

NOTTINGHAM WEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Home of the Wildcats

May 2009 in a nutshell



Eye on Curriculum

On May 21, second graders were treated to a PTO-sponsored assembly called "Animal Habitats". The program is one of the Museum of Science's traveling presentations which include live animals from 3 different groups. Our presenter, George, brought a rat, 3 tree frogs and an American alligator named Frank. Children were encouraged to use prior knowledge and observation skills to identify characteristics and behaviors of these live animals. Based on this information, the classes were able to determine which habitat would be most suitable for each animal. Following the presentation, children were free to touch the pelts of a possum and raccoon as well as a snakeskin and horseshoe crab shell. Our presenter told of experiments that scientists conducted with rats in a laboratory to discover what food the rats preferred. Their favorite thing to eat? Scrambled eggs! Thank you, PTO, for a very entertaining program.



i-Robot

On May 29th, Brian Genest from iRobot visited the 5th grade classes of Ford, Bates, Sawyer, Troup, Dillon, and Mahoney and brought a robot to show the students. This presentation tied in well with the 5th grade energy and electricity unit and was a great experience for students.

Nottingham West Book Club

Teachers have formed a book club under the direction of grade 1 teacher Kelly McGivern. The book club met to discuss *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls on Thursday, May 28th at 4:00 at Panera Bread in Nashua. The focus of the discussion was the impact formal education, or lack thereof, has had on the adult lives of the characters. Each book club member brought a question or highlighted passage to share at the discussion.

Population Density Experiment

Students in Ms. Ford and Mrs. Troup's fifth grade class conducted a population density experiment using the maple seeds found under one of the school trees. After surveying 11 square meters, students recorded over 2,300 seeds. They also noticed that many of the seeds were concentrated in the area to the east of the tree. Students predicted that the



seeds dropped in that location due to the wind blowing from the west. Once inside students planted 46 of the seeds and all but four seeds sprouted. Presently, there are 42 small maple trees growing in containers to celebrate the potential of a great new forest.



Earth Day Event

On April 25th NWES PTO held the 1st Earth Day project day. On this day, it was a family day project. We had several projects for students to make with their parents. We offered milk jug bird feeders they were able to glue and apply glitter to the cut milk jugs. The next table was an assortment of beach rocks that the children were able to paint. Some created animals others just painted pictures. We also had 3 tables set up for them to plant sunflowers, beans and cucumbers and we used the bottom of a small water bottle for the pot. The last project was to decorate a Market Basket brown paper bags which

were returned to Market Basket to be used for their customers. It was a great event and very successful.

Franklin Park Zoo

On Friday, May 22, second grade classes attended a field trip to Franklin Park Zoo. The second grade science curriculum focus on animals. Specifically, classifying animals into classes and describing similarities and differences among animals and their behaviors; matching animals with their appropriate habitats; and describing features that help animals survive in different habitats. Students enjoyed the field day. Not only did they have fun and learned tons, but the weather was also beautiful for walking the park.

Career Day – May 15, 2009

On Friday, May 15, 2009, three hundred and thirty five students, 48 adults from the Hudson School District and countless Alvirne high school students participated in our 8th annual Career Day. Many hours went into the planning of this day where our students were able to see firsthand various vocational strands offered at Alvirne as well as some Careers from volunteer community supporters.



The day began at our elementary home schools. Teachers helped students find their assigned groups and both Nottingham West and HO Smith students boarded buses to head over to Alvirne. Hills Garrison was able to simply walk next door. The day began in the gymnasium with high school principal, Bryan Lane welcoming the 5th graders to their future school. Scott Spradling, from WMUR, was the keynote speaker for the day. Mr. Spradling used humor to reach the students and motivate them to take advantage of all that the Hudson School District had to offer. He was able to use examples of sports/team work to show students that the decisions they were making right now directly impacted the choices they would have in the future. Be the best you can be!

