



News From the Nest

Farrington Joins the Age of Technology

Throughout the year I have used this newsletter to brag about our teachers, our students, our community, and our ever-increasing good fortune through various grant programs. Well, this issue is no different. The longer I am here the more proud I become of the positive learning environment being created for our students.

Our recent additions in the area of technology have come from a few different sources. We would first like to extend a big thanks to the Church of The Harvest



in Wayne City for their recent donation of a copy machine for the front office. This allowed us to take some of the copy burden off the main machine used endlessly by the teachers.

You may remember reading about a grant we received from the IBM Corporation. Our equipment has now begun arriving and we will soon be enjoying our two laser printers, which will be networked so that any teacher throughout the building can push a button on their classroom computer and send a document to print. And speaking of classroom computers, we will also be receiving four

brand new ones any day now, also from the IBM grant.

Expect to see some big improvements in the web page, and future newsletter editions, thanks to a new scanner and digital camera provided by Title grants as part of the No Child Left Behind legislation. These items will also be utilized by teachers and students in classroom projects and presentations.

I can't wait to see what extraordinary work we will produce in the near future as we implement all this great new equipment! Stay tuned!

—Mrs. Clark

Town Meeting

On Thursday, March 17 Farrington School took its turn as host to the Jefferson County Board for one in a series of town hall type meetings being held at schools throughout the county.

A total of thirty-six community members were in at-

tendance to hear comments and ask questions of the board, primarily concerning the proposed tax options to pay for the new jail facility. Local board member Wayne Hails encouraged citizens to vote for the proposed one quarter percent increase in sales tax in order to avoid the proposed property tax

increase.

We at Farrington were proud of the good turn out, as many schools have been seeing very little attendance at these meetings. If you would like more information before casting your vote on April 5, contact any member of the Jefferson County Board



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Small School BIG SUCCESS

Farrington Classes are Going Batty

Last summer two of our teachers, Ms. Flagg and Mrs. Scarbrough, participated in a grant program through our Regional Office of Education. As part of this study group, the two chose to embark on an ambitious and educational project about bats. Not the baseball kind—the mammals.

Recently a local bat expert, and all around neat guy Bob White visited the classes and introduced us to the importance of bats to our ecological system. Mr. White gave a fun and educational presentation, which sparked our curiosity and led to our current project, building bat houses.

Don't Forget to Vote



Local elections are this Tuesday, April 5. We have four seats open on our school board, and there are also important tax issues that will affect us all. Please remember to exercise your right to vote!

Learning Curve at the Ballpark

Mr. Stone's seventh and eighth grade classes will be embarking on a unique and exciting learning opportunity this month. St. Louis Cardinals' mascot, Fredbird, is teaming up with WB11 chief meteorologist Garry Seith to deliver a unique meteorology lesson. The program will be performed inside Busch



Here are some interesting facts we learned from Mr. White, and through our other studies in this area:

- Bats are misunderstood. This fear and lack of knowledge have almost completely eliminated several bat species and threatened the existence of others.
- Bats provide countless benefits to man. They are interesting to observe, and are very helpful in controlling the insect level and promoting a healthy environment.
- As primary predators of night-flying insects, bats play a key role in the balance of nature, consuming vast quantities of insects, many of which are costly agricultural and yard pests.
- Many insects avoid areas where they hear bats.
- As pollinators of flowers and distributors of seeds, bats are an important link in ecosystems.
- A single, big brown bat can eat 3,000 to 7,000 mosquitoes each night!

Stadium on Thursday, April 21, and is designed to be an entertaining and educational experience about weather and how it affects our environment.

In addition to the presentation on the field, there will be an Educational Expo in the Courtyard featuring a variety of St. Louis area attractions and educational sponsors. After a morning of learning, students will then be treated to lunch and



Activities like our bat project are academically aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards in science, but also provide cross-curricular instruction in geography, language arts, math, and technology. As well as the academic benefits, students also practice valuable skills like working in teams, following written and oral directions, communication, and responsibility.

Many exciting things are happening inside and outside the classroom because of grant programs like this! Learning can often occur best outside the traditional classroom structure. Stay tuned for more reports as we progress through our bat house building project!



Mr. White is shown here teaching us about bats and their benefits.



a reserved seat to watch the Cardinals vs. Cubs baseball game!

