



The Wilson School
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Clayton, MO 63105

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Confident. Passionate. Smart.



The Wilson Word

A publication of The Wilson School, Founded 1913

Celebrating Our 97th Year of Excellence!

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January 22, 2010

Turn in Your Reservation Today for "Hats Off to Wilson" 27th Annual Thistle Auction!

Hats Off To Wilson is Saturday, February 27 at the Crowne Plaza - Clayton. We are looking forward to another successful and enjoyable time. Invitations were mailed, so please return your RSVP cards as soon as possible. All reservations must be in by February 12. Once again, you can reserve a room at the hotel for just \$89 a night. Deadline for hotel rooms is February 12.

Every year, there are many fantastic items to bid on and new activities to enjoy. This year is no exception. The "Top Hat Raffle" tickets cost only \$10. Buy as many tickets as you want and drop them in containers next to the prize baskets you like. Prizes include a pampering package for the ladies, a package just for him including some of Michael Hinkebein's famous beer, Disney Park Hopper tickets, and a Cardinals package that includes an autographed Cardinals baseball. The more tickets you put in, the better your chance of winning. The "Rabbit in the Hat" Game is the newest event at the auction. Pull a rabbit out of the hat and win gift certificates worth at least \$25. The "Best of Live" Sweepstakes Raffle is back. This year, tickets are only \$50 and you can win a Live auction item of your choice from a selected list. Wow, what a deal!

The Live Auction items are outstanding. Check out The Wilson School website for detailed descriptions of the items. Go to wilsonschoool.com. Click on "Upcoming Events & News" under "Our Families and Friends" tab.

Important Deadlines and Dates:

- January 29 - Early Pay Auction reservations deadline
- February 12 - Final Auction reservations due**
- February 12 - Deadline for hotel reservations
- February 19 - Auction Program Books sent home
- February 27 - "Hats Off To Wilson!"

Many thanks to Wilson parents, Board members, friends, faculty, and staff who generously donated to our auction. Look for upcoming eWilson's with information on Teacher Gifts of Time, Sign-Up Parties, Top Hat Raffle items, and Class Projects. If you have any questions, please call (314-725-4999) or email Linda Roth (lroth@wilsonschoool.com) or Lisa Leather (lleuther@wilsonschoool.com).



Calendar

- Jan. 27 Birthday Book Club Assembly
- Jan. 30 Summer Opportunities Fair at John Burroughs
- Feb. 6 Public Open House, 9:30 a.m. - Noon
- Feb. 10 Speaker Series Event - David Elkind, "The Power of Play" at 7 p.m. in the Gym
- Feb. 15 Presidents' Day - No School

PA News - Border's Book Sale

We had another successful week at Border's in December. We earned a total of \$1,400 for Wilson through our sales that week. Thank you to all of the Wilson families and friends who stopped by and did some shopping. We appreciate all the purchases made to benefit our school.

The teachers graciously selected a great array of books to choose from and Border's had various titles by Ridley Pearson, the author visiting this month, available for purchase. On Wednesday our very own Head of School, **Thad Falkner**, read to the children some of his favorite story books and the Sixth Grade Class of 2010 displayed their gift wrapping skills to earn money for their class trip to Chicago.

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers for their time and effort and to everyone for their support in creating a successful fundraiser!

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“Scientist of the Day” in First Grade

By Andrea Jamison & Penny Lyles, First Grade Teachers

First graders have a natural curiosity about their world. They love to explore, read, experiment, and observe. Students are enjoying experiencing the academic joys of reading, writing, science, math, and social studies.

Morning time is language arts time. The students love reading many different genres and devour as many stories as they can. They particularly have enjoyed our recent read-alouds, *Cave of the Dark Wind* and *Escape From The Carnivale*, by Ridley Pearson and Dave Barry. The students are very excited for Ridley Pearson’s school visit in January and have many questions for him.

