

The Trailblazer Times

Volume 10

December 2008

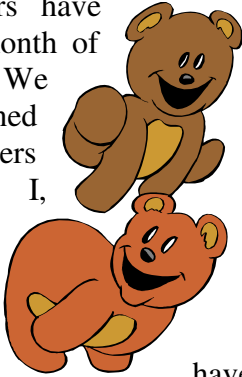
Issue 4

Preschool News

K-3

**Ms. Sue
Ms. Cindy**

The 3K Bears have had a busy month of November! We have learned about the letters G, H, and I, numbers 7, 8, and 9, the color green, and triangle shape. We



have been reading *The Little Red Hen* and learning important lessons about being a helper. The month ended with baking a loaf of homemade bread. Of course, every child helped to mix and knead the bread, so everyone got to help eat the bread!

We also got to go on a dinosaur bone dig and take the bones home after we had sorted and counted them. Matthew Lyda told us in class that the bones looked more like tarantula bones than dinosaur bones, though. ☺ We also learned about scarecrows and made a class book about what scarecrows see in the fall.

Our class is looking forward to the excitement of December. We will talk about the snow and snowmen, angels, and the story of Christmas giving.

The bears, Cindy, and I wish you and your families a very Happy Thanksgiving!

K-3/K-4

**Ms. Brenda
Ms. Elizabeth**

Christmas is almost here and this month we are learning about

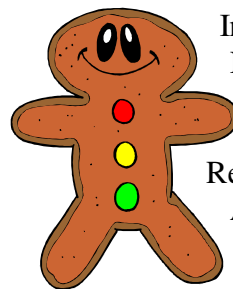
holiday traditions, Christmas around the world, and Christmas time. Our letters for the month will be T, I, V, and C. We will also be learning about the numbers 5, 6, and 7. We are practicing for our Christmas program which will be December 18th at 7:00 p.m. On December 3rd, we will be going to Barnes & Noble Bookstore to purchase books as a fundraiser for Hope Academy. The Busy Bees wish everyone A very Merry Christmas and a happy & healthy New Year.

Happy Birthday:

Sona Patel – December 16th

K-4

**Ms. Karen
Ms. Lani**



In the month of November we have worked with the Read It Once Again book The Gingerbread Man. We have painted the gingerbread man, the bear, and the wolf. We have worked with manipulatives and worksheets about the book. We also started learning about our five senses. We learned about hearing by playing audio bingo and smell by trying to guess the smell of scented markers and things from the kitchen, and we started the month talking about pumpkins: what's inside the pumpkin, and how the pumpkin grows, etc. We enjoyed a trip to the Peace Center to hear Imani Winds.

Our letters for the month were W, X, Y, and Z. We painted with wheels for W, made X-ray pictures for X, made a yellow yak for Y, and a zebra for Z. This next month we will do the letters C, O, Q, and G.

We have celebrated three birthdays this month: Simon, Anna, and Charlie.

We have enjoyed learning about Thanksgiving, making pilgrim hats, and Indian headbands, playing in corn meal, making butter, making a Mayflower and turkey, and we also made an apple turkey.

Next month we will celebrate Christmas, continue to read The Gingerbread Man, and learn about our five senses.



Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and will have a great Christmas season.

K-4

**Ms. Kay
Ms. Bernadette**

We have been discussing Thanksgiving, Pilgrims, and Indians. We talked about the trip on the Mayflower and the help the Indians gave the Pilgrims. One of our books told about the food and

celebration at the early Thanksgivings. The students are enjoyed our "Thanksgiving Feast" when all the Hope students and faculty had lunch together. If Thanksgiving is here, can Christmas be far behind? We have begun reading The Gingerbread Man. We have several fun activities to go with this story. Cady's mom is planning to bring gingerbread men for us to decorate and eat. Yummy! We will continue to work on this book into December. During December, we will look at different ways Christmas and the holidays are celebrated in other places. Preparing for the Christmas program will also be a priority. I'd like to thank all of the parents who came in for conferences. Good communication is essential for our children to do their best. I'd also like to thank the parents who drove and chaperoned on our trip to the Peace Center.



We would not be able to take these trips without your help.

Members of Team Hope again provided a delicious meal for the teachers. We feel really special and appreciated when you do things like this for us. Thanks a bunch!

