

TRI-CITY NEWS

DECEMBER 15, 2008

Superintendent's Office 364-4811 MS/HS 364-4530
Elementary 364-4035

Special Points of Interest:

- *Elementary News*
 - *Music Department News*
 - *Guidance News*
 - *District Dates*
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Que Una Experiencia!

Spanish II students learn about Hispanic culture through class and the textbook, but rarely get to see it anywhere else. On November 3 the class became part of the culture with a trip to Chicago.

The Museum of Science and Industry hosted the Hispanic Flamenco Ballet's performance of "Spain Alive". This show presented the music and dances from many Hispanic countries and some of our students showed their talent on stage.

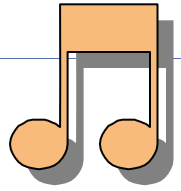
After a spectacular dance presentation, we had to hurry to the Mexican neighborhood to see the "La Vida Sin Fin" exhibit at the National Museum of Mexican Art. The Day of the Dead celebration on November 1 and November 2 is extremely important in Mexican culture. The museum every year has an exhibit of several ofrendas honoring lost loved ones.

Students saw ofrendas dedicated to writers, relatives, children, and the major exhibit honoring all of those killed by the Mexican government 40 years ago in the Tlateloco massacre. El Dia de los Muertos is a celebration of life and a time to honor people who have come before us.

Our last stop would continue to emphasize extreme differences in culture. Water Tower Place is a six story shopping mall on Michigan Avenue in downtown Chicago. Students had a couple of hours to try unusual foods, people watch, or pick up a souvenir before it was time to head home.

The "big city" cultural experience was one the students won't soon forget. This memory was made possible by funding from the Tri-City Education Foundation and they receive muchisimas gracias.

We're on the web!!
Come check us Out!!
www.tricityschools.org



our

District News Letter Information

The final newsletter of the year will be published in late February. Once our school's new web page is up the news letter will be posted online.

Elementary News:

Mrs. Marchioro, Mrs. Heck, and Ms. Wooden: Tri-City Preschool will be talking about families, holidays around the world, Winter, and Winter animals. Students will continue practicing skills such as graphing, object counting, letter recognition, journaling, and dictating stories. We celebrated our love for reading and books by hosting a Family Reading Night on Tuesday, November 25th. It featured stories, crafts, and snacks inspired by the stories "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie", "Little Cloud", and "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom". Preschool students are working hard to prepare for our annual Holiday Program on Thursday, December 11. This year's theme is Swingin' Santa Claus! There will be singing, dancing, cookies, and a visit with Saint Nick himself! We look forward to a great show and ringing in a new year full of learning opportunities!

Mrs. White and Mrs. Tannehill: Kindergarten participated in our first field trip of the year. We went to Black Bart's Pumpkin Patch. It was a sunny and blustery day. We enjoyed the corn and straw bale mazes, seeing where the pumpkins grow, and best of all— pick our very own pumpkins. We also were happy that so many of our parents were able to go with us.

The Halloween party and parade were a lot of fun. Everyone looked great in their costumes. We had enough treats at our party that we did not need to go Trick or Treating (but we did anyway).

The month of November brings one of our favorite holidays— THANKSGIVING!! We are learning all about the first Thanksgiving. We will reenact the first Thanksgiving Feast. All the Kindergartners will dress up as Pilgrims or Indians and sit at a long table and share food together.

Mrs. Park's CBE News:

Mrs. Dilley and Ms. Gremer:

Mrs. Whitworth, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Friedrich

The second grade classes have been busy enhancing their reading and writing skills this fall. The students have advanced to writing two paragraph descriptive stories and are working on learning to edit their own work instead of relying only on feedback from their teacher. We have been very busy reviewing how to count money, make change, and tell time in our differentiated math groups. Sometimes we forget how important these skills really are! In Science we have been learning to classify things as living and non-living. To extend our study of living things we took a field trip to Rock Springs Nature Center where we learned about owls and bats in a hands on setting. We are currently studying natural resources and learning why they are important to us in Social Studies. The students really like using their new Social Studies books! The students have also been working with graphs and maps and are learning how to locate places on their own. Next semester we look forward to learning how to write in cursive and add and subtract two digit numbers!

Mrs. Little and Mrs. Kraft: Third grade recently had the chance to read our favorite story: The Patchwork Quilt. We made our own patchwork quilt block... they turned out really great! We're planning another fun activity related to a reading story. Our next story is called a Very Cool Place to Live. We'll be making "ice houses" like we'll be reading about. We are also getting really excited about starting to memorize our multiplication facts.

Mr. Ori and Mrs. Booker: Mr. Ori and Mrs. Booker would like to take this opportunity to thank the Tri-City Education Foundation for approving our grants. The fourth graders do two units at the end of the year, one deals with the dissection of owl pellets the other robotics. We are fortunate to be the next recipients to receive an owl from the DNR, the grant is to cover the cost for taxidermy procedures so the owl may be enjoyed for many years. The second grant allowed us to purchase 12 new Erector kits. We are excited about both projects. The students have been working on their multiplication facts. As they pass each group of facts they earn a topping for an ice cream sundae. We hope everyone makes it to the whip cream and a cherry on top.

Ms. Miller and Mrs. Orr: The fifth grade math classes have been accessing the VMath Live website which is aligned to the district curriculum for reinforcement of the math skills through the online quizzes and games competing with students throughout the world. The social studies classes are experiencing the perils of the Atlantic voyage for the first settlers using the Jamestown virtual web quest, as well as, the Plymouth Plantation online immersion into the Plymouth Colony. As a part of their sea going experience the class sampled “ship biscuits”. The recipe for the ships biscuits and the students reaction to this pilgrim fare will be posted on our webpage. Each fifth grade is completing their Literature unit. Ms Miller’s class is reading The Great Gilly Hopkins and Mrs. Orr’s class is reading a selection of Tall Tales which includes the class favorite, The Bunyans. Mrs. Orr’s class completed their first microbes science lab with the assistance of our high school science teacher, Ms. Gooder. The class was able to use the high school lab to collect and culture microbes in nutrient agar to examine microbial growth. Both classes continue working on five paragraph essay writing. Our current expository essay topic asks each student to compose a Dear Santa letter as the famous person of their choice. The letter explains the three items each famous person would be requesting and why. The fifth grades especially enjoy this writing assignment and their letters are both clever and amusing. Please stop outside the fifth grade classrooms to read them in December.

Dave Bruno
Superintendent

Calendar of Events

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