



Sevilla EMS

Our mission is to provide an exemplary education that inspires and prepares all DoDEA students for success in a dynamic, global environment.

April 2012



She came to America to attend a well known tennis academy as a five year old.

She turned pro as a 14 year old in 1995.

She played in the Olympics in 1996 in Atlanta.

She defeated Steffi Graf in a match in 2001, and played much of the match with a broken thumb she suffered in a fall early in the match.

She emphasized to the children the importance of exercise, competing, following the examples of the adult role models around them, especially their parents, and the importance of self-discipline.

And she emphasized repeatedly the importance of finding something, particularly a sport, to try, and find a passion for, so that all the work necessary to become successful at that activity would become fun, and not all work.

But what was most noticeable about Anna Kournikova, was how comfortable she was with the children of Sevilla EMS . . . all 43 of them. She sat on the stage and held a conversation with the children, answering their questions, and even throwing a few questions at them, but challenging them throughout to find something to become passionate about doing

This tour is the fourth USO tour for Anna, and it was obvious that the children all loved her, as they gathered around for class pictures with her at the end of the assembly, all smiles. Anna was genuinely happy to be there.



We've met before!





Here comes Peter Cottontail...

Games and Rec Roundup for March 29, 2012

It was Easter Egg painting/decoration Day in Games and Recreation Club on Thursday, March 29, 2012.

Parent volunteer - offered to provide the eggs, paints, and materials for the activity, which accomplished two goals. First, the painted eggs would be needed for the upcoming Easter Egg hunt on base. Secondly, the activity would provide a whole lot of fun for the club participants.

The club members loved it. - brought in 300 egg shells to decorate and paint, and in less than an hour - and -, -, - and -, -, -, -, -, -, and - had decorated and/or painted them all.

All of the eggshells were hollow, having been drained of their yolks and egg whites ahead of time by - and her volunteer helpers. After - and -, another base volunteer, had prepared the paint stations on the patio behind the school, the participants then dipped the eggs in a multitude of different pastels, decorating many of them with all sorts of designs, some of them even with personalized faces.

When all the decorating was complete, the eggs were placed back in egg cartons to dry. In a couple of days they will be filled with confetti in preparation for their use in base Easter activities.

The last Games and Rec meeting was on April 26th. Drama Club will resume through the end of the school year.



Month of the Military Child



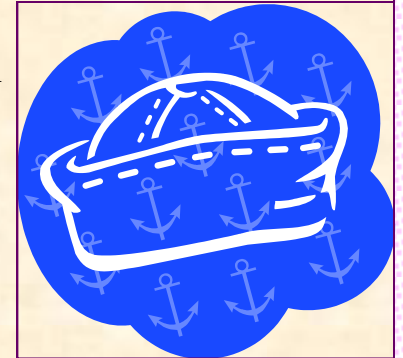
“Why do they have to go on deployment?”
“Why can’t they take us when they go?”
“What is the difference between TDY and deployment, -?”

April is the month of the military child, and American Base Commander Colonel James Romag set up a date and time with Principal Dave Eldredge to come and speak to the students at Sevilla Elementary Middle School about what it means to be an American military child, and to field some of their questions.

As it turned out, Colonel Romag was unable to attend, so he sent vice commander - in his stead for the 1030 assembly on Thursday, April 5, in the school library.

The questions above are just a few of the many asked at that school assembly, and after - explained a little bit about deployment, leave, and how families can help their deploying members, he spent the next twenty minutes or so answering as many of the questions that the children “fired” at him as he could.

At the end of the assembly, - thanked all the children, shook all their hands, and gave each of them a nifty little flashlight in appreciation for what they do and are as military children.



Games and Rec Roundup for April 19, 2012



Wow! Did those kids ever scramble! They were after that piñata candy. -, after several missed swings, finally made contact! Boy, did he ever! Candy went everywhere! And that’s when the scrambling began.

- contacted - early in the week and asked if she and her husband - could hang a piñata to use in Games and Recreation Club as a part of their son - birthday celebration.

