

The Weekly Explorer

September 8, 2015

What a productive short week we had, last week! Not only is the garden coming together, but we also launched an exciting, new challenge for our readers, learned new content in mathematics, and explored science topics around nutrition.

This is a big week, too. We'll be launching the Walking Classroom, participating in Picture Day, and beginning our first Explorations.

*Warmly,
The Leannah and Amonja Tribes*

Core Value of the Week: Innovation

This week, as we try new things such as Explorations, The 40 Book Challenge, and The Walking Classroom, we will focus on innovation.

"Be open to new thoughts, to new people, to new principles, to new ideas, to new experiences. "New" makes us grow." ~ Rossana Condoleo

Curriculum Night, Thursday September 17th

We are pleased to invite you to Curriculum Night next Thursday, September 17th from 5:30-7:15. This event is a Parent Orientation. We will share information about instruction, routines, homework, expectations, trips, opportunities and more. This evening is for adults only.

The format is a 45 minute presentation and a 15 minute Open House. We will do the presentation twice, so you won't need to stay for the full event. The schedule is as follows:

5:30-6:15 Presentations in classrooms

6:15-6:30 Open House, transition to other rooms

6:30-7:15 Repeat presentations in classrooms

The purpose of this format is to allow the families with students in more than one grade span to attend sessions in each classroom. You only need to attend **one** of the 4/5 presentations.

Picture Day This Week

Our fall picture day is this Thursday, September 10. If you would like to order pictures, please **return the form with payment** sent home previously.

Friday Target Time and Nature Journaling

If your child is a 5th grade student, they will have a one-hour class on Fridays called Target Time. This class will target grade level content for science in the form of lessons and labs.

If your child is in 4th grade, they will have a one-hour weekly Nature Journaling class. **Your 4th grade child needs to have at school by Friday:**

1 towel stored inside a tote bag (labels with name) which will be kept on their hook in the hallway. Tote bags will remain at school unless it needs washing. The towels will be used for sitting upon as we are outside.

Homework for this week:

- READ at least 90 minutes per week
- 4th Grade: By Friday, bring a towel & a tote bag to be kept at school. Both should be labeled. Towels will be used to sit on outside.

- 5th grade math: Complete the TTM scavenger hunt and any other task from the list.
- **Friday: Get Responsibility Log signed**
- **Return school picture order forms!**

Don't forget:

Exploris is still collecting \$15 donations to help us cover the costs for consumable workbooks and specialty art supplies. Thank you!

Important Dates:

School photos - Thursday, September 10th
Explorations begin - Friday, September 11th
Curriculum Night - Thursday, September 17th, 5:30-7:15

Explorations

Explorations will begin this Friday, September 11th from 9-11am for all K-5! Rosters were sent out on Monday via email. The student excitement is palpable for Explorations to begin again.

Andrea and Eugene are still in need of volunteers to help facilitate these amazing learning experiences for our students. If you can assist please sign up using the Google Doc linked here: [Volunteer Sign Up](#)

Team Website

We did a lot of updating over the weekend! We're working hard to incorporate helpful, up-to-date resources on our team website. Thank you for your patience as we get it up and running.

www.learning180.com

News from the Garden:

It's amazing what 88 fourth and fifth graders can accomplish together! The garden is almost ready for planting. Soon we will also add a Citizen Science project or two to our gardening experience.

Crews are out in the garden Monday-Thursday from 12:30-1:00.

Monday - Leah's crew
Tuesday - Annah's crew
Wednesday - Sonja's crew
Thursday - Amanda's crew

On garden days, please send your child to school in closed toed shoes! Long pants, hats, sunscreen, etc. are optional.



Requested garden donations:

Pitchforks, shovels, medium sized (1-2 gallon) buckets for hauling water.

Want to volunteer?

We would love to have you join us! Please contact your child's crew teacher to arrange details.

Parent Conferences

It's nearly time for the first round of conferences. Conferences will begin after Curriculum Night. Be on the lookout for a Sign Up Genius email from your student's crew teacher.

Recess during rain? YES!

Please make sure your child has a poncho or raincoat in his/her backpack each day.

Also, please make sure that each day your child wears shoes conducive to running around and playing outdoors.

Emails/Contact Info: If you have a question or concern about your child please feel free to reach out to anyone on the 4/5 team. When you email your child's crew teacher feel free to cc: all of the 4/5 teachers since we share responsibilities as a team.

Sonja McKay- smckay@exploris.org
Amanda Northrup- anorthrup@exploris.org
Annah Riedel- ariedel@exploris.org
Leah Ruto- lruto@exploris.org
Koren Morgan- kmorgan@exploris.org

**Community Happenings**

Upcoming community events related to our expedition. These experiences are completely optional, but if you take the opportunity to extend learning please share your experiences with us :)

At the NC Museum of History

The Birds and the Bees: Saturday, September 19, 1-4 p.m.

Native peoples planted sunflowers. Colonial gardeners built hives. Today's farmers rent bees. Visit us during BugFest to find out why attracting pollinators is so important and how to welcome them to your neck of the woods!

Saturdays in the Garden: Saturday, September 26, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Meet museum garden staff for an informal tour of the *History of the Harvest*

exhibit along Bicentennial Plaza. Tours begin at the information desk in the lobby.

Second-Season Gardens: Saturday, October 10, 1-4 p.m.

Fall is here, and season gardening has begun! Find out how people extended the growing season in the past, and learn to plant a fall garden full of veggies for the cold months ahead.

Kraut and Leather Breeches: Saturday, November 7, 1-4 p.m.

Fermentation is a hot topic with foodies today. Learn this age-old technique and other ways people preserved and put up food for the winter.

Bugfest

September 19th from 9-7pm at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences!

www.bugfest.org

International Festival

October 9-11 at the Raleigh Convention Center

<http://www.internationalfocusnc.org/festival>

"We at International Focus support the international community and local businesses by making connections, celebrating differences, and encouraging cultural understanding. Our commitment and dedication is manifested with our preparation for the 30th international festival this October 9th, 10th and 11th.

Our celebration is made possible by our ethnic groups who have supported our festival for many years by volunteering many hours to represent their country and ethnic group with pride. Their dances, landmarks, food, customs, history, music, but most importantly their pride never ceases to impress us. We are proud of the many countries we bring together under one roof in our beloved city, Raleigh."