



Sevilla EMS

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

May-June 2012



An 8th grader creates a musical instrument.

Science

Matters



6th graders explore electromagnetism.



Fun & Games

Games and Rec Roundup for April 26, 2012

It was indoor kickball - style on the last day of Games and Recreation Club Thursday, April 26, 2012.

The Reds, coached by -, came out on the short end of a wild and crazy three inning second game after winning the first game on the game winning kick of Coach - himself.

But the circumstances were somewhat unusual. You see, - has had a long standing rule that if anyone ever kicked one in the basketball goal, the game would be automatically and instantly over, no matter what the score, and won by the team of the kicker.

And, for the first time ever, that is exactly what happened! That is exactly what - did! And the Reds won! Members of the victorious Reds also included - and -, -, -, -, -, and -.

So, almost before it started, the first game was over, and the second game began.

The first inning was played under normal rules, and ended tied at 3-3.

In the second inning, - changed the scoring so that each base counted as a run, so a single counted as one run, a double as two runs, a triple as three runs, and a home run counted as four runs. In the second inning, Fifty-Fifty, coached by -, totaled 10 bases, so scored 10 runs, and kept the Reds off the bases completely, so the score after two innings was 13-3 in favor of Fifty-Fifty.

- scoring rules for the last inning was simple . . . homer or nothing. The batters were required to keep running until they were either out (under - kickball rules, everyone gets to bat every inning, so outs are relatively unimportant other than affected the number of runs that could be scored) or scored. In this inning, each team scored once, so the final score was Fifty-Fifty 14, Reds 4. Members of the winning Fifty-Fifty team were -, -, -, -, -, -, and -.

The kickball game marked the end of Games and Recreation Club for this school year, but be sure to look for Sports Club to start back up next fall. Thursday nights for the rest of this school year will be back to Drama Club.





BUBBLES, BUBBLES, and MORE BUBBLES!

What kind of solution makes the longest lasting bubbles?

What kind of solution makes the biggest bubbles?

What makes the best bubble wand?

These were all questions - asked his 2nd and 3rd graders early last week in preparation for his annual soap bubble making event.

The event was held on Thursday, April 27, 2012, in the courtyard outside - room. Some of the children brought store bought solutions and their included wands, but most brought solutions concocted and tested at home first, and then brought to school for the event on Thursday.

It was very windy for the event, so although the wind made it easy to make bubbles, it was difficult to make big or long lasting bubbles. Therefore, although there were some students in the class who had some big and long lasting bubbles, it was difficult to tell whose were the biggest or longest lasting.

However, there were three bubble wands that were most unique. - clothes hanger bubble wand and - looping fabric wand made huge bubbles, but the bubbles they made were just so big that they could not quite hold together in the high winds.

Another wand that was unusual was - kitchen spatula, which made multiple bubbles, dozens at a time! It was fun to watch!

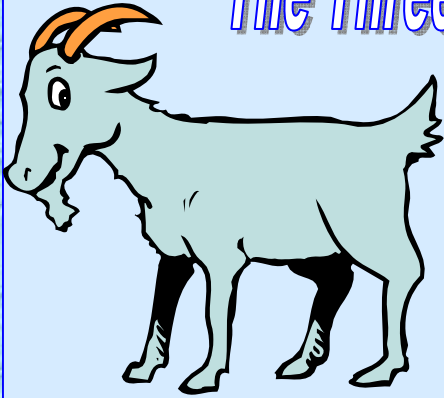
Also used as wands were canning caps, cookie cutters, pieces of string, and even the fingers and hands.

The key to it all was the amount of soap and water that was used. All of the effective solutions seemed to have a ratio of about 2-4 parts water to every 1-2 parts of liquid soap.

Of course, some of - class claim to have had a secret ingredient. - had one for his solution. Maybe he will tell you what it was? Why don't you ask him?



"The Three (Four?, Five? Six?) Billy Goats Gruff"



"Who's that going across my bridge?!" asked the troll, played by -, a second grader in - blended 2nd/3rd grade class at Sevilla Elementary School.

"It is I, Big Chief Billy Goat Gruff," said -, "and I have heard how hungry you are, wanting to eat my brothers and sisters, and I am here to make a deal with you! Ok?"

"Depends on what the deal is," replied the troll.

"I will go over the bridge and join my brothers and sisters eating that lovely grass, and when I get good and fat, then I will come back and you can eat me then!" explained Big Chief Billy Goat Gruff. "That way we can both eat well."

The classic story was part of - annual Reader's Tea. The event began with all the students and their parents gathering into two small circles in - room. About half of the students were in each circle along with their parents. For about twenty minutes, the students took turns reading their favorite riddles, poems, and sentences they had written about the seasons, and/or their favorite tall tales that they had written over the past six weeks.

Throughout the school year, most of these daily writings would go home each day for parent perusal, guidance, and initials of approval. But for the past six weeks the students have been saving their best work for their parents to hear for the first time at the Readers' Tea.

After each reading, the student would answer any questions that parents might have before going on to the next reader. After several rounds, the students switched circles, and did more readings.