The Starfish wish everyone a safe and joyous holiday season.

Academy News

Academy 1 Ms. Christine Ms. Kim

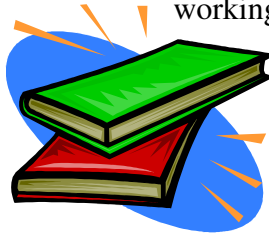
Language Arts/Phonics:

This month we have begun working with vowels, specifically identifying short and long vowel sounds. Each week we are making a book pertaining to a vowel and either its short or long sound. The children grasp this concept well and really enjoy making the books. We are continuing to work in our letter binders and have begun working in our sight word binders.

Math: We have begun using the Touch Math system for addition. This is a great system to help the children progress forward from the use of manipulatives. The children are doing a great job learning the names and values of coins, as well as trying to create different amounts with the fewest coins possible. They also really enjoy working on telling time. They have become quite proficient with telling time to the hour and will no doubt be telling time to the half hour very soon.

Social Studies: We recently learned about voting, and to help us understand the process better we held a vote for which post-circle time game we would play. The "Who stole the Cookie from the Cookie Jar" won by a considerable margin. All of our little voters enjoyed taking part in the democratic process!

Science: We have been studying the five senses. Each week we focus on one specific sense and have an activity using that sense.



Thus far we have covered hearing, touch and taste. In the next couple of weeks we will finish the unit with activities using sight and smell.

Art: This past month we have truly enjoyed creating autumn-themed art projects. Many more beautiful creations will be made in December to commemorate the holiday season.

Ms. Kim and I would like to thank all of the parents who have volunteered both in our classroom and on our field trips. We are blessed not only with a great class of children but also with wonderfully supportive parents as well. We wish all of you a happy, safe, and restful holiday break!

Academy 2 Ms. Constance Ms. Julie

Ms. Julie and I hope everyone enjoyed a relaxing Turkey Day! Now it's time to get a little more work accomplished before the next holiday break. Academy 2 is still studying the solar system and our students' families attended a



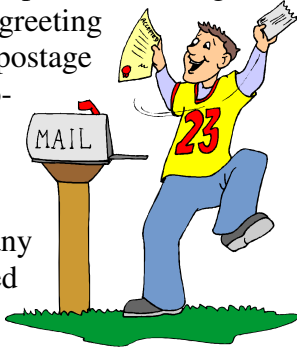
wonderful stargazers' party hosted by Aprel and Gary

Thompson. AnneMarie DiMaggio

was kind to allow our party to be held at her house. Thanks, to our hosts and to the parents for taking time out of their evening. Events like the stargazer party truly enrich our children's learning experience. Along with our theme study of the solar system, we have been conducting simple science experiments and creating interesting artwork. We have already learned about the Earth's layers, moon craters and

built our own alien spacecraft. If anyone would like to assist with future experiments or art projects, please let us know!

Other happenings in the classroom include new reading comprehension labs and the grocery store/post office center. Donated items for this center are always welcome. We could use envelopes, special writing paper, greeting cards, used postage stamps, eco-friendly cloth shopping bags, and any empty boxed grocery items.



In the area of language arts and math, we will continue to develop our skills for the second quarter objectives such as nouns, verbs, digraphs, blends, 2-digit addition, graphing, and concepts of time.

**Academy 3 Ms. Marydell
Ms. Marianne**

Thanksgiving is a wonderful time of year to be thankful for many things in our lives. Mrs. Marianne and I are most thankful for the sixteen amazing children in our Academy 3 classroom family. We hope you enjoy a sampling of our thankful acrostic poems.

“Thankful” by **Joseph Biediger**
Thanksgiving Day is coming
Hugs and kisses
All Families get together
Nobody is left out
Kindness and caring people all
around
Full of surprises
Unless the turkey is all gone

Loving and smiling faces all
around.

“Thankful” by **Cole Jones**
Thanksgiving Day
Holiday
Altogether to celebrate
No school
Kinds of food
Food to eat
Unforgettable
Let us give thanks.

“Thankful”
by **Catherine Cassidy**
Turkey
Hugs
A happy family
November
Kindness
Feast
Understanding people
Loving and caring for each.

