



The Wilson School
400 DeMun
Clayton, MO 63105

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Confident. Passionate. Smart.



The Wilson Word

A publication of The Wilson School, Founded 1913

Celebrating Our 97th Year of Excellence!

Volume 16, Issue 3

Visit us online at www.wilsonschoool.com

November 20, 2009

Mark Your Calendar: “Hats Off To Wilson” Thistle Auction is Feb. 27th!

Put on your bonnet, ball cap, chapeau, beanie, sombrero, or fez and join us for the 27th Annual Wilson School Thistle Auction. This year’s auction, “Hats Off To Wilson,” will be on February 27, 2010, at Crowne Plaza Clayton. If you want to spend the night at the hotel, they are offering us a great rate. Stay and enjoy all of the festivities and relax in a beautiful hotel room.

The auction steering committee is making some changes to this year’s auction with the help of your ideas and suggestions. The auction will have a later start at 6:30 and there will be more time for dancing at the end. Raffles and games are returning, including the Prize Wheel and Best of Live Sweepstakes. Every time you spin the Prize Wheel, you are guaranteed to win items worth at least \$50! The Best of Live Sweepstakes was a big success last year. For \$100 a ticket, you can win one of the Live Auction items. Wow! The Top Hat Raffle tickets will cost only \$10 and you can purchase as many as you like. Prizes will be of high value and will appeal to a broad range of interests, including a Cardinals package and a pampering package. The newest game is the Rabbit in a Hat Raffle. Pull a rabbit out of the hat and win items worth at least \$25.

There is always a lot of bidding for Class Projects,

Only @ Wilson, and Teachers’ Gifts of Time. Those categories will be on blackboards this year. Parties, camps and classes have been added to the blackboards.

Some great items have already been received from local businesses. You can help by soliciting your favorite businesses for a donation and buying an ad in the auction book. You received donor and advertising forms in the Friday Folders. Additional forms are available in the front foyer. Extra help is always needed before, during and after the auction. There are many jobs and some only take a little of your time. Let us know how you would like to help.

Mark your calendars for these Auction events and deadlines:

Friday, December 18 – Advertising Deadline

Friday, January 15 – Procurement Deadline

Need forms?

Have questions?

Want to volunteer?

Contact Linda Roth or Lisa Leuther by phone (314-725-4999) or email (lroth@wilsonschoool.com or lleuther@wilsonschoool.com).



November/December Events

Nov. 25	Grandparents’ & Special Friends’ Day! 10 a.m. – 11: 45 a.m.; School dismissal at Noon
Nov. 26 & 27	Thanksgiving! No School
Nov. 29 -Dec. 5	Border’s Book Sale at Border’s in Brentwood
Dec. 2	Used Book Drop Day
Dec. 8	Winter Band Concert at Forsyth, 5 p.m.
Dec. 9	Birthday Book Club Assembly
Dec. 15	Board of Trustees Meeting
Dec. 18	End of First Semester: Winter Break begins at Noon dismissal!

**Bring Your Family To The Border’s Book Sale! Border’s Book Store on Brentwood Blvd.
November 29 – December 5th! Sponsored by the Wilson Parents’ Association**

Inside . . .

Sixth Grade Leaders ... page 2

Wilson Grad Wins National Award ... page 2

The Sound Of Music ... page 3

Seismic Science ... page 4

Sixth Graders: Student Leaders

By Charla Gray & Andrew Rust, Sixth Grade Teachers

This has been a very busy and exciting fall semester for the Sixth Grade class. As the 2009-2010 academic year began, 15 Sixth Graders entered their final year as Wilson students. They are deserving of compliments for mature behavior, academic focus and diligence. This group of students has high expectations, and works hard to achieve them.

They have set individual goals and have been advised to refer to these goals frequently. Through their daily actions, this group is carrying out the school motto, "Make Your Mark a Good One."