One by one, - blindfolded the children, gave them the bat, then got out of the way. Each one in turn swung until they made contact, but the piñata held until - mighty blow. Happy Birthday, -! And a big thanks to -.

Before the piñata party, the club played three different games inside. In Jenga, -, -, -, and - were the stars.

Most of the children had never played jacks before, but -, -, -, -, and - were the primary players.

The third game played was pick up sticks, and the standout was -.

After next week the Drama Club will kick back into action on Thursdays after school for the rest of the school year.



Louisville 71-Kansas 68 The Louisville Cardinals are the winners of the seventeenth annual Academic Final Four College Basketball Tournament. It has been held in - classroom each year, and always pits his students, no matter what level he happens to be teaching that year, against each other in a battle to see who knows their spelling, math, grammar, and geography facts best. So, as you might imagine, the champion is not always the same as the “real” life one, which this year was Kentucky.

However, - competition does start out with the same Final Four participants. This year’s participants included Louisville against Kentucky in the first game, which Louisville won 33-32, and Kansas against Ohio State University in the second game, which Kansas won 33-29.

In the first quarter of each game, the students must spell words correctly in order to score points. In the second quarter math is used for the questions. Then in the second half, there are grammar questions for the third quarter, and geography questions for the fourth quarter.

- always tailors the questions to fit the grade level, and in this game the students are very good at answering correctly.

For the Louisville Cards, - led all scorers with 16 points, but - chipped in 10, and - 7 for the Cardinals in their victory. Kentucky was led by - with 14 points, with - and - each adding in 9 for the Wildcats.

For Kansas, - led the Jay Hawks scoring with 12, followed by teammates - with 10, - with 7, and - with 4. For the Ohio State Buckeyes, - led the scoring with 11, with - adding 10 and - chipping in 8 points.

In the championship game, which saw the Louisville Cardinals win 71-68 over the Wildcats of Kentucky in overtime, -was the big star, scoring a whopping 19 points for the Jay Hawks, but it wasn’t quite enough. In a very balance attack, - led the victorious Cardinals with 14 points, followed closely by - with 12, -, -, and - with 10 each, - with 8, and - with 7.

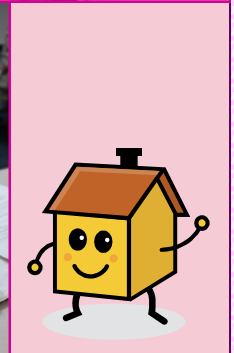
In addition to - big game for the Jay Hawks, - tallied 17 points, - and - each had 10, - had 8, and - had 7 for Kansas.

The game marked the first time ever that an Academic Final Four Game required an over-time. It was nip and tuck all the way, to which official scorekeeper - can attest.

Next is the Academic Derby, which is not far off, taking place on Friday, May 4, which is the day before the first Saturday in May, which is when the Kentucky Derby will take place. The Academic Derby is run in honor of this great horse race event, and - “kids” are already looking forward to the event.



The children in - Class have been studying about climates and natural resources around the world. They designed shelters according to what materials are available in different parts of the world. They will be studying transportation this next quarter and figuring out the different uses for vehicles. The students will design their vehicle and map out a course for it. We will be driving our vehicles around the school. Hopefully, everyone will pass their driver’s license test.



Giddyup!

Did you know that 95% of the Cartusian breed of horse in Spain, the ones most often used in parades and bullfights, are born black or brown, and as they age gradually turn lighter and lighter, until by the age of ten they become completely white? This breed was developed over 500 years ago using farm horses from Jerez and Berberian horses from Africa. Black horses were bred out over time because the Spanish considered black to be bad luck.

Did you know that Cartujan colts are named after their mother, and that Cartujan fillies receive brand new names?

Did you know that Cartujan horse manes and tails are kept short to save on labor fees to the workers that groom the horses? Evidently, since it takes a considerable amount of time daily to keep the horses clean, and since the tail and mane get the dirtiest, by keeping the tails and manes short, there do not have to be as many groomers hired.