“Thankful” by **Chase Peebles**
Turkey, Turkey, Turkey
Helping
Another feast
Need more turkey please
Kinds of pie are everywhere
Food, food and more food
Unique and one of a kind
Loving and caring.

**Academy 4 & 5 Ms. Claire
Mr. Phil, Ms. Bettye, Mr. David**

Math by Jamie Condon
During the second quarter these are some of the lessons that our class said was the most challenging for them: Algebra terms, lateral surface area, pie graphs, fraction/decimals, and changing decimals into fractions. Everyone in Academy 5 is in a different math book, 8/7, algebra 1.5, and 6/5. It’s a good thing that we are in different levels of math because everyone is different and we don’t feel like

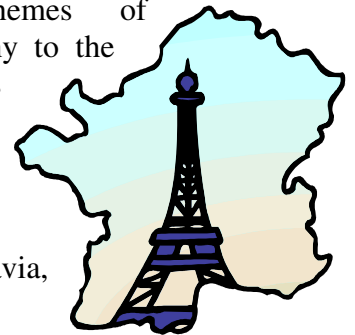
we are being forced into something way out of our league.

**6th Grade Social Studies
by Kimberly Sizemore and
Jackie Perez**

In the 6th grade social studies class, we have been learning about “Ancient Greece”! There were a lot of ancient people; like the Spartans and the Athenians. The Spartans lived in the area of Sparta and the Athenians lived in Athens. Over the years the Greeks modified the Phoenician alphabet so it looks similar to ours today. We have talked about some myths and one of them was Jason and the Argonauts. Luckily we went to a Peace Center fieldtrip to see the myth performed. In the next chapter we are going to learn about “Ancient Rome.”

**7th Grade Social Studies
by Kensley Lollis**

Our examination of modern Western Europe began our history unit this month. We applied the five themes of geography to the countries of Ireland, UK, France, Scandinavia, and Germany as we considered the locations, environments, physical systems, societies, politics, and economies of these areas.



We have enjoyed our “world system” project where we created our own country and set up and implemented political, military, diplomatic, economic, and social systems.

8th Grade Social Studies

Our “Carolina Pride” learning perspective has reached the place in South Carolina’s history that examines the Civil War. To personalize this era of history we picked a specific town and researched its role in “the bloodiest war in American history.” After selecting a town, we explored battles, local leaders, and effects of the war on local economy.

5th Grade Science

Weathering and soil formation were the basis for our studies this month. Topics of discussion included: mechanical weathering, abrasion, chemical weathering, rates of weathering, layers of soil, and soil conservation. Our interdisciplinary connections this month included a response to the quote: “A nation that destroys its soil destroys itself.” We also learned a lot from and enjoyed student-generated power points on soil conservation techniques.



Rice Terracing

6th Grade Science

by Kimberly Sizemore

Now that the 6th grade science class has finished the section “Water in the Air” we are now on “Air Masses and Fronts.” We have learned about cold and warm air masses and the ones that affect weather in North America. Also we have learned about all the

fronts: cold fronts, warm fronts, occluded fronts, and stationary fronts. We have also learned about cyclones and anticyclones and how they form. Sixth grade science has been really fun for me!



7th & 8th Grade Science

by Jacob Boyette

In 7th and 8th grade Science we are studying the rock cycle and different kinds of rocks such as metamorphic, sedimentary, and igneous. Every Thursday we have an essential facts quiz and sometimes have a re-do the next day. We will be studying fossils and such next.

Language Arts 5th & 6th Grade

We are continuing our grammar studies by learning about nouns. We have learned about singular and plural nouns, possessive nouns, and collective and concrete nouns. We are developing our composition skills with a paragraph describing our personal hero. We also studied a play together and identified the main theme and characterizations.

7th & 8th Grade Language Arts

by Joseph Bettano

Our trip to LA (Language Arts) has included many side trips this month. We have analyzed sentences and learned to identify direct objects and indirect objects. We also continued to develop our composition skills with the process of expository writing. Our class also enjoyed reading, discussing, and responding to a

dramatization of “The Jonas Brothers.” Special thanks to Joseph Bettano for being our A-5 “student teacher of the month.”