A common goal for every Sixth Grader at Wilson is to complete their applications for secondary schools, and our students have been working hard to achieve this. Part of the process requires students to visit each school they would like to attend and have an interview with a representative from that school. Because most of these visits and interviews occur during school hours, our students have to take on greater responsibility for their academics, learning to juggle their time out of class with all of their assignments.

While much of the first semester has been a rush of hard work, deadlines, and secondary school applications, somehow we have found the time to have a little fun as well. On October 30, the Sixth Grade parents organized a terrific Halloween

celebration at Tropicana Lanes. The Sixth Graders got a chance to cut loose while throwing a few bowling balls and wrapping each other up like mummies in toilet paper. Also, the class enjoyed celebrating Mr. Faught's birthday with him. His celebration included cake, homemade cards, and gifts. Additionally, Mrs. Donaldson has organized a trip to the Touhill Performing Arts Center to see a presentation of the opera, *Brundibar*, performed only by children.

French has been a very different experience for the students in Sixth Grade this year. Part of their curriculum involved a trip to St. Genevieve to study St. Louis French heritage. Students had the opportunity to see what life in a 16th century French settlement was like on the banks of the Mississippi. Some of the sixth grade students, also, attended the Creole Corridor symposium at Washington University. The program was very engaging for the students.

The Sixth Graders have accepted their role as student leaders. They are very pleased with special opportunities available to them, such as serving as tour guides for our November Open House for prospective families, and delivering speeches in front of the student body and faculty. The Sixth Grade students certainly have benefited from these wonderful experiences that build and sharpen their leadership skills.

Wilson Graduate Wins National Classics Award

By Joana Ocros-Ritter, French & Latin Teacher

Every so often, something quite out of the ordinary surprises us. While we always hope for pleasant surprises, the contrary is, unfortunately, sometimes the case. Last year, one of our own Sixth Grade students had a very challenging medical diagnosis early in the school year.

While she was out, due to treatments, Vickie Williams continued her studies, making every effort to stay successful academically. Not only did she succeed, but she managed to amaze and inspire me.

Her decision to take the National Mythology Exam, sponsored by the American Classical League, in addition to her regular class work, simply left me speechless. Vickie challenged herself in every way, coming to class when it was possible, but mostly studying on her own, even working her way through elegant interpretations of Homer's "Odyssey."

When it came time to take the exam, in late winter,

Continued on page 4

Second Graders Visit Cahokia Mounds

By Maureen Zeman & Miguel Figueras, Second Grade Teachers

Did you know that, "Nobody makes cookies like Grandma?" This was one of our favorite lines in our class presentation, *The Doorbell Rang*. We began our Second Grade experience with a lively presentation of this story. The acting was fantastic. Everyone remembered their lines. Our performance was "sold out," with standing room only. Those attending enjoyed homemade chocolate chip cookies from "Grandma" to help them to remember their experience. It was a great way to start the new year.



Our first field trip this year was to Cahokia Mounds. Despite the drizzly weather, we had a wonderful and educational experience. We enjoyed learning about the Mississippian culture. Our trip to the museum, viewing of the movie with the "surprise ending," and our visit to Woodhenge were enlightening. We appreciate the many parents that attended who joined in our climb up Monk's Mound. It was well worth it, as the view of St. Louis was spectacular.

We have been very busy writing this year. We have been writing in our journals daily, and working on our hand writing. We have also learned editing skills, and are about to begin our unit on Memoirs. This unit ties in well with Grandparent's Day at Wilson which we're looking forward to in November. In addition to writing personal responses of our literature books, we have been learning to write paragraphs using a graphic organizer. Here is an example of one of the paragraphs written:

I'm Going Nuts for Snacks

I have three snacks I like to eat.

I like Oreos, and they make me crazy!

My second favorite snack is ice cream.

Don't get me started about donuts.

I can't wait to go home and have a snack!