These are just a few of the many things that the students, parents, and teachers at Sevilla Elementary Middle School learned when they traveled to Yeguada de la Cartuja, just south of Jerez, to see how the Andalusian breed of horses known as Cartuja are raised there.

The day started with a tour of the different star breeding horses of the farm. There the guide explained how the horses were named, how the breed was started, and where they came from. Then the students got to talk to and pet the horses.

Next the students were taken to the holding pens for the young horses, both fillies and colts.

The guide explained about health care for the horses in the medical barn, and finally took them to the carriage house, where many kinds of carriages were on display, even one that had compartments for hunting dogs to rest so they wouldn't have to run to the hunting grounds.

Finally the students and crowd were treated to a special horse show in the arena. A specially trained horse showed some of his special "moves," a racing carriage showed how fast it could go, even on the curves, and the young horses were allowed to romp under the guidance of the trainers before their mothers came out and joined them. It didn't take long for the mothers and babies to find each other. The babies were hungry!

Speaking of hungry, the SEMS were hungry too, so they ate their sack lunches on the grounds before boarding the bus for the return trip home, bellies full of food, minds full of new knowledge, and satisfied that a good time was had by all.





Math Night 2012

Do you like Math?

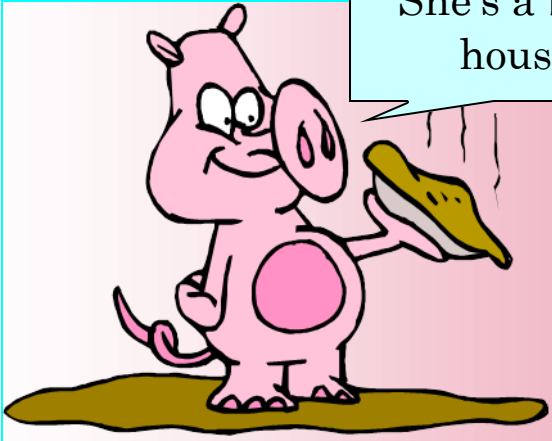
Do you like pie?

If so, then you would have loved “Pi” Night at Sevilla EMS on Wednesday, March 28, at the SEMS media center.

Sponsored by Sevilla Elementary Middle School’s CSI committee, assisted by the school PTO, and inspired by the school goal to improve math skills in the area of number sense, there was something for everyone at Math Night 2012, which celebrated National Pi Month. Originally scheduled for 3.14, 2012, one could choose one of four math games to play, estimate eggs and jelly beans in jars full of the items, or order pie for you or your friends and family.

The games included one which participants could crack a secret math code, computer games, a pi (3.14) game, a geometry game, a pattern block activity, or a table where one could solve a “Problem of the Day.”

She's a brick house!



Muddy Buddies

Ever make a mud pie? - class has.

They wanted to find out what it takes to make a good brick, because they have learned in Social Studies that people have always made bricks to build with. The Egyptians made bricks to use in some of their pyramids, and in lots of other constructions, especially their houses. Native Americans in the Southwest states, like Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Texas, and Colorado have also used bricks made out of mud to build with for hundreds of years. So - asked this question: "What do you think will make a better brick, a plain mud brick, or a mud brick with pencils in it?"

All of - students wrote their answers, what they thought would be better, in their journals, and why they thought so. This is called the hypothesis, or an "educated guess." It is all part of the scientific process, and many scientists think that it is the best way to study science.

The next step in the process was to devise an experiment to test their hypotheses (the plural of hypothesis is hypotheses).

First, - took his class to the field across the street from school to dig up a pan full of dirt, then carried it back to the patio and mixed it with water until it became a pan full of mud.

Then, an equal amount of mud was poured into each of two aluminum pie pans and smoothed out. Next, 3 pencils were buried parallel to each other in the mud of one of the pans. Then, 3 pencils were buried parallel to each other, but vertically to the first three pencils, and in the same pan. Then the mud was smoothed over so that the pencils were concealed.

Finally, the mud pies were placed in the sun to dry. Perhaps you saw them when you were walking in the patio or were on the way to gym. It took 5 days for them to dry completely.

