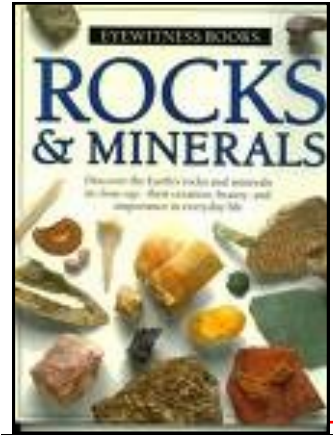


# Mrs. MacDonald's Intermediate Classroom

## Boonshoft Museum



Issue 12

November 10, 2007

### Important Items

November 15th—Trip to Ohio Caverns RED FIELD TRIP SHIRTS!

November 16th—Am Spotlight

November 16— Animal Trivia Game Night

No school Wed, Thurs, Fri  
November 21-23

Report Cards November 30

December 1— Winter Wonderland

### Immersion Week

No Formal Homework

Feel free to practice math facts, read something each evening and look for rocks in your yard.

A few people have not sent in addresses for their legacy project. PLEASE send these in on Monday. We are waiting for everyone to have an address to write our letters.

We had a great week this week. There was so much excitement and learning going on. The Boonshoft Museum came out and did a demonstration about rocks and minerals. Mrs. Patel shared many different types of rocks with us. The students were able to answer most of her questions about the different types of rocks and the different uses for rocks. It was an amazing presentation and everyone brought home a coupon to use with their family for a free child admission to the museum. I hope you get the chance to visit some time soon.

**Reading:** This week most students brought home a short biography to read. There were books about Mozart, Helen Keller, treasure hunters, and athletes. Students read these in class, were to re-read them for homework and then took a comprehension quiz on the book. We discussed test-taking skill. We reviewed reading all choices, looking back in the book for answers, and reading the questions carefully. These tests came home in the Friday folders. I will use these comprehension tests to see what type of questions are difficult for your child. For most, I do not think it is a comprehension issue as much as test-taking skills that need to be developed. We will continue to work on these skills and experience a variety of biographies in the coming weeks.

**Math:** We worked on regrouping or renaming numbers in subtraction. Keep practicing math facts, it makes more difficult problems easier. Some groups worked on learning the new skill of division with a remainder and long division. This new skill took some practice to master. Others worked on equivalent fractions, improper fractions and fraction of a whole. Math groups worked hard this week. Our math minutes this week prompted a mini-lesson on how many inches are in a foot. Many students could not recall. We will continue to review this skill.

**Science:** We learned about the different types of caves. We took a virtual tour of each type: limestone or solution caves, lava tube caves, ice caves and sea caves. Students chose to eat lunch in the classroom and continue to learn about caves during their lunch time. They are a bit crazy huh?

We worked on rock and mineral reports and continued to work in our lap-books. These will come home soon for you to see.

## NEXT WEEK:

- We will learn more about minerals and crystals and make crystals.
- We will travel to the Ohio Caverns on Thursday.
- We will work on graphing skills in conjunction with rocks and minerals by collecting data about rocks and comparing the data in the form of bar graphs,

- line graphs and pie graphs.
- We will finalize our book on rocks and minerals.
- We will write about what we have learned in our study about bats, owls, rocks, caves and caverns.

Many exciting educational experiences are planned for your children.

Everyone is excited about the

trip to the Ohio Caverns. A driver information sheet was emailed on Saturday with directions to the caverns and the Urbana Airport (Grimes Field). Students may visit the gift shop, most of you are joining us on this trip, so you can help your child choose something if you would like. For those unable to attend, there are many rock-related items for under \$5.00.

## ADD-EM UP

On my website, under New Math Games is a game called Add-em up. This game is a problem solving game and offers students the challenge of finding several number that add up to a number with the given number in the ones place. If it gives a number 3, you can simply get rid of any 3, but in order to get a higher score, you need to find boxes that add up to 13 or 23. Give this game a try, but supervise your child and see if they are taking the easy way out or trying to find places that are challenging. It is a fun way to practice adding three or four numbers.

Trust me, this is a good skill to practice.

There are also many multiplication games available. Practicing math facts is very important. Mastering basic facts of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division makes a strong foundation for future math skills.



Hey Rock Hounds....did you know that Put-in-Bay, OH, claims to have the largest geode in the world? Here is a picture of people walking through the crystal formations of this geode. How large is large? This is 3 feet wide by 30 feet deep.