In Math we have been studying measurement. It's been fun participating in centers like Olympic measure, metric zoo, and playing computer games where we use our measurement skills. Students measure in both standard and metric units. Did you see the trains we made out of unifix cubes? They circled our classroom. We estimated their length, and then measured their actual length. Everyone had a great time, and we learned a lot too. We continue to also work on basic computation skills, fact families, and ways to be successful when doing a word problem. Math is challenging in Second Grade.

Second Graders enjoy science. We have learned about different types of eclipses as well as what different planets are made of. We even made a model of the solar system on the upper playground.

Finally, Second Graders have enjoyed meeting and writing to our class pet named Elvis. Come by Second Grade and meet him. As you walk in the door, you can greet him. He is usually sleeping, but sometimes finds time to write letters to students. Letters can be found anywhere, and when you least expect it. Sometimes he is too tired to write, but please forgive him. After all, no one is "purr-fect."



Student Council Working Hard This Fall!

By Jeremy Pinson & Miranda Gottlieb, Sixth Graders

We would like to begin by introducing the Fall Semester Officers and Representatives to you:

Officers:

Jeremy Pinson: President
Elizabeth Young: Vice President
Jack Mulligan: Treasurer
Sam Frank: Secretary
Miranda Gottlieb: Historian

Representatives:

Andrew Huang, 1st
Isa Rosario-Blake, 1st
Jaelyn Bansch, 2nd
Joe Brady, 2nd
Lucy Bloomstran, 3rd
Ashley King, 3rd
Matthew Gelfman, 4th
Alison Gill, 4th
Aliff Rush, 5th
Perrin Salewood, 5th
Jaci Bansch, 6th
Zachary Bukhshtaber, 6th

Today marked Student Council's 17th Annual Fall Festival! We had so much fun playing our tried and true favorites: Balloon Pop, Candy Guess, Cup Dance, Stack the Cups, Bowling, and the Sock Race. We also brought back an old favorite with a new twist: Pin the Hand on the Caring Tree! All of the students received

really fun prizes for participating at each booth. We also had our 10th Annual Raffle for movie tickets, popcorn and soda. Fall Festival is always a good time for all of us!

The annual pumpkin sale was a huge success. Thank you for supporting us by buying pumpkins, gourds and baked items. The sale raised over \$400! Josephine Moten, 4th Grade, won the Perfect Pumpkin and JT Halcomb, GRADE?, won the Candy Corn Guess. JT guessed there were 467 pieces in the jar. We counted 450! Congratulations to Josephine and JT!

Thank you for donating to UNICEF. Wilson School has been participating in Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF for well over 25 years! Good job Wilson students!!

Student Council still works to support the recycling program at school. We recycle paper, cans, plastic, glass, cardboard, used cell phones and ink cartridges and prescription medicine bottles. In addition, we continue to collect Box Tops for Education. You should drop off your box tops in the little yellow school bus in the front foyer. Each box top is typically worth \$0.10 so bring a bunch! Last year we raised over \$100.00!

Student Council will keep you informed of all that is happening in the 97th year of Wilson School. Look in Friday Folder, *Wilson Word*, e-Wilson, and posters for information about upcoming events.

Science, continued from page 4

groups had almost unlimited space. Within their space each group's challenge was to put a puzzle together. The larger groups with little space found it very difficult to put the puzzle together! We learned that if you have a large population but a limited amount of space, it is hard to live, grow, and

reproduce.

Lastly, Third Graders have been thrilled to have the opportunity to come down to the science room three times a week. All the activities done within the science room are coordinated with the science curriculum in Third Grade.



The Sound of Music Fills The Air At Wilson!

By Rebecca Donaldson, Music Teacher

All students at Wilson are involved in the music program and have been very busy so far this year. Fifth and Sixth Grade students are working on a musical entitled "Legend of the Dipper." The musical features a legend on the origins of the Big Dipper constellation. The students are looking forward to presenting the musical Wednesday, November 18 at 9 a.m., and again on Thursday, November 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Fourth Grade students are continuing their recorder work and building music reading skills. They are singing ballads this year and already are familiar with the traditional ballads "Gypsy Rover," "Johnny Appleseed" and "The Fox." Fourth Grade Drum Ensemble is off to a strong start -- I am confident that an assembly performance is not far off ...