Needless to say, the students and Mr. Stone are very excited to be a part of this activity. This is the second year for the program, and our first time to try it. Hopefully it will all go well and prove to be a valuable experience that we will want to turn into an annual tradition.

Kindergarten Corner



This month we will begin our study of seeds and plants. One of the homework assignments will be to collect and bring different kinds of seeds to school for a sorting activity. We will also be planting seeds and observing plant growth.

Earlier this school year the kindergarten class was able to obtain materials through the Illinois Textbook Loan Program. Thanks to this program, our class has several new math centers with lots of manipulatives.

We also received several big puzzles to reinforce math and science, a clock for practicing analog and digital time, and a set of alphabet books.

We will soon be extending an invitation to our Superintendent, Mrs. Clark, to come to our class to hear each student read either books or sight words. This has been a tradition to read for the superintendent at the end of the school year. I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of this particular class.

WEBSITES TO CHECK OUT:

www.readwritethink.org/materials/wordfamily/

www.readwritethink.org/materials/wordmaker/

www.cogcon.com/gamegoo/gooey.html

Happy spring!!

Mrs. Hales

Butterflies



The first and second grade classroom will be receiving a very exciting package soon that will open a whole new world of discovery and learning. Five "painted lady" caterpillars are due to arrive within the next two weeks, and the students will be observing and caring for them, hoping to see the fascinating change from caterpillar into butterfly. Stay tuned for news from this exciting project!

Spring Has Sprung!

Speaking of exciting projects, last fall we received a box of tulip bulbs and other plants from a previous grant submission. Select students earned the right to work together with Mrs. Hales to plant the bulbs in our landscaped flower beds along the front of the school building. All through the winter we eagerly awaited the

arrival of spring and the anticipated appearance of the flowers.

I am now happy to report that, upon returning from spring break, we have little green shoots working their way up through the soil. It is only a matter of time now until we can enjoy the beautiful fruits of our labor. We hope you will appreciate the tulips as well, each time you pass by the school.

Living History Museum

In case you missed it in our gym, or in the newspaper, some of our students gained great recognition portraying famous Americans in our recent American History Living Museum.

Again grades 3-6 teamed up for an impressive project whereby each student chose a famous person from American history to study and re-

search. After learning about their historical figure, the students then created individual displays, complete with costumes and props, and showcased their knowledge for the rest of the school, the parents, and a local reporter.

Our gym was filled with a maze of



historical characters, and "museum visitors" got to walk from station to station as each character made a brief speech outlining their important contributions to our nation's history. Congratulations to Ms. Flagg, Mrs. Scarbrough, and all the students who participated on a job well done!

Focus on FACULTY



Whether you know her as "Andi," "Ms. Mac," or just "the art teacher," there is no doubt that the presence of Ms. Andrea McMahan will be greatly missed next year. While we hate to see her go, a certain young man in Indiana is thrilled that we're losing her, as she is about to become Mrs. John Snyder.

While at Farrington, Ms. Mac has taught everything from special education to physical education, from visual art to language arts, and most everything in between. We all agree that she is the ultimate in professionalism, talent, and dedication. While we will miss her classroom expertise, we will also truly miss her friendship. Best wishes to Mr. and the future Mrs. Snyder



Ms. Mac is shown here helping students with an art project after a lesson on African tribal masks.

Important Dates

April 5	Local Elections	VOTE!
April 7	Sports Banquet	6:00
April 8	2:00 Dismissal	
April 11	School Board Meeting	7:00
April 14	Kindergarten Registration	
April 15	Tax Day	
April 18-22	"Terra Nova" Testing	
April 21	7th & 8th Field Trip	
April 28	3rd-6th Field Trip	

Don't forget to keep sending your spare change for Penny March each Friday! Thanks!



Fun Things to Celebrate This Month

- National Garden Month
- National Frog Month
- National Humor Month
- National Poetry Month
- National Mathematics Education Month
- Stress Awareness Month
- April 1 April Fools' Day
- April 3-9 Week of the Young Child
- April 13 Thomas Jefferson's Birthday
- April 15 Leonardo Da Vinci's Birthday
- April 22 Earth Day
- April 26 Hug a Friend Day
- April 27 Secretaries' Day & Tell a Story Day
- April 29 Arbor Day