Students are learning to write book responses after hearing books read by the teachers or after reading books independently. Here are some quotes from students on what they have learned from reflecting on what they have read:

- “It helps you make sense of the book.” - Adam F.
- “It gets my mind going and I think hard.” - John G.
- “You get to draw pictures. It can help me improve my drawing.” - Phoebe P.
- “I like exploring a book. You have to really pay attention to the book to write a response.” - Zoë S.
- “I like the reading part and I like writing how I feel about the book.” - Isa

Afternoons are devoted to math, science and social

studies. Each student will become “Scientist of the Day” during the year. At this time, donning a lab coat and safety goggles, the young scientists present an experiment or demonstration to their classmates. Some experiments to date have included:

- Why does the brain have wrinkles?
- Does dish, laundry, or hand soap make the most bubbles?
- What happens when oil and water mix?
- How volcanoes erupt
- Chemical reactions with Coke and Menthos
- Aerodynamics
- Electrical circuits
- Magic ink
- Hydrophobic molecules

The student presenting prepares the materials ahead of time. Sometimes parents are needed to assist. But the favorite part of the “Scientist of the Day” is the question/answer session at the end of the demonstration. This is the time when learning really takes place.

It is a great time to be a first grader! The energy, enthusiasm and love for learning abound in these wonderful children each day.

Summer Camp

Summer will be here before you know it! We have been hard at work planning new and exciting activities and projects for our campers. It’s not too soon to be making plans! The Wilson School Summer Camp brochure will mail out to your home this month. Please take the time to read it and talk about it with your child(ren). All registered Wilson students will receive a discount on camp tuition. The Wilson School rate is \$200.00 per week for the Junior Camp. For the Senior Camp the rate is \$400.00 per two-week session. Stay tuned to future issues of the

Wilson Word, eWilson and the Friday folder for more details about our fun and exciting camp program. Questions? Talk to Michael Hinkebein.



Pre-K - First Grade Art ... continued from page 6

In Senior Kindergarten, students began the year by creating “caring” hands using oil pastels and watercolor paint. Next, we read the book *Cloudy With A Chance of Meatballs*, by Judi Barrett from which students created their own version of various raining objects. Next, they learned about the artist Keith Haring and the students easily created a dog drawing using Haring’s unique style. Students also learned about the artist Vincent Van Gogh and using the idea of Van Gogh’s famous sunflower painting, the students created their own sunflower still-life using tempera paint. Finally, we focused on strengthening our drawing skills by learning that everything is made up of shapes and lines. We practiced drawing, owls, skeletons, and people. Their skills have improved already!

In First Grade, the students began the year by creating fancy and colorful hand designs. Next, they learned about the artist Keith Haring who cared about many social issues. The students loved his simple, graphic style and they easily created a dog with person drawing using Haring’s unique style. Students also learned about the artist Vincent Van Gogh and how he had a passion, not only for his art, but also for

people in need. Using the idea of Van Gogh’s famous sunflower painting, the students created their own sunflower still-life using oil pastels and watercolor paint. Another major project was creating a three-dimensional haunted house with moving paper shutters. They truly enjoyed creating unique images one could discover in the numerous windows. Throughout the school year, they will continue to explore the exciting art form of sculpture.



Second Grade ... continued from page 5

Miranda exercise regularly. They get their exercise by bouncing balls, playing sports or just taking their dogs for walks. Jaelyn and Peter care for themselves by eating healthy foods like fruits and vegetables and avoiding too much junk food like candy and potato chips. Finally, Lindsey and Brooke showed how brushing your teeth leads to a beautiful, happy and healthy smile. How do you care for yourself?

Since we enjoy singing that song so much, we decided to change the words for our assembly performance. Over winter break Mrs. Zeman flew to Orlando, Florida, to meet with her singer, song-writer niece. In a collaborative musical endeavor, (reminiscent of the early work for Lennon & McCartney) they came up with these wonderful lyrics:

**I will take care of me, It’s important you see
When I care about myself , Then, I’m the best I can be**

**Eat right and sleep tight, Helmet on my head
Brush teeth, keep clean, Listen to what I’ve said**

**Running and playing, Drinking H2O
Learning to care for me, Watch how fast I grow**

Mr. Figueras was hired on to accompany the class on guitar while we sang for the school. We had fun doing our performance, and we hope everyone will use these second grade tips so they can have a healthy 2010.

