



DCS 1st Grade News

Monday, March 27th, 2017

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Calendar and more information found on our 1st Grade page: <http://discovery.schoolwires.net/site/default.aspx?DomainID=16>
or the DCS Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Discovery-Charter-School-229740553881291/>

Upcoming Dates and Events

- **Late Start**
April 5th and 19th
- **Trip to Overture Center**, Monday, March 27th 11:00-2:30pm
- **PTO Carnival**
Thursday, March 30th
- **DCS/CES Music Concert @ CHS**
Thursday, April 6th 6pm
- **Early Release**
12:30pm on April 12th
- **Spring Break**
April 13th - April 18th
- **Family Science Night, CES/DCS**
Friday, April 21st 5:30-7:30pm
- **Trip to Olbrich Gardens**
Thursday, April 27th
- **First Grade VIP Day**
Friday, May 5th
8:30-9:30
Come enjoy a muffin with your child. Watch for more information about this event.

Field Trips

On Friday, March 24th the DCS first graders visited the Aldo Leopold Nature Center. The students observed the changes, in the wooded and prairie areas, since our October visit. The naturalist talked about how seasonal changes impact the maple trees. The students tasted maple tree sap, boiled tree sap and real maple syrup. At school, the students started to write about the trip. This week we will use the experience to start our narrative writing unit.

On Monday, March 27th we went to the Overture Center to see *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters*. The story is an adaptation of an African folktale about two sisters who travel through the wilderness searching for the true meaning of beauty. The students enjoyed the African drumming and dancing that was part of the show. During our literacy centers the students will use reader's theater scripts to improve their reading fluency and expression

Thank you to all the chaperones who volunteered to help with our trips!

Science and Technology Night

Thank you to all the families who came to our first Science and Technology Night! In the engineering room, there were a lot of students busy constructing straw towers, building with blocks and using engineering apps on the iPad. Thank you to all the student and parent volunteers who helped out with this event!

Writing

The students have finished typing their informational writing pieces and are working on finishing their art pieces. All the finished and published pieces will be hung in our hallway.

The students are also finishing their how to books. Each student selected their own topic and edited their own book. These books did not go through the full publishing process and will be coming home soon. We also learned how to use a green screen app so the students could record themselves reading their how to book in front of a related image.

I hope to share the published writing pieces and the how to videos during the DCS Open House. More information about this event will be sent after the date has been set.

Math

In Unit 7, we are working on subtraction strategies and will be learning about the attributes of shapes. Throughout the unit the students will be bringing home fact triangles with their HomeLinks. Please have your child cut out the cards and add them to the stack of cards they are collecting at home. Use these cards and other games to practice math facts with your child. At school the students are learning how to play a three-person game called Salute. I will be sending home the Unit 5 and 6 assessments.

Reading

Thank you for reading with your child, signing the reading log and making sure the book bags come back each day! Many of the reading groups are reading fictional stories and writing about the story elements in their thoughtful log. If I have your child reread a section of their book, it is to work on their fluency and expression. We also practice these skills when reading our *Songs and Chants* book.

Project Lead the Way

We just finished our second Project Lead the Way Module called Light: Observing the sun, moon and stars. I am sending home your child's assessment and Launch Log for this module. Please read through the log with your child to see how they worked through the design process.

Our next module will focus on animal adaptations. The students will explore how different physical features help animals in different habitats.

*I am glad I will not be young in a
future without wilderness.*
-Aldo Leopold

