL
2013



Spot any familiar faces?
September 2010

Preschool/K News and Notes

We wrapped up our transportation study discussing airplanes, helicopters, rockets and space shuttles. We made artful airplanes and rockets and learned how rockets blast off through an experiment using string, a straw, balloon and tape.

Now studying plants, we are looking at and comparing seeds, as well as soaking and dissecting them to see the seed coat, embryo and food. Watch for your children's art to appear and listen out for plant songs.

Once again sneaky leprechauns trashed our pre/k classrooms! They left paper and magic dust, overturned chairs, played

with lessons and turned things upside down in the classrooms. They even turned the toilet water green! The leprechauns left us a note about three bags of gold to find on the playground, so the children had fun looking for the gold.

Our field trip to Sesqui Park was great even though the weather was very

cold! After Ranger Stacey discussed plants — specifically trees — and had drawn a diagram of the parts of a tree and had examples of touchable tree parts for our classes, we hiked the nature trail to discover the tree that matched the leaf she had given each child. Our outdoor education with Ranger Stacey was great as usual!



Elementary News and Notes

Lower Elementary

Students' science experiments were amazing, and thanks to everyone for coming to our celebration of science and curiosity. We inspired one another with all the great ideas as well as hard work.

Students are learning about the fundamental needs of people and what we all have in common as human beings. Students had great discussions about what is a "need" and what is not. Things like shelter, water, food and love as opposed to cars and the Internet! Students learned about the history of language, and painted cave drawings like early humans to tell stories about life.

March was also full of poetry writing and reading. We've enjoyed discovering the songs and poems in *The Hobbit*, which we're continuing to read together. Students worked on haiku and limerick styles of writing with upper elementary. We also are reading *Love That Dog* by Sharon Creech, which is such a great inspiration for young poets!

We're looking forward to some of our class sharing poetry in April, both reading and writing, with elderly residents at The Rice Home.

Second graders had a great trip to the City of Columbia Animal Shelter. They listened to the director talk about the shelter's role in our community and were amazed to learn that 12,000 animals arrive at the shelter each year.

We're looking forward to starting April off with lots of interesting spring break stories and our trip to the State House for the read-in on April 11!

Upper Elementary

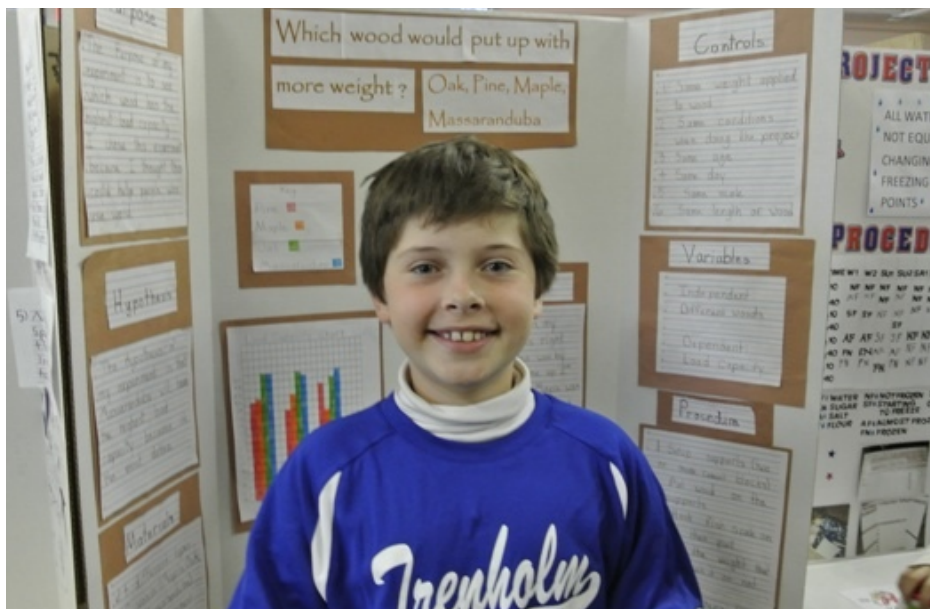
March came in like a lion and went out like a lion — no lamb in the Upper EI!

During this full month, each student wrote and illustrated a sequel to *The Hungry Caterpillar*, which we will be sharing with the children at St. Lawrence Place in April. They enjoyed their time spent on that project very much.

All of the elementary students practiced and were very busy preparing to defend their science projects to Tom Mancke (biologist), Jessica Holm (geologist), and Katie Clarkson, (chemist). The defense is such an amazing experience that everyone enjoys very much. After that pressure, Harmony's Science Fair was a breeze! It is always fun to show off to parents and visitors. At the end of the week, we cruised the State Science Fair, and spent a day enjoying and learning from other students' projects while Aidan and Marlie spent the day defending their projects to judges from many disciplines. Aidan went on to the Region II/State Awards Ceremony, where he placed third in the 5th grade overall. Great job, everyone!

We spent the last days of the month in Charleston on board the Yorktown Aircraft Carrier, where we berthed in history! We explored the carrier for two days, as well as a destroyer and submarine from WWII. Then we toured the Wando Port/Terminal and got to see firsthand the impact on our state of what we import and export. The opportunity shed new light on our many discussions in circle about our connection with the world. We were very fortunate to be able to experience everything that we did on that trip. It will be remembered.

Time is flying. April will be amazing too!



| april | tender | spring | sun |
|-------|--|--|---|
| | 4/14 Parent Teacher Work Day — 1-4pm | 4/18-4/19 Pre/K Field Trips to Columbia Children's Theatre | 4/24 Poetry Night, 7-8pm |
| | 4/24-5/10 Parent Teacher conferences | 5/13-5/17 Drum Residency with Lee Ann Kornegay | 5/23 End of Year Picnic, 6-7:30pm |

Parent Workday

Unfortunately, our original parent/staff work day got rained out, but we've rescheduled it for Sunday, April 14 from 1-4pm! Hope everyone can come out to help and that the weather will cooperate!

Registration

Registration for next school year is complete! Summer program availability is now being reviewed for non-returning and alumni families. If you are interested in our summer program but will not be attending Harmony next year, please contact the office for more information.

A Sad Farewell

Carroll Bruno has been teaching at Harmony School for the past eight years in our preschool/k program. She has decided to leave at the end of the school year to pursue her Montessori teaching. We will all miss Carroll dearly — her kindness, care, concern and knowledge — but are supportive of her decision and wish her well!

Drumming Residency

Lee Ann Kornegay will be our Artist in Residence May 13-17. During the week she'll teach our students West African drumming and on Friday, May 17 the children will perform and show you all they've learned. 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!

Happy Birthday!

HenriAnn 4/3
 Bella Sisk 4/5
 Jack Coleman 4/10
 Katie Stafford 4/17
 Madison Morris 4/20
 Debbie 4/22
 Gerritt DeGood 4/30

End of Year Events, Dates and Times

Our always-fun Kindergarten graduation and potluck will be Tuesday, May 21 from 6:30-8pm. The end of year family picnic will be Thursday, May 23 from 6-7:30pm. 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 Friday, May 24. It's a half-day for kindergarteners and elementary students. Preschoolers have a regular full day. The summer program begins on Monday, June 3 so get ready to have some fun in the summertime!

Cookie Money

The children decided to send their cookie money to the South Carolina Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, the leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people.