March 23, 2010 Issue 23

Palouse Prairie School
of expeditionary learning

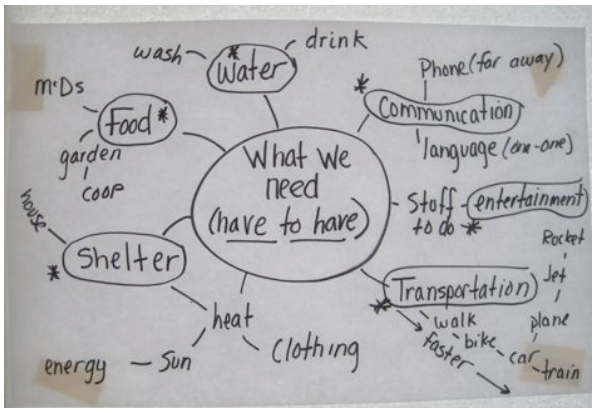
Tuesday Times

Our Weekly Newsletter

2-3 Crew News
~Jessie Dahlin

Publication Party - Big Hit!
I would like to thank everyone who participated in our recent publication party. I am so proud of the 2-3 crew for the work they did and how they presented their work. Thank you friends, family and community members for showing your support by attending the celebration. A special thanks to Mayor Nancy Chaney for attending. It was a big hit!

Expedition Launched - Did You Mention Invention?



We have launched our first expedition and are being guided by the question, *How can invention affect our everyday lives?* What do we need to know to answer this question? Well, we decided we need to know what inventions have been invented, what everyday day life looks like, what we need, how inventions have met those needs, and how inventions have changed our lives.
Our first learning target is: *I can describe how inventions over time met (or did not meet) our needs.*
We started by identified what our basic needs are and we have researched a lot of different inventions. Now we are wondering, did these inventions meet a need? We hope to find that answer by conducting interviews and undergoing a case study on the bicycle. We are on our way to meeting our learning target and answering our guiding question.

Learning About Art by Learning About Artists.
Thanks to visiting U of I students, we have had opportunities to learn how influential artists have changed how we see and identify art. We have studied Michelangelo's figurative works and Jackson Pollock's action painting. We got to practice these artist's techniques and see how art has changed because of these artist's work.

Ramping Up for Student Led Conferences!
It's almost that time again where we get to share our portfolios with our families. WE ARE READY! These conferences are sure to demonstrate our practice of the design principles responsibility of learning and solitude and reflection. See you all then.

Even the Dinosaurs Are Jealous: A Look Into the Nature Explorers

~Ian Schrom, PCEI AmeriCorps member

"Beavers Unite – Chomp Chomp Chomp!" is the rallying cry of the Nature Explorers. What exactly is a Nature Explorer, you may ask? He or she is a member of an elite group of students who, along with instructors from the Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute (PCEI), venture out into the amazingly unique world that encompasses nature. From the towering cedars of Idlers Rest to the wide open fields of Phillips Farm and even the meandering trails of the Headwaters, Nature Explorers go everywhere.

This is much more than an after school activity. It is a place where nature becomes the classroom. It is a place where learning is fun. Each week we go to locations that are unique and allow our students to learn first hand. Not only are the students learning, but they also teach the adults a thing or two sometimes!

From understanding how plants help keep soil in place to learning about bird nests and beaver dams, Nature Explorers do it all. Just last week our intrepid explorers ventured out to the Charles Conner Vertebrate Museum on the WSU campus in an effort to learn about mammals and vertebrates. While each exhibit was fascinating in its own right, the true show stealer of the day was the dinosaur skeleton stuck on one of the walls in the museum.

The best thing about nature Explorers has to be the fact that we have fun! Hands-on crafts and activities, games and field trips, plus scientific observation and study makes Nture Explorers completely different than anything you may have seen before.

Nature Explorers meet after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays with pick-up at the PCEI campus between 5:00 and 5:30. The cost is $10 per day and includes snack. Contact Jenica at jenica@pcei.org or 882-1444 if you would like more information. We welcome all explorers!

Design Principles & Spotlights

The Having of Wonderful Ideas | Responsibility for Learning | Diversity & Inclusion | Success & Failure | The Primacy of Self-Discovery

Service & Compassion | Empathy & Caring | Solitude & Reflection | Collaboration & Competition | The Natural World

This week's spotlights are on:

Jared Grieb & Karina Kramer for helping Ms. Kramer test the new Alpha Smart keyboards; the entire PPSEL Crew (both students & parents) for contributing toward the school earning over $1500 at our rummage sale; Jonna Sobeloff-Gittes, Lena LaPaglia, Karina Kramer, and Gabe Couch for cleaning up the café, kitchen, and community area after school after their crew's writing celebration; Milo Flint for opening doors at the IPH for the 4/5 crew (sent in by Emma).	Service & Compassion	We are crew, not passengers, and are strengthened by acts of consequential service to others. We are continually asking the question, "How can I make a difference?"
Shafer Dicus for working quietly during work time (sent in by Julia); Madeline Schab for working hard during work time (sent in by Julia)	Responsibility for Learning	Each of us learns within and for ourselves and as a part of a group in a specific process of discovery.
Benji Sobeloff-Gittes for helping people at Choice Time (sent in by Isabella); Ben Veith for working hard at being a good friend and showing others what being a good friend means; Gaby Gomez & Jared Grieb for being willing to share emotional lows during the 4/5 Morning Meeting and trusting their Crew to be caring and understanding.	Empathy & Caring	We take of all those in our community and learn best when there is trust, sustained caring, and mutual respect