After lunch on Monday (April 23, 2012), the class gathered around to see what would happen when classmates - and - picked up the two pies and turned them over to take the pies out of the pans. - pie, the one with the pencils, held together, even when he picked it up and dropped it on the concrete. - pie, the one without the pencils, started to fall apart when she picked it up and turned it over, and when she intentionally dropped it from the same height that Xander had dropped his, it fell completely apart.

The results were clear, and the conclusion was obvious: a brick with pencils in it makes a better brick than one that has no pencils, because the pencils support the brick by helping to hold the brick together. The students wrote the conclusion in their journals, knowing now why the Egyptians and Native Americans put straw in their bricks.

Was your hypothesis accurate?

Sevilla EMS

Dodds Unit 6582, APO, AE 09643

Comm: 95-584-8464 or DSN: 722-8464

<http://www.sevi.es.eu.dodea.edu>

Dates To Remember:

May 21st: Final SAC Meeting

May 25th: CSI Teacher In-service

NO SCHOOL for Students

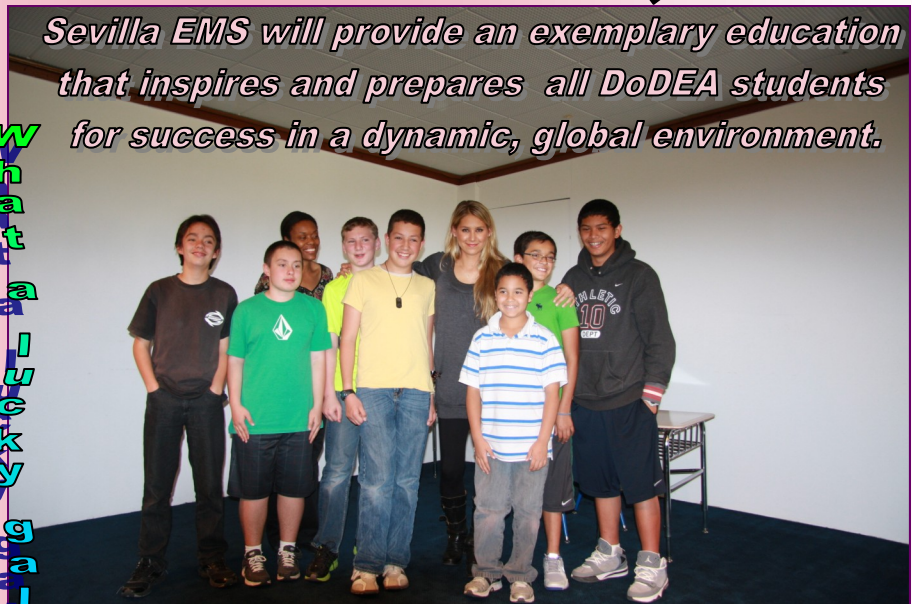
May 28th: Memorial Day

NO SCHOOL

Our Mission

Sevilla EMS will provide an exemplary education that inspires and prepares all DoDEA students for success in a dynamic, global environment.

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Our School Goals

Walk into any classroom at SEMS, and you will see Continuous School Improvement in action in the areas of writing and math. By looking over our data and teacher surveys, we have adopted two goals for this school year. They are:

-By 2012, all students will improve writing/literacy skills by improving proficiency in *idea, organization and conventions* as measured by selected system wide and school based assessments.

-By 2012, all students will improve mathematical skills across the curriculum in the area of number sense through the use of formative assessments.

Guess Who???

**Every month, we will submit a staff member's answers to these questions. We will reveal this month's mystery person in next month's newsletter. See if you can guess who this month's staff member is!"*

Hometown: State College, PA

Favorite Place to Visit: Home and all of Europe!

Hobbies: Photography, scrapbooking, running and skiing

Which cartoon character best describes you: Scooby Doo

Favorite words to live by: Life is short,
Break the Rules.
Forgive quickly,
Kiss SLOWLY.
Love truly.
Laugh uncontrollably
And never regret
ANYTHING
That makes you smile
- Mark Twain

Last month's mystery staff member: -