The emphasis all year has been to advance writing skills through organization and prewriting, and the improvement in those areas was evident throughout the Readers' Tea.

Another emphasis throughout the year was writing complete sentences, and using all four of the main kinds of sentences. The quality of the work in this area was also evident through the student readings.

After the Readers' Tea, the class adjourned to the library for "The Six Billy Goats Gruff." To encourage the development of group etiquette, - had appointed - as ticket manager, and -, -, and - as ushers, and they did a wonderful job of making, distributing, and collecting the complimentary tickets, as well as politely and efficiently ushering the parents and other classes into their seats.

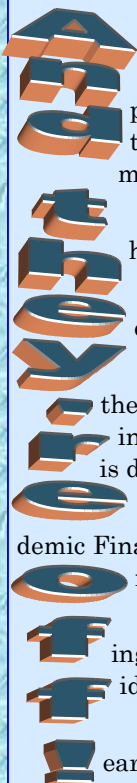
- and - welcomed the crowd, introduced the players, and narrated the play.

- always encourages creativity in the drama his class produces, and "The Six Billy Goats Gruff" was no exception. Each of the Billy Goats Gruff created their own names and lines, and the troll was given some creative wiggle room as well. After "Empress Billy Goat Gruff," played by -, intellectually charmed her way across the bridge, "Little Chief Billy Goat Gruff," played by -, begged her way by the troll, and "Bashfully Brave Billy Goat Gruff" simply defied the troll and passed, it was "Big Chief Billy Goat Gruff's" turn to use his trickery to get by the troll. After the 5th Billy Goat Gruff, - the Active, fooled the troll into thinking he was too old and meat too tough to eat, the troll was finally done in by the last Billy Goat Gruff, "Benzor the Bad," played by -, when she butted the troll off of the bridge and into the river with her horns.

In the true spirit of drama producing, after the play, the players formed a receiving line by the classroom before joining their parents in the classroom for refreshments.



The 17th Annual Academic Derby



Jewels WINS in the 17th Annual Academic Derby, taking home the prize of 100 tioms (“this is our money”)! - was the jockey of Jewels, and partner in the ownership of the horse with -, forming the Kristel Company to purchase the horse at the Academic Derby Horse Sale last Monday. They paid 25 tioms to purchase the horse, then in the race itself took turns answering the questions that 2nd/3rd grade teacher - asked about geography, math, grammar, and spelling.

- jockeyed “Pinky,” the second horse purchased by Kristel Company at the horse sale, and - answered her questions almost as well as -, finishing in second place and taking home the 50 tiom prize.

It took ten correct questions to win the Derby, and - was the first to do it. Her winning answer to the question “What is the capital of Greece?” was Athens.

All 10 of the horses were purchased for 25 tioms, class money earned by each student in the class by the amount of behavior points earned each week on the STAR report. STAR means **S**afety, **T**rying my best, **A**cting responsibly, and **R**espect for others. Each week - sends the report home to let parents know how their child is doing, and points are awarded, or taken away, through a detailed point system.

Earlier in the year, - sponsored the Academic World Series, the Academic Super Bowl, and the Academic Final Four in his classroom. Each event used academic questions posed by - and governed by rules designed to follow the sport involved.

During the second semester, - used his classroom to teach the principles of building a community, electing leadership, writing rules, and formulating an economic system in his classroom to give his students a better idea of how these life principles worked.

The Academic Derby was another opportunity, one of many, for his students to choose to spend their hard earned tioms.

The Show position (third place) in the Derby was taken by -, a filly jockeyed by -, and owned by Stardust Incorporated, a company formed by -, -, and -, and it won its purchase price back with the 25tiom third place prize.

Seven other horses were entered in the race as well. -, a stallion ridden by -, and owned by Stardust Inc., finished just out of the money, tied for fourth place with -, the filly ridden by -. - was also owned by Stardust Inc.

Shooting Star Stables, owned by -, -, -, and -, had four horses entered in the Derby. - rode the mare Spy, - jockeyed the filly -, - rode the filly Sparkle, and colt Lightning Blaze was jockeyed by - in - absence.

Thunder Horses Incorporated, a company founded by -, -, and -, put all its stock in one horse, the filly -, which was ridden by -. In case the reader wonders, the jockey answers - questions, but other members of the company may offer advice before the answer is given by the jockey.

Most of - students dressed up for Derby Day, the girls in pretty dresses and hats, and the guys with ties, and snazzy hats.

The Academic Derby marks the end of this year’s special academic events in - classroom, but stay tuned . . . next school year will bring the 18th Running of the Academic Derby . . . and Academic Super Bowl XVIII as well!



What's Happening in - Class???



Social Studies Projects

Learning to work together can be challenging, but the rewards last a lifetime. The 4th graders have been working in teams for over a month on their region projects for social studies. In the last two weeks the class has learned a lot about the geography, landforms and natural resources through information, pictures and maps as each group presented their power point and artifact or poster. During preparation for this large undertaking, the class had to learn that coming to a consensus is an important tool when working in a group.

The 5th grade is now working on presenting one of the important battles fought during the Revolutionary War. They are currently doing the research needed to make an exciting presentation.