The Career Day Committee worked to ensure that students had a great day at Alvirne including Carla Anger, Food Service Manager, who organized a Friday Favorite lunch of pizza, water/milk, cookies, carrot sticks and dip! Several students from Alvirne worked tirelessly to make sure that everyone was fed! Nice job! Dick Lutz, Vocational Director, has made this second year at Alvirne a memorable one. Dick Lutz and Anne Merrill prepared the high school for this fun day for the 5th graders. The staff at Alvirne was very welcoming and accommodating. Many participated in presenting many opportunities to the kids.

Each student was assigned to visit four presenters. Each presentation lasted about 20 minutes. Students were able to see: Floral Design, Forestry, Banking, Culinary Arts, Physical Therapist, Respiratory Therapist, Agriculture, Farming, Child Care, Adult Day Care, Fire Prevention, Computers, Marital Arts and Welding. Students asked good questions about each of the vocations. Many students wanted to know how much education they needed to

get into one of these careers. After the presenters were finished all students and staff involved were served pizza in the Big Red Barn. ROTC did a presentation for everyone while they “picnicked” on the lawn outside.

One of the most important aspects of this event was that it brought the class of 2016 together for the first time. This cohort was photographed in front of the sign at Alvirne that shouted “Class of 2016 Is in the House”!

All in all it was a great day and we look forward to making it even better for the class of 2017! Many thanks to all the counselors, administration and staff that made this a day to remember for all the kids.



Eyes on Owls visits NWES' 5th graders

Nottingham West Elementary School's lucky 5th graders were visited by six nocturnal birds of prey from *Eyes on Owls* (www.eyesonowls.com). “A key goal of our live owl program is to stress the importance for all of us to know and understand the connection to our natural environment,” explains owl expert, Marcia Wilson. She began each of her three, PTO-sponsored presentations (just 2 classes each) with an amazing slide show of owl pictures taken by her husband, Mark Wilson, a naturalist and Boston Globe photographer. “Having recently studied the food chain and predator/prey relationships, this assembly ties-in perfectly with our 5th grade science curriculum,” explains a 5th grade teacher, “it’s also something really fascinating and fun that our class talks about and looks forward to all year!”

During each of the 1.25 hour interactive owl shows, students analyzed owl pellets, did “white wash” patrol, and learned unusual owl calls or “hoots” (like the Barred Owl’s “*Who-Cooks-for-you*”). Mrs. Wilson also introduced each of her six disabled owls for the kids to see up close, including a Saw Whet, Screech, Barred, Snowy, Great Horned, & Eagle owl. *Please ask your 5th grade naturalist what they liked best and perhaps a few things they learned from Eyes on Owls.* Like most enrichment programs, the NWES PTO was proud to sponsor this excellent event and looks forward to the owl’s return next spring.



Visiting Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts

Visiting Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts on May 28, 2009, gave the Nottingham West fifth graders a chance to see what life in rural, early America was like. Students spent the day in small groups touring the village with their chaperones. Some of the special places students visited were the village blacksmith, the cooper, the tinsmith, the school house, the potter and the printer. Learning about what it meant to be an apprentice in those trades helps students understand the economic development which took place in New England. In modern society it is so hard to imagine life without TV, iPods, stoves, refrigerators, central heating and air conditioning, washers, dryers and BATHROOMS! It is one thing for students to

read about those facts of life but to see women slaving in front of a large open hearth on a warm day in order to

feed their growing family pork pie, baked beans, pumpkin pie, pickled eggs and homemade biscuits, sure puts our easy life in perspective.

No visit is complete without standing in front of the blacksmith's fire and watching as he pumps the bellows. He places a rod of iron into the now red hot fire and then, swinging this flaming rod to the anvil, he pounds with such force that the iron takes on the shape of a hook for the tinsmith or a hinge for the farmer. The Village Blacksmith, by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, has been instantly brought to life. Not only was our visit a way to enhance all aspects of our fifth grade social studies curriculum but it also provided working examples of the use of water power which is part of our science curriculum. Water from the local pond was either diverted to the saw mill, the gristmill or carding mill to run the machinery in each of those locations. This whole energy experience made a

nice connection between the science units using gears in fourth grade with the unit in energy in fifth.

Many thanks to the parent chaperones! A very wonderful day was spent by all.



