



Sevilla EMS

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

November 2011

D.A.R.E. Graduation



"I'd like to thank the Academy...."

Thank you to TSgt. [redacted] for taking the time to teach the 2nd-5th graders about D.A.R.E! We appreciate everything you have done for our school! Thank you also to the PTO for providing yummy snacks for the D.A.R.E. graduation, and to LtCol. [redacted] and CMSgt [redacted] for their assistance in handing out D.A.R.E. diplomas and medals!

Between a Rock and a Delicious Place

"Is there really a stone in there?"

"Are really going to eat soup made from a rock?"

"Aren't rocks dirty?"

"Why do you want us to bring in a vegetable? I thought we were going to make stone soup."

"How come it smells so good?"

"Can I taste it?"

"Hey, I can't see the stone anymore. Did it melt?"

"How come it tastes saltier now than it did last time? We haven't put any more salt in."*

"Hey, that's good! It's the best soup I have ever had!"

"May I have seconds?"



The command at Moron AB had approved having a "Soup Supper" at the Club Andaluz at 1700 hours on Wednesday, November 16, 2011, and Mr. [REDACTED] decided it was time to read the story "Stone Soup" to his 2nd/3rd grade class, in honor of the base event. So, during his class regular library time on Tuesday, November 15, he asked volunteer librarian [REDACTED] to read one version to his class, then read another version to them later that day.

"Stone Soup" is a European story about 2 weary and hungry travelers journeying from one town to another across the countryside searching for something to eat, but no one ever has anything to share . . . at least not until the travelers ask to borrow a big pot and a ladle. Someone always is able to spare those items. Soon the travelers have a pot of water boiling, and they then throw in a big stone. One of the travelers takes a taste of the soup, and proclaims, "Ah, not bad! But all it needs to be perfect is a few bits of onions."

Invariably, no matter what the version, someone in the village will come up with a few onions, and they are chopped up and thrown into the pot. Again, a traveler tastes the mix, and says, "Ah, much better, but a little salt would be all it needs!" Again, a villager offers a little salt, and in it goes.

Each time something is added, the travelers state thankfully how tasty it is, but how much better it would be with a bit of carrot, or celery, or potato, or pepper. It never takes long before another villager offers up something to add to the soup, and it always makes it better, always draws more villagers to the scene, and always prompts the travelers to proclaim how good the soup has become.

When the time finally comes for the soup to be served, everyone agrees that it is delicious, and it becomes evident to all, and especially to the weary travelers, who seem to "ride happily off into the sunset" unbeknownst to the villagers enjoying the soup, and each other, that the very best thing about the stone soup is not how delicious it is, but how it brought out the very best in what man has to offer to each other, and that is how to serve each other.

After the versions of the story were read, Mr. [REDACTED] assigned a writing lesson on comparing and contrasting the two versions of the story to his students, and the whole class enjoyed the followup discussion.

When Mr. [REDACTED] asked the students if they wanted to make "stone soup," their approval was unanimous, and after completing a discussion of what the word "unanimous" meant, each child promised to bring in something to put in the pot of soup on Wednesday. Then Mr. [REDACTED] asked student of the day [REDACTED] to go outside and get a fist sized rock, which Mr. [REDACTED] took home and cleaned, scrubbed, and boiled in water for a couple of hours.

When the big day arrived, Mr. [REDACTED] took the whole class to the school kitchen to set up a pan full of water on the stove, and after turning on the heat, Mr. [REDACTED] had student of the day [REDACTED] add the rock. All day long the students returned to the kitchen every few minutes to stir the soup, add vegetables, spices, and other ingredients. All of the students, including [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] got to take turns adding ingredients, stir the soup, smell the soup, taste the soup, and ask questions about the soup, until at 1430 hours, after simmering since 0900 hours, the soup was ready for the table. The students set up a picnic table on the patio for the tasting celebration, and the soup was a popular item. Everyone wanted seconds, and soon there was not a drop left.

More importantly, the class agreed that when a group of people work together towards a common goal, and are patient, and diligent, good things can happen. Yes, indeed, the event gave the children first hand evidence of what the very best is that man has to offer, and that is working with, serving, and sharing with others.

*Of the multitude of questions asked throughout the day, this was my favorite, because the answer is so finite, and fit so well into an experiment we had set up earlier in the school year on the evaporation of the water from salt water, leaving only the salt behind. One of the students answered the question immediately, saying, "Of course it tastes saltier now. Don't you remember our evaporation experiment? The steam is the part of the water evaporating, but the salt still stays!"



Stone Soup: Delicious and Nutritious!



YUM!