Physical Education

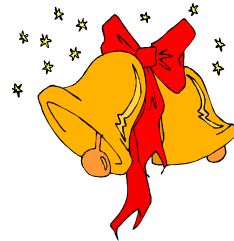
by Christian Baliker and Sydney Rector

In P.E. we’ve been playing kickball and volleyball. Kickball is the most popular sport in our P.E. class. On Thursday of last week, I brought in my bat from home. My class really wanted to play baseball but nobody was bringing in a bat. When I came to my senses, I decided to bring in a bat from home. Everybody was happy when we played baseball on Thursday. I really like P. E. class.

Guitar

By Randy Massengale

In guitar class we are working hard learning two songs. They are *Carol of the Bells* and *Rock’ in Around the Christmas Tree*. Jonathan Plott has the lead role and I have the accompany chords. In *The Carol of the Bells*, we all have our little part. Mr. Johnny, our guitar teacher, is also teaching us the blues riff.



TEAM HOPE

News

Hope Stampede

Note: The Hope Stampede has been canceled due to the lack of funds. The profit that was made from the calendar sells has been donated to Hope Academy.

Chick-fil-A Calendars

We want to thank everyone that helped sell Chick-fil-A calendars this year. Academy 4 has won a pizza party for selling the most calendars as a class. The Lyda family will have reserved seating at the Christmas program for being the top selling family!

Chick-fil-A Biscuits

The next biscuit sale is December 18th at the circle drive. Be sure to order ahead of time!



Box Tops for Education

Our next contest deadline for Box Tops is **February 20**. It will be the same as the one before with a Webkinz drawing and a class popsicle party winner. We are really trying to encourage online shopping at the Marketplace at the Box Tops website. Go to www.boxtops4education.com to register or to shop through the Marketplace. Every online store donates a percentage of your sale back to our school, but you **MUST** go through the Box Tops website. **So, in order to encourage online shopping at the Marketplace, we are offering one entry for each child**

in your family in the Webkinz drawing just for trying online shopping through the Marketplace. A verification form was sent home with your child last month and a new collection sheet. If you lost yours or need more, just contact Elaine Avila at elaine@ehosted.com and I will be happy to send you one.

Thank you all for doing a great job with Box Tops. Little things really do add up to big money for our school!!

As always, please contact me with any questions/concerns.

Elaine Avila elaine@ehosted.com
963-1848

Barnes & Noble Bookfair

Hope Academy will be hosting a bookfair at Barnes and Noble (Shops at Greenridge) December 3-6, 2008. This is a great way to support Hope Academy and get a head start on your holiday shopping.

Hope Academy earns a percentage of the net proceeds from your purchases on these days. All you have to do is present a voucher upon checkout. The more we and our supporters shop, the more Hope Academy earns. Vouchers and more

information will be forthcoming. Please contact Dana Nemr dnemr@charter.net with any questions.

HOLIDAY LUMINARIES

Our Luminary Fundraiser is well underway. Even if your neighborhood is not participating in Luminary Night, you may wish to purchase luminary kits for Christmas Eve, your holiday parties or for your church's holiday services. Luminary kits are \$10 and include supplies to make 10 luminaries. A flyer was sent home with your child this week with more information and an order form. The money goes to support a great local charity (Hope Academy!) and the Academy 4 and 5 students actually assemble the kits. We always happily embrace volunteers to distribute flyers, help assemble the kits on Dec. 10, and to deliver luminary kits. Please contact Elaine Avila elaine@ehosted.com 963-1848 or Shannon Young sny@yahoo.com 561-4260 if you have any questions or you would like to be a VERY appreciated volunteer.





COMING UP NEXT

Barnes and
Noble
Book fair and
gift-wrapping
December 3rd - 6th

Roper Mountain Field Trip
Thursday, December 4, 2008
Academy 5

Light up the Night with Luminaries
on December 14th

Christmas Program
December 18th at 7:00 p.m.

No School - December 22nd - Jan. 2
Have a great holiday

Special Note:

The following are some names of businesses and people who are supporting Hope Academy's Golf Tournament. Please make an effort to thank them:

Hot Springs Pools & Spas
Family Legacy
Apexical, Inc.
Brushy Creek Baptist Church
Energy Hardware LLC
Greenville Elks Lodge
BB&T
Pump it Up
Jewelers Gallery

