

Upper Elementary News

Check out some of the learning that happened in our classroom!

Student-Led Learning in Theme Study

We're on quite a learning adventure in the Upper Elementary. It began when students expressed an interest in the first people to live in Kentucky at the end of the Ice Age. Well, there's a lot to learn about these people. Where did they come from before they reached North America? What were they like? How did they live? How did they hunt? What did they hunt?

The students asked questions and I made a massive web on the board with all the directions our learning could take. As each student gave their feedback, it became clear that, as a class, we were interested in the animals that the Paleoindians hunted and why these animals went extinct.

As we began down this path, we learned the term "megafauna", the relative sizes of glyptodons (massive armadillos) and mammoths compared to modern mammals, and why these animals may have gone extinct. We're all pretty fascinated and so we will continue to explore this subject next week.



Benjamin and Levi calculate the size of the giant beaver compared to modern mammals.



Gwen and Olivia measure and draw the height of a ground sloth.



Nano investigates the relative size of mammoths and mastodons.

Friday's Excitement

Thank you Ava's Dad for our new picnic table!

We are so excited to have a new folding picnic table in the outdoor classroom! Even better, the students



got to help build and stain! We look forward to all the play and learning that will take place here.

Tree Removal

The remaining portion of the tree that fell was carefully cut down on Friday and, from a safe distance, we had front row seats. We used this as an opportunity to discuss what trees need to thrive, how animals can make habitats in dead trees, and the physics of bringing down the tree safely. It was all just really cool.



Well Done, Leadership Team!

Our Leadership Team did a wonderful job presenting on composting to all the elementary students on Friday. They have learned a lot and we all benefit from their knowledge.

A Preview of Next Week!

Literacy activities include...

- Literary analysis with book group
- Review types of sentences
- Writing realistic fiction
- Practicing cursive



Math activities include...



- Fraction work
 - Equivalent Fractions
 - Comparing and Ordering Fractions
- Multiplication fluency practice
- Daily Review

Theme Study focus...

What animals did the Paleoindians hunt at the end of the Ice Age? Why did these animals go extinct.

We will be creating a picture book about these animals to share with our preschool friends.



Important Dates/Information

- September 18th - Redwood Night at Chile's
- September 20th - Class Pictures and Makeup Pictures
- September 20th - Special Meeting of the Board to Discuss Middle School
- September 21st - Living Archaeology Weekend
 - We will meet at Red River Gorge at 9:30 (our school is scheduled to begin at 9:45).
 - Please return permission slip
- October 3-5 - Fall Break, No School



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