



**IBFT After Prom Preview:**  
Next week our edition will be dedicated to Operation: After Prom 2015.



## Gold Rush

In Mr. Armstrong's Seventh Grade Social Studies class students investigated the Gold Rush. Students explored PBS's website dedicated to the topic and read quotes and descriptions of various aspects of the Gold Rush story, but in particular, they read about how it affected Native Americans living in the area.

"Many students were shocked by the treatment the Native Americans and other groups experienced during this exciting time in American history," Mr

Armstrong states.

"After doing some reading, students even got to find out if they could 'Strike it Rich' by playing a game on the website, which gave them a variety of options to choose from, as far as who they were, what supplies they bought, if they mined, opened a store, etc. By the end, students realized that it was much harder than predicted to strike it rich after all," explained Mr. Armstrong.

—Jaimie Randle



## A Zoo of Fun!

The Second Graders have been researching the anthropologist, Jane Goodall. Jane has a deep love and dedication to chimpanzees and has written many works about her favorite creatures. Students then wrote paragraphs about things they learned after researching Goodall's life and created an illustration to go along with their paragraphs.

Students have also been reading paired texts, which are a selection of fiction and nonfiction that have to do with the same subject. They read a fictional tale called "The Playful Giants," and then followed it up with a nonfiction story called "The Mighty Elephant," with both stories focusing on elephants. Students then

compared and contrasted the stories.

Finally, the students created posters that told of a circus that was coming to town. The posters were to highlight the elephants in the poster and make clear the who, what, where, when, and how of the circus.

Mrs. Sager states, "The posters turned out wonderfully. I am very proud of my creative and artistic class."

—Emma Overton

## Soft-Toss Softball

This week the high school P.E. classes are currently playing soft-toss softball. This unit is usually more laid back compared to the other units in P.E. At the beginning of the hour, the teachers choose teams and then the rest of the hour is spent playing ball.

Soft-toss is similar to softball except there are a few dif-

ferent rules to be followed.

First, the pitcher must throw the ball underhanded at a much slower speed. Each batter starts out with a one-one count, which means they walk up to the plate with one strike and one ball before the first pitch is thrown. There is no stealing in soft-toss and in order to get a home-run, the

batter must hit the ball all the way to the far back wall, in fair territory. Soft-toss is a well-liked game by most students because it is very laid back and easy to play.

—Alexa Hoadley



## Now Presenting

Last week, Mrs. Halverson's Seventh Grade English class worked on presentations on a chosen topic.

Students shared the information of the topic with the class. Students learned presentation skills by previewing examples and analyzing many different correct and incorrect ways to present their topic.

Mrs. Halverson says, "Students are usually pretty nervous when giving presentations, but I think it will help them learn a lot about the skills needed to create a good presentation."

—Laenie Swardenski

## Polymers

One material has caused a great change in the way our society functions: plastic. Last week the students in Mr. Hagaman's Eighth Grade Science class learned the methods scientists use to manipulate chemicals to create products, namely plastic.

Throughout the week, students conducted a number of labs examining the makeup of pesos, paintballs, silly putty, and other polymers and eventually created advertisements for a polymer toy of their own formulation.

These advertisements were meant to convince Mr. Hagaman of the product's necessity and to persuade him to "buy" the product. It was a great opportunity for students to combine writing skills and Chemistry for application in a real-life situation.

By the end of the week students were able to see the world in a new way: through the eyes of a scientist seeing not just the surface value but its composition. And that's what school's all about after all. Seeing old things in new ways.

—Jett Rademaker



## Earth Day

The Illini Bluffs' PTO provided several Earth Day activities that the elementary school students participated in. Along with this, students learned about the history of Earth Day and wrote down ideas on how to save the planet or how to make it a better place to live.

Of course you cannot celebrate Earth Day without the acknowledgement of plants and flowers so those were made into an English assignment. Each student was given a flower (made of paper) and was told to write down adjectives that described them best. Activities like these continued throughout the week and were very enjoyable to the third grade.

Earth Day is a great day for our planet but it is even better when the students are enjoying it too.

—Julie Hemp



## A Monu-Meow-ntal Assignment

The past couple of weeks in Ms. Meyer's Physiology II class, the students concluded their two year curriculum of anatomy and physiology by dissecting cats. Each student had a partner, and each pair of students picked and named their cat.

The weeks prior to the dissection, the students reviewed all of the material they had learned over the course of the past two years and were tested on it.

To commence the dissection, the students skinned the fur off of the cat to make it easier to get into the internal structures. The first organs they dissected were the heart and lungs. Once they removed the organs from the cat, they attempted to locate struc-

tures within the organs themselves.

The next portion that they dissected was the head. They had to get inside of the skull to the brain. Once they removed the brain, they examined the different parts.

On the final days of the dissection, they worked with the structures within the abdominal cavity. They removed the structure known as mesentery from the small intestine, which allowed the intestine to be stretched out to its maximum length.

The cat dissection is one of the students' favorite assignments because it reviews a whole two years of curriculum with a very



hands on approach. Students may struggle to see what structures are really like from simply reading text and even just looking at pictures. Actually seeing the parts in an organism really helps to bring together all of the structures as a whole.

—Lucas Sondgeroth

## Twisters: Into the Storm

There's a twister coming, but these kids aren't taking cover!

The I.B.E.S Fifth Grade classes are currently digging into the the novel *Night of the Twisters*, a tense story that focuses on a boy and his little brother getting caught in a tornado during what seemed like a normal day of school.

The students were put into groups of five that were chosen at random from all three clas-

ses. Mrs. White hoped that it would, "encourage engagement in the activities."

Once they were placed in their groups, each student was assigned a job that would then be finished upon completion of the novel.

The classes then watched a non-fiction film over tornados and wrote an essay about said video.

Along with this project, the students are focusing on a unit

that consists of vocabulary, art, discussion questions, presenting, summary, plot, characters, imagery, metaphors, and other areas of literature.

As tornado season quickly approaches, the I.B.E.S. students will be prepared and equipped with the knowledge they obtained during this lesson.

—Veronica Lee