The Caring PK - 1st Grade Artists of the Wilson School

By Diane Signor, Art Teacher

There has been a whirlwind of creativity in the art room since the beginning of the school year. The excitement and enthusiasm for the creative process continues to be strong. It never ceases to

In Pre-Kindergarten, the students have been exploring the endless wonders of art. They have experienced many materials, such as model magic, tempera paint, watercolor paint, oil pastels, and colored chalk. They have created hand impressions, sponge painted leaves, and chalk colored doves. We have used several books to inspire us. The first was "Papa, Please Get The Moon For Me," by Eric Carle from which we created our own version of a special person climbing up to the moon. Secondly, we read the book "Camille and the Sunflowers," by Laurence Anholt, which told us about Vincent Van Gogh and his special friend Camille. After reading, we looked at a real bouquet of sunflowers while we painted a flower ourselves. Lastly, we read the book, "Stellaluna" by Janell Cannon. Not only did we learn about bats, but we also learned that it is okay to be different. Finally, the students created their own bats at night using oil pastels, paper and

watercolor paint.

In Junior Kindergarten, we began our "caring" project by making hand prints. We also learned about the artist Vincent Van Gogh by reading the book "Camille and the Sunflowers," which inspired us to draw a sunflower still-life while observing a real bouquet of sunflowers. However, our main focus has been representing trees in various ways. The students made trees by gluing torn pieces of paper and by sponge painting. The tree unit culminated with making tree sculptures out of paper tubes, cardboard, paper, modeling clay and sticks. They look absolutely stunning!



amaze me how fast the weeks go by.

One of our main themes relates to the school theme of caring. We have chosen numerous artists, such as: Kathe Kollwitz, Diego Rivera, Jacob Lawrence, Keith Haring, Vincent Van Gogh, and Ben Shahn, who have depicted caring subjects in their art work and/or displayed caring attributes in their daily lives. We will revisit this theme throughout the school year.

Also, for the school theme each class created an artwork using their hands as a symbol for caring. These pieces are presently displayed in the dining hall. It is amazing to see the different ways to depict the hand as well as to see the individual and unique expression of each child.

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Junior Kindergarten & New Possibilities

By Elizabeth Talbott & Helen Marner, Junior Kindergarten Teachers

In Junior Kindergarten the students ended 2009 with a unit on Native Americans. The children made False Face Masks, Native American jewelry, blankets and Dream Catchers. They spent time learning beliefs and lifestyles of Native Americans in the past and today. A highlight of our study was a visit from a real Native American and Wilson parent, Dr. Chris Creighton. He is a member of the Osage Tribe and his daughter is one of our Fifth Grade buddies. The fact that we shared this visit with our buddies, made it extra special. The many artifacts he passed around captivated the students. We concluded the unit by putting on a play called *We Sauk He Chack*, which is a Native American creation story of the first winter.

The students started the New Year finding out all about the new season, winter. We read the book *Chicken Soup with Rice* by Maurice Sendak, which is a book of the months of the year. The children enjoyed reading the story and then making their own chicken soup with rice! We also read the story, *Snow People*, by Lois Ehlert. The students had a great time creating their very own Snow People! In our room we have Snow Girls, Snow Dads and even a Snow Yak! They worked very hard making their own snowflakes to decorate our windows and discovered many interesting patterns within their snowflakes.

Around Martin Luther King Day, the class explored ways they are the same and different. They drew and compared family portraits. The children discussed how they wanted to be treated and how they should treat others. They heard about the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., including his involvement with Rosa Parks and the bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama. The class acted out the story of Rosa Parks and discussed the non-violent ways people can solve problems to get what they need.

The story of Ruby Bridges was another piece of our history that fascinated the children. Ruby, as a young girl, helped integrate a public school in New Orleans by walking past many angry protesters each morning. Many of our children could not believe the way things used to be in this country! At the end of

this study, the class wrote a book entitled, *All About Martin Luther King, Jr., Being A Caring Person*. This fits perfectly into our school-wide theme, "Make Your Mark A Good One By Being A Caring Person."

Last semester, in math, Junior Kindergarten finished up a unit on "flat" shapes. The students learned to identify and describe circles, rectangles, squares, triangles, pentagons and hexagons. They also used rhombus and trapezoids in some games. This semester we began exploring solids, or "fat" shapes. The students are identifying spheres, cones, cylinders, cubes and rectangular prisms and finding them in their environment.

The new year also brings many possible new Wilson students to our class. We are enjoying having visitors and learning to be excellent hosts and hostesses. These are visitors who may be coming to Wilson next year. They usually spend a morning with us and the children enjoy showing them around and sharing their favorite centers.