GRANDPARENTS DAY

Grandparents/Special Friends Day was a huge success this year. Students in Mrs. Garas, Mrs. Searles-Allen, Ms. Solari, Ms. McGivern, Mrs. Kolar and Mrs. Cadorettes's classes enjoyed Grandparents Day on May 22 and 23rd. First grade students performed on stage for their grandparents followed by a visit to their classrooms. They were treated to a light brunch in the gym while the 4th and 5th grade chorus performed selected songs. Grandparents also received a fun introduction to the public school system with a Powerpoint presentation about Nottingham West and the Life of a First Grader presented by Mr. Durso and Mrs. Beaulieu.

Teacher Appreciation Day

Teachers were treated to an appreciation lunch to recognize staff for their dedication, energy, enthusiasm, and experience that goes into working with Nottingham West students by the PTO on May 6th. PTO provided a Mexican theme. Additionally, teachers were also treated to lunch later in the week by Mr. Durso and Mrs. Beaulieu as a thank you to a great staff.

Walking Club

In May of 2009 a walking club was started at Nottingham West Elementary school by a group of parent volunteers. This developed because of a desire to help the students learn the importance of fitness and the fun of walking. The program ran for 5 weeks with a total of 238 students involved. Walking club was held during recess time for the 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. During the 30-minute recess students were encouraged to walk 4 laps around the school building which equals one mile. For each week that a student



walked a mile they received a foot charm. A number of students were very committed and walked all 5 weeks! On June 5, 2009, as a special surprise, players from the American Defenders baseball team in Nashua, NH, along with their mascot joined the students for their walking club. Great fun was had by all. In addition, the students were very excited each week when faculty from NWES joined in to walk with them including Mr. Durso, Mrs. Beaulieu, Mr. Tave, Mrs. Eno, Ms. Williams and Resource Officer Lamarche. At the conclusion of our 5 week program the students of Nottingham West Elementary school had walked a total of 737 miles! The students were congratulated on this achievement with certificates, freezer pops, summer walking logs and one victory lap around the school. Because of the success of this club and the enthusiasm of the students, walking club will resume in the fall of 2009.

New Hampshire Stock Market Game



The New Hampshire Stock Market Game™ program is pleased to announce that the team of Nicolette Fortin, Madison Clarke, Kylah Starling and Heather Rochford. Upon completion of the game, Mrs. Mahoney's stock market group had \$130,000 in investments (Each group was given \$100,000 to initially invest). Each member of the team received a \$100 American Express gift card. This group was the first place finisher in the Elementary School division of the 2/23-5/1 session.

The team was invited to attend The Stock Market Game Program Awards Ceremony held on **Thursday, May 28, 2009, at the Nashua Crown Plaza Hotel**. The ceremony recognized the top teams of both the Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 Stock Market Game programs. **Members of the stock market team** delivered a short 2-3 minute speech discussing their involvement in the program. Nicolette Fortin won top honor with an essay through *Investwrite*. Her essay won first place in the State of New Hampshire and came in fourth place nationally and beat out 17,000 other essays.

The program is coordinated by **Elizabeth Reidel**, *New England Regional Director and sponsored by SIFMA, Foundation for Investor Education*

Nottingham West Chorus and Arts Nights

On May 21, 2009 at 7pm the fourth and fifth grade choruses performed at the annual *Arts Night* under the direction of Kirsten Mohring. The fourth grade chorus performed songs such as: *You Can't Stop the Beat*, *United We Sing*, and *Shoo Fly*, while the fifth grade chorus sang; *Season of Love*, *Oh, Susanna*, *Will Be, It Don't Mean a Thing*. The finale had both choruses singing; *Joy to the World*, *America the Beautiful*, *You're a Grand Old Flag*, and *God Bless America*. The well attended concert was a huge success.

Additionally the fourth and fifth grade choruses were featured during Grandparents' Day at Nottingham West. Grandparents and special guests were entertained by excellent performances as they enjoyed their lunch. First grade students began the day by singing and performing songs with a variety of instruments to their grandparents and special friends. Songs included; "Share the Good Gifts", "Funga Alafia" and "Shake it Up".



Parents had an opportunity to view their child's art pieces after the concert. There were over 1800 pieces of art work on display for student and parent viewing.