SPORTS CLUB ROUNDUP for November 3, 2011

Sports Club on Thursday, November 3, 2011, featured the Warriors of Coach [REDACTED] in an indoor kickball victory over the Zombies of Coach [REDACTED]. It took 4 innings of play to get to the final score: Warriors 14, Zombies 12.

Leading the Warriors was [REDACTED] with 2 home runs, but [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] also had one home run apiece. Other members of the victorious Warriors were [REDACTED], First Baseman [REDACTED], Third Baseman [REDACTED], [REDACTED], "Chief" [REDACTED], and [REDACTED].

Although the Zombies did win, they did have the leading hitter in the game, [REDACTED], who slammed 5 home runs.

The outstanding defensive play of the game was made by Warrior infielder [REDACTED], who made a diving catch of a line drive by [REDACTED]! What a catch!

Stay tuned . . . until then.

Celebrating our Veterans

“What do YOU know about the American flag?” asked Mr. [REDACTED], the 2nd/3rd grade teacher

at Sevilla Elementary/Middle School.



Most of the military fathers, including the fathers of [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], [REDACTED] mom, were in attendance at the 2nd/3rd grade class' Veteran's Day Flag Facts Tea held on Thursday, November 10, in Mr. [REDACTED] classroom during the last hour of the school day.

Earlier in the day, Ms. [REDACTED] kindergarten/1st grade class had held a Veteran's Day Breakfast in the school media center. Ms. [REDACTED] had invited all of the military parents from her classroom, plus had extended an open invitation to any veterans, active, or retired, connected to Moron AB in any way . . . and 25 showed up!

First, the students led the veterans in the Pledge of Allegiance, something which several veterans admitted they hadn't done for a long time. Then, “A Veteran's Day Poem,” by Cheryl Dyson, was read. This was followed by the reading, then presentation, of “Dear Veterans” letters by the students from the class. The letters were filled with thanks to the veterans for their bravery, loyalty, and dedication to duty. Finally, it was breakfast time, and each of the nine students led a group of veterans to the tables set up for the family style meal of muffins, cake, fruit, egg casserole, coffee, and juice. The tables were covered with butcher paper, and during the course of the meal, the veterans and children talked about veteran's day, life in the military, patriotism, and drew pictures in red, white, and blue of “things patriotic to America” on the butcher paper.

Later in the day, of course, the parent veterans from Mr. [REDACTED] class arrived at the 2nd/3rd grade class “armed” with facts about the flag, such as:

How many stripes does the flag have, and why?*

Can the flag be flown at night, and why, or why not?***

Who wrote the national anthem, and why?****

How many stars should show on the folded flag?*****

There were many other questions, too, and the students had fun finding out the answers. They were visibly proud of their dads for “showing off” their knowledge.

Before the “Flag Facts” session, [REDACTED], who just happened to be the “Student of the Day,” led the whole group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Then each of the students had the opportunity to show their veteran dads and moms how to fold the flag, which Mr. [REDACTED] had been teaching them to do earlier in the week. Finally, after several rounds of flag trivia questions, cookies and other refreshments were set out by the children for the veterans.

“Veterans first!” one of the children said, “Happy Veteran's Day!”

Answers to the flag facts trivia questions:

*The American flag has 7 red stripes and 6 white stripes, 13 stripes in all, representing the original 13 colonies, which became our first 13 states.

**If fully lit up, the flag may be flown at night.

***Francis Scott Key wrote our national anthem, while on a British warship in the waters outside the fort being attacked by the British in the War of 1812, and the words of the anthem tell the story of the battle.

****When the flag is folded properly, 5 stars should show, three on the top row, and two in the row below.



Thank you, Veterans!



Even grown-ups love to color!

Where in the world is



Mr. [REDACTED] ?

Here is the timetable for this year's Geography Bee:

Tuesday, November 29, 2011, this flyer/permission slip goes out to all parents of students, grades 3rd through 8th. Third graders cannot participate in the national bee (officially it is for 4th through 8th graders), but I see no reason not to include them for preparation and the practice bee, if for no other reason than to prepare them for future bees when they are of age.

Thursday, December 1, 2011: A short meeting (15 minutes) will be held in Mr. [REDACTED] room after school before Sports and Games Club to discuss the bee, the rules of the bee, the timetable, etc. At that meeting, study guides will be offered to anyone who wants them to study over the Holiday break. Please note that **the national winner of the Bee is granted a \$25,000 college scholarship.**

Thursday, December 15, 2011: Practice Geography Bee #1 will be held after school in the library until 1615 hours. No Sports and Games Club that day. Parents are welcome to attend.

Thursday, January 5, 2012: Practice Geography Bee #2 will be held after school in the library until 1615 hours. No Sports and Games Club that day. Parents are welcome to attend.

