



DCS 1st Grade News

Monday, May 1, 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

- **Muffins with VIP**
Friday, May 5th
8:30-9:30
- **DCS Open House**
Monday, May 8th 6-7
- **Late Start**
May 10th
- **Last Day to Checkout Library Books**
May 19th
- **Trip to Madison Children's Museum**
Friday, May 26th
- **All Library Books Due** Friday, May 26th
- **NO SCHOOL**
Memorial Day Monday, May 29th
- **Last Day of School**
Friday, June 2nd

Family Science Night

Thank you to all the families who came to Family Science Night! The students there really enjoyed all the activities lead by the UW-Madison Biocore Ambassadors.

Muffins with VIP

The first graders have invited one VIP to join them in our classroom on Friday, May 5th from 8:30-9:30. If you did not return the RSVP slip today, please email me to let me know who will be joining your child. After enjoying muffins and juice, we will do a science experiment together. Please let me know if you have any questions about this event.

DCS Open House

The DCS Open House is Monday, May 8th from 6-7pm. This event is a celebration of learning in our classroom and school. The students can come at any time with their families to share several classroom projects. Everyone is welcome to explore the other DCS classrooms. Plants from the DCS Greenhouse will be for sale during this event.

Olbrich Gardens

The rainy weather didn't stop the students from enjoying our trip to the Olbrich Botanical Gardens. Many of the students were very excited to see the Venus flytrap and the animals living in the conservatory. Our guides used hands-on activities to help us learn about the different parts of a plant and seeds. At one station the students touched plants with different features and adaptations. Thank you to all the parents who volunteered to chaperone this trip! I am looking for a few more chaperones for our last field trip. Please let me know if you are interested and I will contact you if you are selected for the trip.

Arbor Day

We celebrated Arbor Day on Friday, April 28th by reading about the history of Arbor Day. I used the *pickers* app to ask the students comprehension questions and they used the *pickers* cards to submit their answer. Each student has a card with a specific QR code that they turn to reveal their multiple choice answer. I use an iPad to scan the answers and they are instantly graphed on the SMART board. We are improving our efficiency with this tool.

Later, the students worked with a partner to take a picture of a tree in our school yard. Then, they used the *Draw and Tell* app to record a message about trees and Arbor day. During this activity the students used information we learned in our classroom and from our Olbrich trip.

Math

In Unit 8, we are studying geometry. We used clay and paper crackers to explore dividing items into two and four equal pieces. We are working calling these pieces; halves, fourths, quarters, 1 of 2 equal pieces and 1 of 4 equal pieces. We also worked on combining different 2-dimensional shapes to make a composite shape. This week we will focus on 3-dimensional shapes, time to half hour and data. We will take the Unit 8 assessment next week. Unit 9 is our last math unit for the year.

Project Lead the Way

We are in the middle of our module on animal adaptations. In small groups, the students will be exploring one of four environments and the adaptations of animals in that environment. The students will use what they learn to prepare a fictional traveler to visit that environment. The environments in the module are the Arctic, the Amazon Rainforest, the African Savanna and the Sahara Desert. We will use Google Expeditions to explore these environments in a different way.

Reading

Thank you for continuing to have your child read every night! Our end of the year reading assessments will begin the second week of May. The third week of May is the last week that guided reading books may be sent home with students. Thank you for everything you did this year to help your child improve their reading! I continue observe students make gains in their reading and encourage you to find ways for your family to continue reading this summer.

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

