

The Weekly Explorer

September 14, 2015

This week our students will begin the Case Study 1 project in expeditions, participate in week two of Explorations, continue working in our food garden, and take our first on campus walk with The Walking Classroom. They will also begin conferences for their 40 Book Challenge! We look forward to another great week of learning and building relationships!

*Warmly,
The Leannah and Amonja Tribes*

Core Value of the Week: Craftsmanship

As we begin more projects this core value becomes increasingly valuable. We want our students to have grit and develop a growth mindset- always seeking to make their work better.

"Great works are performed not by strength but by perseverance."
Samuel Johnson

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.

School Picnic at Pullen Park- Sunday, September 27th (4:00-7:00)

Let's kick off the school year, meet new families, and catch up with friends! Mark your calendars and plan on coming!

At 4:00 there will be a get to know you activity for new families (or returning ones who'd like to join in!)

Here's a list of things you should bring:

- Blanket/chairs to sit on.
- Picnic for your family
- Outdoor toys, games, balls, etc.
- A dessert to share (take the container with you when you go!)

Elementary Ambassadors

Thanks to Karen Rectanus and Laura Laut's collaboration with 4/5 Teacher, Annah Riedel, we will begin our elementary ambassadors program this year! These students will greet visitors and lead school tours at the elementary school level. Applications will go home this week and need to be turned into crew teachers by **Tuesday, September, 22nd** and recommendations from teachers due by **Friday, September 25th**. Email ariedel@exploris.org with questions or talk to your student about this incredible leadership opportunity!

Walking Field Trip to NC Museum of History

To build a strong foundation and understanding of Native American farming practices the 4/5 Team we will take a walk through the History of Harvest, an outdoor agricultural exhibit at the museum of history and visit The Story of North Carolina focusing specifically on agriculture and farming practices.

On September 23rd the Leannah Tribe will visit the museum and the Amonja Tribe will visit the following day, on September 24th. While at the museum students and chaperones will complete a scavenger hunt targeted around concepts we will study in Case Study 2. We need volunteers to walk with groups from Exploris to the Museum and back!

Please email your child's crew teacher if you are interested in walking with us!

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.

Annah's Crew Only- [Link Sign-Up Genius](#)

Sonja's Crew Only- [Link Sign-Up Genius](#)

Leah's Crew Only- [Link Sign-Up genius](#)

Homework for this week:

- READ at least 90 minutes per week
- 5th grade math: At least 90 minutes of TTM. Show work in your TTM journal.
- 4th graders: Bring a tote bag and towel

- **Friday: Get Responsibility Log signed**

Important Dates:

Curriculum Night - Thursday, September 17th, 5:30-7:15

Walking Field Trip to NC History Museum - 8:45-11:30

Wednesday, September 23rd: Leannah's Tribe

Thursday, September 24th: Amonja's Tribe

Picnic at Pullen Park- Sunday, September 27th, 4:00-7:00

Fall Adult Social at CAM- Wednesday, October 14th, 5:30-8:30

Explorations

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

www.learning180.com

The Walking Classroom

Thanks to a grant received last year, all 4/5 students will participate in The Walking Classroom. Beginning this week, students will walk once per week and should be dressed for the weather. Excellent walking shoes are necessary.

To learn more check out [The Walking Classroom's website](#) to learn more.

Monday - Sonja's crew

Tuesday - Annah's crew

Wednesday - Amanda's crew

Thursday - Leah's crew

The 4/5 team will be logging miles and are part of the [Billion Mile Race](#). Also, teachers may share our walks through social media using #TWCstrides or @walkingclassroom.

Think Through Math & NEW Parent Portal

All fifth graders have Think Through Math (TTM) accounts up and running. Homework this past week was to log in from home and complete the scavenger hunt. Beginning this week, homework includes 90+ minutes of TTM per week. This is equivalent of 2-3 lessons per week.

Tips & Expectations include:

- **Show work!** Students must show work for all pre- and post-quizzes in his/her TTM Journal. Pre/post quizzes determine a child's pathway through TTM and it is important that high quality work is completed. Also, TTM Journals will be collected every two weeks.
- **Feeling Stuck?** Students should use the HELP BUTTON during Guided Learning and Practice. Online help includes interactive visuals AND chatting with a live teacher! Take advantage of the support and built in tools!
- **Want to track your child's progress?**
 - **Step 1:** Go to <https://ms.thinkthroughmath.com/customers/1213/registrations/new>
 - **Step 2:** Parents submit email address to set up an account
 - **Step 3:** Use the link sent via email to create a password
 - **Step 4:** Log in. Add your son/daughter by entering your child's login credentials (child's username and password)

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.

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."