Third Grade students are beginning their recorder studies with vigor and enthusiasm. They are working on tone production and reading music while playing an instrument! Second and Third Grade students comprise the Junior Choir and really have enjoyed learning new songs thus far!

Second Grade students are reviewing xylophone techniques and learning to play simple accompaniments to some songs. We have reviewed rhythm and melodic concepts from first grade, and they are beginning to add new concepts to their music reading vocabulary.

First Grade music is full of activity! Ear training, rhythm and beat exercises, pre-reading activities, movement, and song keep the class busy each time. Recently, First Grade students were introduced to the xylophones. They are learning mallet technique and the



many possibilities for making music on these instruments. They have written their own compositions to demonstrate their newfound knowledge.

SK students have been learning many new songs and are beginning to learn simple folk dances as well. They are learning longer songs and continue to sing songs that allow for students to make up new verses!

JK is singing songs that can be personalized, as well as songs with sequences or several verses. Movement games and rhymes help keep us very busy!

The PK class is learning about speech, song and movement in a group setting. Students listen to and sing songs that talk about everyday things like sounds, toys, people, transportation, and imagination ... some of the songs are just silly.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Jeremy Pinson! He auditioned and got the role of "Little Scrooge" and "Delivery Boy" in *A Christmas Carol*. He will be performing at Shrewsbury Community Theater on December 10 -13.

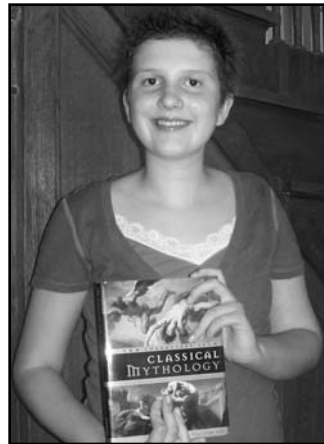


Latin, continued from page 2

Vickie had to go through yet another round of these treatments left her weakened and hospital-bound. I thought that she would forgo the exam. You can only imagine my surprise when Vickie affirmed her wish to take the exam from her hospital bed! Not only did we find out later that Vickie had passed, but she had won a Gold Medal, which only comes with a perfect 100% score! It was Vickie's third, yes, third Gold Medal in a row!

When we received the results, included was an informational brochure about the Julia K. Petrino Memorial Award, for outstanding scholars of the Classics. If ever I had seen a perfect candidate for this award, it was Vickie. After the nomination process, at the end of the school year, I left for the summer.

Upon my return, I was delighted and overjoyed to



find a letter in my mailbox, announcing Vickie's win! From an impressive group of students nominated by their teachers based upon their performance on the National Mythology Exam and other activities in the field of classics, only two students were selected nationwide!

We also had a request for an interview with the ACL newsletter, wishing to profile Vickie. Vickie received a book as her prize.

I am grateful to be the teacher of so many budding classicists, Mythology enthusiasts and history buffs. I am also very much looking forward to many more wins by our students.

And yes, Vickie is well again, enjoying Seventh Grade - and Mythology!

Congratulations, Vickie!

Seismic Science Experiments!

By Michelle Alimagno, Science Teacher

Since the start of the school year, the science room has been bursting with activity, inquiry, and most of all FUN!

The Sixth Grade completed a unit on magnetism and are currently studying electricity. Last month was spent exploring static electricity and believe me ... it was "hair-raising!" They enjoyed experimenting with different materials to see how electrons are transferred within and between objects. This month we started learning about current electricity. Each Sixth Grader successfully built both a series and a parallel circuit and came up with very creative and "electrifying" circuits!

Fifth Grade started the year out studying the interior of the Earth and plate tectonics. We are



currently learning all about earthquakes: what causes them, how do scientists study them, and what can be done to minimize the devastation of an earthquake. Recently they used coffee stirrers immersed in a pan of JELLO to simulate the movement of seismic wave vibrations.