Following directions is hard, but writing them...

"Please don't put the whole ball of dough on the cookie sheet -, I really meant to write, roll the dough into a lot of little balls!" the 4th/5th class has come to appreciate the precise work involved in writing recipe books and technical manuals as they tried to replicate these authors by writing their own how to instructions. At first the only thing on their minds was the delicious mint pie or fun paper airplanes they were going to make. Once they began reading and following each other's directions, they realized how precise they should have been to avoid errors like the one with the peanut butter chocolate kiss cookies. Lessons learned and no, they didn't end of with one giant cookie, and they also took the plastic cover off the pie pan before putting in the pie mixture!





Books and Bagels!

Bagels are good, and books are even better, but the best thing about the “Books and Bagels” program put together by the kindergarten and first grade class of - were the catchy medley of tunes they sang, followed by a series of wonderful poems. And that’s not even counting the poems read by the children back in the classroom to their parents, or the books they read to each other.

The cuteness just oozed right out of the children in the poem “My Mother Says I’m Sickening,” starring -, -, and -, followed by “My Mother Made a Meatloaf,” featuring -, -, and -. Then came “My Parents Have the Flu Today,” with - and -, and finally there was “Four Vain and Ancient Tortoises,” recited by -, -, and -.*

For the finale, the whole class of Kindergarteners and 1st graders recited the “End of the Year Poem” to their parents, then it was back to the classroom for more poems, poems that the children actually wrote themselves for their parents. Then, after reading books awhile to their parents, it was time to gobble up those bagels with cream cheese that - had so nicely arranged and the juice to wash those delicious bagels down.

It was a glorious morning, especially for all those kindergarten and first grade children so proudly reading to and having fun with their parents.

*Many thanks to classroom paraprofessional - for her tireless efforts in practicing with the children.



Take a bow!



Things are hatching in-class!



Fourth-grader - with the moth she raised since it was a wee=bitty silkworm

Come fly with me, let's fly, let's fly away...

WHAT MAKES THE BEST PAPER AIRPLANE?

As with all of the experiments that - does with his 2nd and 3rd grade class, this experiment began with a question: "What makes the best paper airplane?"

- then broke the experiment down into three categories:

Flight Time, Flight Distance, and Design.

Then, after - explained that only paper could be used, and that no tape, staples, or paper clips could be used either, it was "off to the flight labs" to experiment with designs, kinds of paper, and folding techniques.

Research included in books, on the internet, and through the experience of the older and wiser. Most of the experimenting was done at home, but much was done on the playground as well, and - even allowed a whole hour of classroom time one afternoon for experimentation. There were sleek airplanes, and blunt airplanes, bullet like planes, flat planes, and planes with multiple wings, multiple tails, and multiple designs. There were even a couple of flying wings, a flying cylinder, and a helicopter.

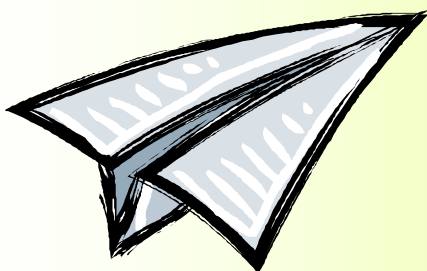
Thursday, May 24, was the day of the contest, and - brought his class to the gym to do the test flights. Each child was allowed two flights for time, and two flights for distance. The best time, and the best distance, of the two, would, of course, be the one which counted. (The design portion of the contest would take place later, and those entries were on display in the classroom, where they would later be judged by classmates in a secret ballot.)

- has been doing this activity in his science classes for many years, and once had a child fly a paper airplane over 300 feet. But that was outside, where the plane caught a stiff wind just right. This contest was held indoors, where the air was calm.

Finishing in third place for distance was -, whose plane flew 32'3". In 2nd place was -. Her plane flew 34'10". The winner this year was -, who managed 37'41/2" with her best flight.

Next it was time for flight time. In an updraft outside, a plane once flew over 3 minutes before landing on a roof top, but the flights inside are usually short, and this year's were no exception. In third place was - plane, which remained aloft for 2.2 seconds. The 2nd place plane managed 2.3 seconds, and was designed and flown by -. This year's winner was the plane of -, which stayed airborne for 3.2 seconds.

The final event of the contest, design, was finalized when the judging was done on Thursday morning, May 31. Flight was not a requirement for this event. Instead, the students voted for the entries that they thought were the "coolest," the most unique in design. The winner was the airplane entered by -, with - entry close behind in 2nd place. - entry finished third.



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:

Friday, June 8th:

Sevilla EMS Pool Party

Thursday, June 14th:

1/2 Day for students

Last Day of school!

Our Mission

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



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: Orland Park, IL

Favorite Place to Visit: Home is where the good food is!

Hobbies: Traveling, hiking, reading, riding my bike, writing about my adventures in Europe

Which cartoon character best describes you: Goofy: clueless, happy and always getting into ridiculous situations

Favorite words to live by: "I don't say much, but when I do, I mean what I say."-Gramps

Last month's mystery staff member: -!