



THE
**DOANE
STUART
SCHOOL**

Lower School Newsletter

November 2018

Early Childhood



Sssshhhhh! Animals are hibernating or getting ready to hibernate this time of year.

Early Childhood made a cozy cave for our bears to sleep in all winter long. We also learned that tortoises, bats, hedgehogs, small rodents and frogs all hibernate as well. Some animals simply adapt to the cold weather. We found many acorns this fall, just like a squirrel, and dug a hole

to save them in, just in case we got hungry this winter and needed a little snack! Other animals migrate during this time of year. We watched many videos about birds migrating south to warmer weather, where there is also more food to find. We have even witnessed birds flying in the "V" formation, taking turns with who is in front! Fall and Winter can be a busy time of year for animals!

Kindergarten

Thanksgiving Friendship Lunch

As Native Americans and Pilgrims shared special gatherings long ago, Kindergarten and their Early Childhood friends reenacted the coming of the Pilgrims (Kindergarten) to the New World where they met some very friendly Native Americans (Early Childhood). The children sang songs and gave thanks for their friends, families and for this very important time in history. In preparation of this day, Kindergarten exercised their senses as they made pumpkin bread, applesauce, turkey soup and some very cute apple turkeys. It has been a very busy month in Kindergarten!



First Grade



First graders had their first Mystery Reader of the year.

For four days leading up to our Mystery Reader's visit, the students were given clues to try to guess who might be coming as the special guest. It turned out to be Cyrus' mom. She read the students a book about bees. They also had the privilege of meeting Cooper. Cooper is a therapy dog who lives with Cyrus and his family. The students loved listening to the book while Cooper joined them. They were all quite excited-including Cooper!

Second Grade

Second Graders Love to Read!

This month, second graders started reading in their Book Clubs. The students call this Popcorn Reading Time - make sure and ask them why. This is a chance for students to read books together in a small group based on interests. Students ask each other questions about the stories that involve thought provoking answers, not just a simple yes or no response. Second graders may sit together anywhere in the classroom that is comfortable. They choose between scoop chairs, rocking chairs, bean bags and sometimes in front of the roaring fire!



Third Grade



Third Grade has been learning about Native Americans and Early Explorers in our Social Studies lessons.

We enjoyed learning that Native Americans in New York State lived in Longhouses and found it fascinating that twenty or more families could all live together in one Iroquois longhouse. During our trip to the New York State Museum Third Grade had the opportunity to study artifacts and think about how the Native American people would have used them in their day to day life. In class we made our own dream catchers inspired by Native American culture.

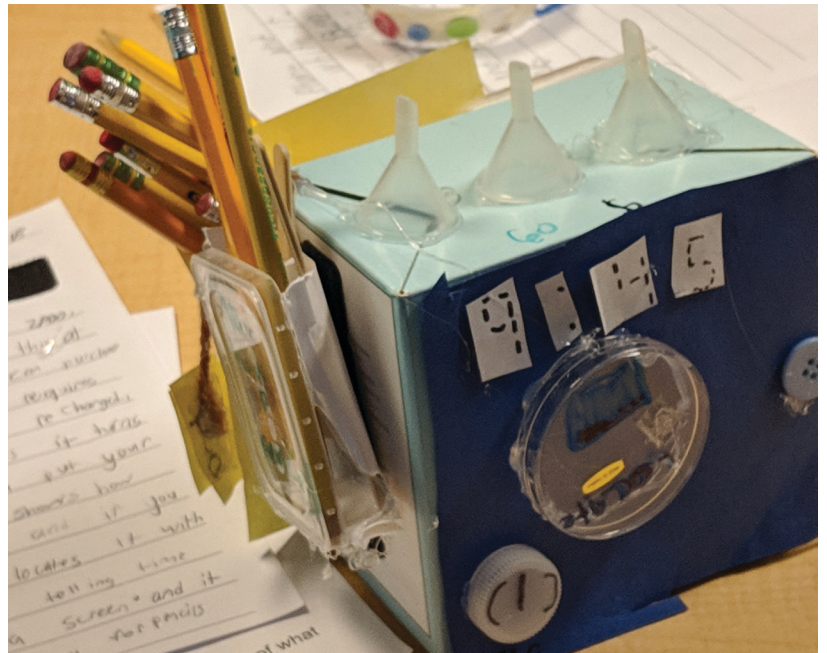
Fourth Grade + Kindergarten



One of the hallmarks of a Doane Stuart education is the deep sense of community that it fosters. We get together to share experiences across grades and across school levels to broaden our sense of understanding that we are one school, one family. This month the Doane Stuart fourth graders and kindergarteners got together as science buddies to study owls and owl pellets. We started with talking about owls, and sharing what we know about them and what we want to know. We then read a book together to learn about them, placing all of this on stickies on a giant owl mural. Then we examined the pellets that the owls themselves provide, picking them apart to examine the bones of what they have consumed. We wind up our science project with a shared owl art project and a movie about owl behavior. It's a yearly tradition that's a favorite of all!

STEAM

The third and fourth graders recently completed a “Smart Device Design Challenge” in STEAM. After researching new and exciting smart devices currently on the market, they were given the task of designing a smart device for children, to solve one of two problems: a device that reminds/helps children drink more water or a device that keeps track of lost pencils/school supplies during the day. First, they thought about how their device would work, keeping in mind that this device should not be distracting to teachers and classmates during the school day. They created a prototype using recyclables and craft supplies. Finally, they shared their products with the class by revealing its name, how it works, where to purchase, and how much it costs.



Be sure to visit doanestuart.org/galleries
for photos of many more lower school
events and projects!