Fourth Grade is hard at working studying the interaction of organisms within an ecosystem. They are all curious organisms and have truly found their "niche" within the classroom. Recently, the Fourth Graders used puzzle pieces to simulate how the amount of space can limit how a population is able to interact with each other and with its environment. The class was split into groups. Larger groups had very little space and smaller

Continued on page 6

Third Grade: Off To A Great Start!

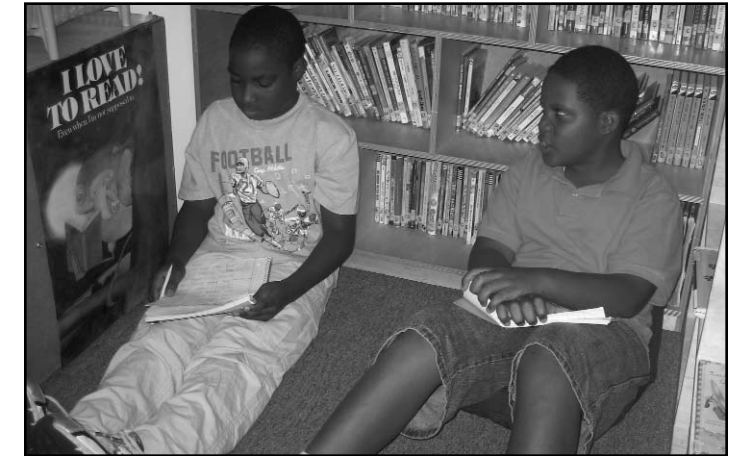
By Mara Goldschmidt & Andrea Ruth, Third Grade Teachers

During the first three months of the school year, the Third Graders have been busy reading, creating, and learning many new things! In addition to learning new concepts and acquiring new skills, the students have been working on becoming responsible learners and caring citizens.

After reading and discussing a number of short stories, the students are now reading *one of four novels: Harry Kitten and Tucker Mouse, The Whipping Boy, Stuart Little, or No Flying in the House*. Students are learning and using many new vocabulary words, writing responses to the stories, and analyzing characters, setting, mood and theme. After completing the novels, class members will work on projects such as creating a board game based on the story.

In Creative Writing, the students have written memoirs, paragraphs, stories, and poems. They have learned to weave setting and character description into their stories and have looked at many examples of poetic techniques as well. As the children edit and type their stories, poems, and paragraphs, they are displayed on the bulletin board outside of the classroom.

In Science, Third Graders have been using the inquiry method to learn about process skills and plants. They have conducted a "fair test" experiment exploring whether the age of a lima bean seed affects the rate of germination. The students learned to control the variables so that only one characteristic is changed. The class has learned about the needs of plants, adaptations, photosynthesis, and cells. In their



current Science unit, they are exploring the interactions between plants, animals, and non-living things. The class took a field trip to the Zoo to learn firsthand about animal adaptations from one of the zoologists.

The students recently completed a unit on communities in Social Studies. They looked at the components of a community as well as the similarities and differences between urban and rural areas. Students read and analyzed books about cities and towns and wrote paragraphs about where they would prefer to live. As a final project, each student interviewed a family member or friend about a community outside of Saint Louis and wrote a report to share with the class. These presentations included communities as close as Caseyville, Illinois, and as far as Germany, Switzerland and France. All of the final projects were informative as well as interesting. You can view their presentations on our classroom webpage where the children have chosen backgrounds from their community. Presently, the students are learning about reading and using maps.

In Math, the students have been introduced to algebra using the Hands On Equations system. Manipulatives are used in conjunction with written equations so the students can visualize that what is done to one side of the equation must be done to the other side in order to preserve the equality. It is amazing that third graders are able to solve problems such as: $3(2X+1)=13=X!$

The year is off to a great start and we look forward to all of the activities to come!