Fifth Grade Knows the News

By Laurie Finkenkiller & Kevin McGinnis, Fifth Grade Teachers

**"The AOTW helps us learn big things that happen around the world."
- Joey Shearburn**

Every Tuesday night, the fifth graders spend their evening reading various articles on topics from who won the NBA Championship to why we are sending space crafts to Mars. The students read the Article of the Week (AOTW) and answer questions about what they have learned from the article, how important they feel the information is, or why they think the article was written in the first place. They spent the first semester analyzing the actual intent and value of each article. They wrote about the articles purpose and intended audience, and they described why they felt the article was, or was not, newsworthy. These questions led to great discussions on the importance of certain information. The students really stepped back and thought about why they were learning this new information.

The idea for the AOTW came from the desire to teach students a wide variety of general information that is not covered in traditional subjects, as well as understanding the meaning of words we as adults take for granted. Nowhere in the traditional subjects does it cover the ins and outs of baseball, from

statistics to actual game-play. However, one Wednesday morning this fall the class discussed just these topics after reading an article from Sports Illustrated for Kids about a Major League Baseball playoff game. For instance, during the discussion, students asked about the meaning of terms such as RBI and ERA. From this conversation, the students learned that unless they understand the vocabulary associated with the topic, they wouldn't really understand the article.

Through the articles the students have traveled the world. They have learned about endangered historic landmarks and the "new" life in the U.K. They have been to Mars and Ancient Sparta. They have studied professional baseball, basketball and the 40th anniversary of Sesame Street. They learned about H1N1 and a new book released only online, chapter-by-chapter. The students have enjoyed learning information not always available in a textbook. The information explored on Wednesday mornings is almost always brand new to the students.

**"The AOTW gives me a lot of new information and new questions to think about."
- Garrett Dunn**

Caring Kids For A Healthy New Year

By Maureen Zeman & Miguel Figueras, Second Grade Teachers

On Friday afternoon you may hear enthusiastic singing coming from the second grade room. If you step inside you will hear our school's "Caring Song." Each week before our weekly MYMAGO meeting we sing the song to remind us of how we want to care about others in our home, school, community, and world.

This year second grade has focused on caring for ourselves. In our meetings we have discussed many different ways you can care for yourself. From these

discussions each student thought about one way they could care about themselves, and drew a poster to exemplify that. Our posters are displayed in the resource center.

For our class assembly we talked about all of the ways we can take care of ourselves. Students used the topics we discussed in class and worked in groups of two or three to demonstrate for the school how each

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Vancouver 2010!

By Chris Georgen, Interim Technology Coordinator

If you are looking to brush up on your Winter Olympics history, look no further. In the lab, fourth, fifth, and sixth graders are beginning a new unit on the Winter Olympics. After completing a Winter Olympic Scavenger Hunt, each student was given a sport to become an expert on. Using two official Olympic websites, students researched the history, rules, objectives, equipment, terminology, and famous athletes of their sport and are now beginning to start a final project that is to be displayed throughout the Olympics.

The fourth grade is laying out an informational PowerPoint slide. The fifth graders are writing a five

paragraph essay using Word. Last but not least, the 6th graders, in conjunction with the Resource Center, are creating original posters, including a chart of the medal history of their sport. How many gold medals does the United State have in the Nordic Combined? Who has won more luge medals, Germany or Norway? I know your mind is burning for the answer, but you'll have to wait! When it's all said and done, the Wilson Upper School classrooms will have created an all encompassing look at each Winter Olympic Sport. When passing through the library, keep your eyes open for this exciting project.

Second Grade ... continued from page 4

and every one of us can care for ourselves. Some brought in props, made props, wore costumes, or even performed short skits. Here is how second graders take care of themselves: Camden, George and Wolf always wear their seatbelts when riding in a car. They reminded everyone that seatbelts save lives. Sarah and Andrew take care of themselves by wearing a helmet when they ride bikes. Dias and Sophia bathe regularly. They showed everyone the benefits of



using soap to bathe or shower on a daily basis. Joe and Adam dress according to the weather. They demonstrated how one can avoid frostbite during the



winter months by bundling up as well as staying cool during the hot, humid St. Louis summers by wearing loose-fitting, light-colored clothing. Madeleine & Elaina get plenty of sleep so their bodies are recharged and refreshed, ready for a full day of school. Heidi and Amelia avoid germs and sickness by washing their hands. Did you know that a thorough hand washing should take about as long as it takes you to sing the "ABC Song?" Jaela and Michael care for themselves by staying hydrated. They drink plenty of water, regardless of the temperature. Gwen and

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