PPSEL Community Time

The Parent Problem solvers will meet this Thursday March 25th from 3:15 to 4:15 in the school cafe area. We will continue our discussion and planning of the up coming Community-led learning afternoons as well as ways to meet the teachers' art and PE needs. Everyone is welcome--every one's ideas and input is valuable. If you have questions pleas feel free to contact Amy Ball at 882-1614 or aeball@att.net.

For community time, we are looking for parents or community members to plan and facilitate enrichment activities for our students. The spring 2010 Community Time will take place between the hours of 12 pm and 3 pm on four consecutive Wednesdays - April 28th, May 5th, May 12th and May 19th. You will be able to share your lesson with two small groups of students each afternoon in 65 minute time blocks. Think about whether your lesson best suits students in the lower or upper grades as you start your planning. Community Time instructors are a vital part of helping our students to cultivate new interests and make community connections. If your proposal meets our current needs we will provide a training session to orient you to our school and classroom expectations. Applications are due no later than April 5th for consideration this spring and are attached with this newsletter. We are really excited about this opportunity for both our students and for our parents/community members who have been wanting to be more involved with the school.

If you have any questions during the application process please contact Amy Ball at aeball@att.net or Rebekka Boysen-Taylor at rmboysen@hotmail.com.

Green Fair

KLEW-TV and SEL Event Center are hosting the 2nd Annual Inland Northwest Green Fair. The fair is designed to promote Green products, services, and organizations within the Inland Northwest. This unique experience will help participants of all ages to understand their interactions with technology and the world. Not only will they get to explore venders of local green businesses, but they will get to engage interactively with the Palouse Discovery Science Center and the Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute in a fun and educational way. And, as an added bonus KLEW-TV will be handing our sapling trees for you to grow in your own backyard.

The event is this Friday and Saturday, March 26 & 27 from 10am to 8pm (Friday) and 10am to 4pm (Saturday) at the SEL Event Center in Pullman. I look forward to seeing you there.

Reminders

Our K, 1, and 4/5 classes will be doing service learning on Wednesday, March 31 with PCEI. They will be planting native plants and beautifying the area along Paradise Creek and Berman Park. Parent Volunteers are needed to help walk and work with children. Contact the K, 1, or 4/5 teachers if you'd like to help. They will be leaving the school around 9:30 and returning by 11:15.

Dates to Remember

- **Student Led Conferences – April 1**

Community Circle – Each Friday from 11:00-11:20. Come sing and celebrate with us! We would love to have musicians and singers to join us to teach the students new songs. If you are such a person or know of musicians, please send them our way.

Reminders

Student-Led Conferences and the Book Fair are upon us. Teachers will be sending home information so that you can sign up for a time next Thursday, April 1 (no April Fools). To accommodate work schedules, we will have Conference time slots during the day on Thursday as well as the evening. The spring Book Fair will be next week from March 31 – April 2. Look for information about the spring book fair to come home with your child this week. The book fair will be held on Wed. March 31st from 9am to 3pm, and on Thurs. April 1st from 8am to 8pm. All of the money that we earn at the book fair will be matched up to 60% by Scholastic in the form of books for our classrooms.

We are still looking for volunteers to help run the book fair Wed and Thurs, to set up on Tues. night, and to clean up on Fri. Morning. If you are able to help out please contact Amy Ball at 882-1614 or aeball@att.net. Volunteering at the book fair is easy and is a lot of fun.

South Fence Update. A super huge thank you to Omar Mourad and Rebecca and Gene Bishop for donating money towards our fence project. With their donations we will be able to finish the back playground as well as put money towards to completion of our indoor play area. Thank you so much!!

Recorders Needed The 4/5 CREW will be studying music during the months of March and April. Christopher LaPaglia will be helping them put together a self-made song from scratch, and, along the way, teaching them to read and write music. We will need recorders for all of the students to play, at a cost of approximately $85. HOWEVER, several parents have already said that they have extra/old/unused recorders sitting around the house, which they would be willing to donate. Rather than making the students each buy one, or coming up with school funds from somewhere, we hope that we can pull together 16 or so used but usable recorders from donations. We will disinfect them and put them to good use this year and in the future. If you have an old recorder clogging up a shelf somewhere, please bring it to school for a new lease on life! Be sure to come in towards the end of the school year to hear the music the students will make (dates and times to be announced)!