



SHAWNEE SHARKS



Shawnee K-Kids

Our club had a busy and exciting year of community service. We began by advertising the recycling project to keep our school green. We decorated posters to make everyone aware and collected white paper on a weekly basis and plastic bottles and cans from the teacher's lounge. Many thanks to Mr. Ellison and Mrs. Gee who took them home and recycled them.

We continued the Soda Tabs Collection that amassed hundreds of thousands of tabs. The collection was donated to the Ronald McDonald House in Hershey and will be used to benefit young cancer patients. Our club received a certificate of achievement from agency.

We applied our math measuring skills as we followed a recipe for dog biscuits. We measured the ingredients, kneaded the dough, and shaped the biscuits. After baking in Mrs. Gee's

oven, they were donated to the Easton animal shelter.

Our club cleaned, color-coded, and labeled all the computers in each grade-level cart. This project assists Shawnee students and teachers in accurately returning the computers to their proper place.

We welcomed spring by filling the two large cement flowerpots at the Shawnee Elementary entrance with colorful annuals. This was almost as much fun as the dough!

In addition, our president Jessah, vice-president Courtney, secretaries Addie and Connor, and our coordinators visited the Forks Kiwanis Club during their breakfast meeting and reported on our club's projects.

Our 49-member club meets monthly, is sponsored by the Forks Kiwanis Club, and is coordinated by Mr. Ellison and Mrs. Gee.



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METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART SPRING FIELD TRIP

All of the EASD gifted students (K-12) had the opportunity to attend a spring field trip to New York City's *Metropolitan Museum of Art*. Students spent the day exploring the intriguing exhibits and gaining a deeper understanding of world history. Some of the favorite displays were Ancient Greece, Rome and Egypt. All students had a wonderful time!

"My favorite parts of the museum were the Egyptian, Chinese and Indian exhibits. I like the Egyptian culture and enjoyed seeing Buddha from India."
-Samykta N.

"I really liked the weapon section, the samurai swords and the Knights of Armor!"
-Elijah H.



MLK REMEMBRANCE PROJECT

On May 6th, the Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley, the Junior National Honors Society and the gifted department teamed up to present a Martin Luther King Remembrance Project to the Shawnee second, third and fourth grade students. Middle school students from the 5/6 and 7/8 buildings visited each of the classrooms, read and discussed a book about Martin Luther King Jr. and guided the elementary students through completing an art project and letter. All of the students were actively engaged in learning and showed their creativity as they created their flags and letters. It turned out to be a morning enjoyed by all!

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SHAWNEE SHARK TALES NEWSPAPER

On Wednesday, May 4, 2011 the Shawnee Shark Tales newspaper staff heard from a special guest speaker. NBC news director Naomi Karam came to talk to the young journalists about covering the news. Among the many topics of discussion, Karam told the kids about her experience on the previous Sunday when she got a call about the news of Osama Bin Laden. Karam talked about how her team makes the decision about breaking into TV programs to cover the news.

In addition, Karam told stories of a busy reporter's life. She shared the recent events of flying NBC Nightly News anchor Brian Williams to London for the Royal Wedding, only to turn him around as soon as his flight landed and fly him back to New York and then on the Alabama the following night.

The newspaper students enjoyed the stories and gained some useful tips on reporting, from picking stories to checking facts and making decision about what needs to go in a news story.



THE GEE FORCE EXPERIMENTS WITH G-FORCE

To make the science unit on forces and motion come alive, Mrs. Gee's third-grade students (aka The Gee Force) engaged in the building of roller coasters. Each group of students was given 12 feet of pipe insulation, one yard of tape, and a marble. Each group was required to build a coaster that had at least one loop. The students experimented with the position of the loop until they found the ideal location and tested their structures using their marbles. Groups that achieved a successful one-loop design challenged themselves by including additional loops. After the experiment, the class had added new concepts and vocabulary to their background knowledge.



3RD GRADE GOES "EGGSPLORING"

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The third grade classes of Shawnee Elementary School participated in an Embryology Science Project. The two-week

long research experiment began with an informative assembly conducted by members of the 4H Club and was facilitated through the Penn State Cooperative Extension. At that time, each class was provided with an incubator, one dozen eggs, and feed. The students kept daily Embryology Journals as they rotated the eggs hourly for a week. Other activities included were making predictions, estimations, measurements, observation and diagram-labeling of egg parts, comparison and contrasting of raw and cooked egg characteristics, distinguishing between scientific fact and opinion, generating questions and answering them through scientific research, planning and preparation of brooders, temperature control, and a thorough knowledge of the terminology connected with embryonic development.

The second week was greatly anticipated by all as the chicks began to hatch. The teachers found a new use for their document cameras and turned them into live webcams so that their classes could witness the chicks emerge from their eggs. Our group's success rate was 67 out of 72 possible hatchlings. The students were able to observe the multitude of rapid changes in the chicks and were able to gently handle them for short periods of time. It was a memorable and informative scientific experience that has provided an abundance of background knowledge as we approach our Life Science Unit. All third grade students and staff gratefully appreciate this opportunity.

SPECIAL LIBRARY PROJECTS

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Twenty-two Shawnee students from the Third and Fourth Grade competed with other schools in the district in the Reading Olympics competition on May 24th at Shawnee Elementary School.



First Graders in library class had a unit in Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes, and in Music class, Mrs. Ruhf had the students add musical instruments, actions, and sound effects to create short skits. Parents and classmates came to watch the students perform their skits.

Second Graders are busy preparing for Readers Theater skits to be performed for their parents at the beginning of June. The skits to be performed are **The True Story of the Three Little Pigs** (an adaptation of the fractured fairy tale by Jon Scieszka) and a Japanese folktale entitled **Roly Poly Rice Balls**.

Third Graders worked hard throughout the year reading books from nine different sections of the library for the Read Around the Library program. They will be celebrating their accomplishments with an "I Pigged Out on Books" party on May 27th.

Fourth Graders have been learning about note taking and giving credit to their sources while researching about various states in the USA. The culminating project will be a Keynote slide presentation.

Shawnee Third Grade Trip to DaVinci Center

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The Shawnee third grade classes visited the DaVinci Science Center to extend their scientific learning. The students were able to visit hands-on exhibits and encounter visual, auditory, and kinesthetic activities that cemented difficult information learned in the classroom.

The students touched sea creatures in an ocean tank, constructed dams, petted a snake and Madagascar cockroaches, and looked for the queen bee in an actual working beehive. In the Safety Car Exhibit, they learned about distractions faced by drivers and how to recognize and prevent unsafe driving behavior. Students became meteorologists in a 69News broadcast as they presented the weather forecast. The importance of sight and other senses was demonstrated in Tunnel Vision, a thrilling walk through a dark tunnel that brought laughter from all who entered.

In the physics section, students experienced the use of levers to lift heavy weights as they tried to lift loads from different spots along the lever. They confirmed that two and three pulleys reduce effort more than one, demonstrated how various gears work, and learned about Bernoulli's principle of velocity and pressure. They encountered exhibits that solidified the concepts of forces, gravity, and Newton's Law of motion.

Each class also visited the science lab where they were able to experiment and rate two types of slime based on certain properties. Then they created glue and guar gum slime and evaluated them for the same four properties.

We thank the Shawnee PTA for supporting this well-organized and informative field trip that allowed our students to actively participate in scientific learning.