Thursday, January 12, 2011: Geography Bee will be held after school in the school media center for as long as it takes to determine a winner. Parents, students, and base personnel are welcome to attend.

Monday, January 16, 2012: Qualifying Test, to be taken in Mr. [REDACTED] room at an arranged time either during or after school, by the school Geography Bee Champion. If the winner scores high enough, he/she will qualify for the regional bee on Friday, March 30, 2012, and if he/she should do well enough there, would qualify for the national competition in Washington DC on May 22-23, 2012.

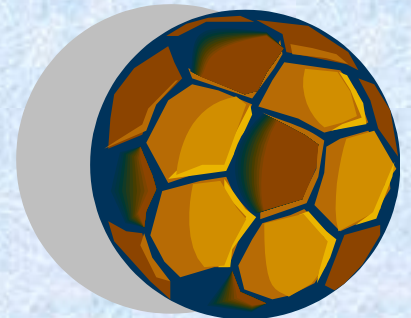
It is worth a try. Mr. [REDACTED] WILL get you ready, and he knows how to make geography fun.

Sports Club Roundup For December 1, 2011

Yesterday, after a short Geography Bee meeting after school in Mr. [REDACTED] room, it was off to the gym for the sport of the day: Indoor Soccer.

The Fluffy Unicorns, coached by [REDACTED], were the victors in the contest, 3-1 over The Dark Night, coached by [REDACTED] brother [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] scored the lone goal for The Dark Night, while [REDACTED] scored 2 goals for the winners. [REDACTED] also scored for the Fluffy Unicorns. The rest of the Fluffy Unicorns included [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED].

There will be no Sports Club now until January 19, 2012.



Share your time and talents!

Dear Parents,

Thank you all for your participation in our recent Parent/Teacher Conferences. It was wonderful to see all of you join us and to have you visit your child's teachers. I also appreciated the opportunity I had to visit with many of you during that time. As we all know, communication is very important for all as it provides answers to questions and information that helps us be better at who we are and what we do.

Many of the extra things that go on at the school are made possible through your volunteering. We have an excellent volunteer coordinator, Ms. [REDACTED], who is also our School Liaison Officer (SLO). You are encouraged to contact her (722-8044) if you, or a friend/colleague, would like to share some time/expertise working with the children.

One very good source of volunteer participation here at SEMS is through the **PTO (Parent Teacher Organization)**. The PTO president, Ms. [REDACTED], can be contacted at the base library: 722-8024.

The purpose of the PTO is to aid/support the students and staff here at SEMS. This is done mostly through fundraising activities such as the recent bake sale, turkey bingo activity, and through the ongoing "Box Tops for Education" program. The PTO is always looking for parents and other interested adults who are willing to share some of their time to assist them in their activities. Participation in the PTO helps promote/encourage parent to school and school to parent communication that is so important to our children's educational environment.

Another avenue of volunteer support available here at SEMS is the **SAC (School Advisory Council)**.

The SAC is composed of an equal number of locally elected parents and full-time professional school employees. The SAC advises its school principal on all local school-related matters, including educational programs, resources, services, and policies. Issues unresolved at the school level may be elevated to the DAC (District Advisory Council). A more thorough explanation of SAC may be found at: http://www.dodea.edu/foia/iod/pdf/i1342_15.pdf. The SAC is not an avenue to discuss personnel matters nor is it duplicative of, or in competition with, the PTO discussed above. The SAC meets at least four times per year. Contact the school 722-8464, for information on when the next SAC meeting will be if you are interested in attending.

We wish to invite you to come join us as a volunteer. This may be in your child's classroom or through helping with the PTO, SAC, or our CSI (Continuous School Improvement) process which is ongoing and has a current focus on two goals: 1.) Writing and 2.) Mathematics: Number Sense. We encourage you to ask your child's teacher what this means and how you can become a part of the improvement process here at SEMS. We, in partnership with you, are here to provide your child/ren with what they will need to be the best that they can be. School-home partnership is vital to any child's success.

Thanks for your continued support.

//Signed//

David R. Eldredge

Assistant Principal



Sevilla EMS

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Our Mission

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



Dates To Remember:

**December 19th-
January 2nd:
Winter Break**

**January 3rd:
Instruction
Resumes**

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: Gray

Favorite Place to Visit: The refrigerator

Hobbies: Listening to Spanish podcasts

Which cartoon character best describes you: Blossom

Favorite words to live by: "Don't cry over spilled milk."

Last month's mystery staff member: [REDACTED]!

Our School Vision

Sevilla EMS is a community of students, parents and teachers who work together developing personal skills. Teachers facilitate an inclusive and diverse education that leads to academic and social success through a rigorous and differentiated curriculum. The students actively engage as productive and responsible life-long learners in preparation for their lives as global citizens.