

Mrs. MacDonald's Week in Review

The Aquarium— A Great Experience

ur trip to the Newport Aquarium today was a wonderful adventure. We were able to see so many of the sea creatures that we have learned about in the classroom. We began by touring the first part of the aquarium. We saw seahorses, lobster, flashlight fish, and an octopus. We went into the theatre area and saw two scuba divers in the shark tank (no way, not for me), they talked about the different types of fish that would be seen in the big tunnel part of the aquarium., which by the way is one of the longest seamless tunnels. We then saw some lionfish, piranha, a variety of turtles, otter and lorikeets. We buzzed through the second part of the museum, grabbed our lunches and ate...it was 12:00 and nobody mentioned they were hungry, we were having too much fun.

After lunch we went into a classroom and learned more about sea turtles. We got to touch a turtle, saw how sea turtles are pit tagged and learn about how they track the movements of turtles. One sea turtle that the Newport Aquarium rehabilitated for a year and released went directly to Africa. It was fascinating to learn more about the sea turtles and learn how we can help protect them.

We then returned to the museum and toured the remaining exhibits. We saw the sharkray, stingrays, sharks and many other salt water fish. We had the opportunity to pet the sharks and watched the antics of the penguins. It was a great day. Everyone was well-behaved and they all seemed to have a fantastic time. Kristen said she hoped she could come again with her mom and dad because she knows they would like it too.

A huge thanks for all our helpful chaperones and drivers.

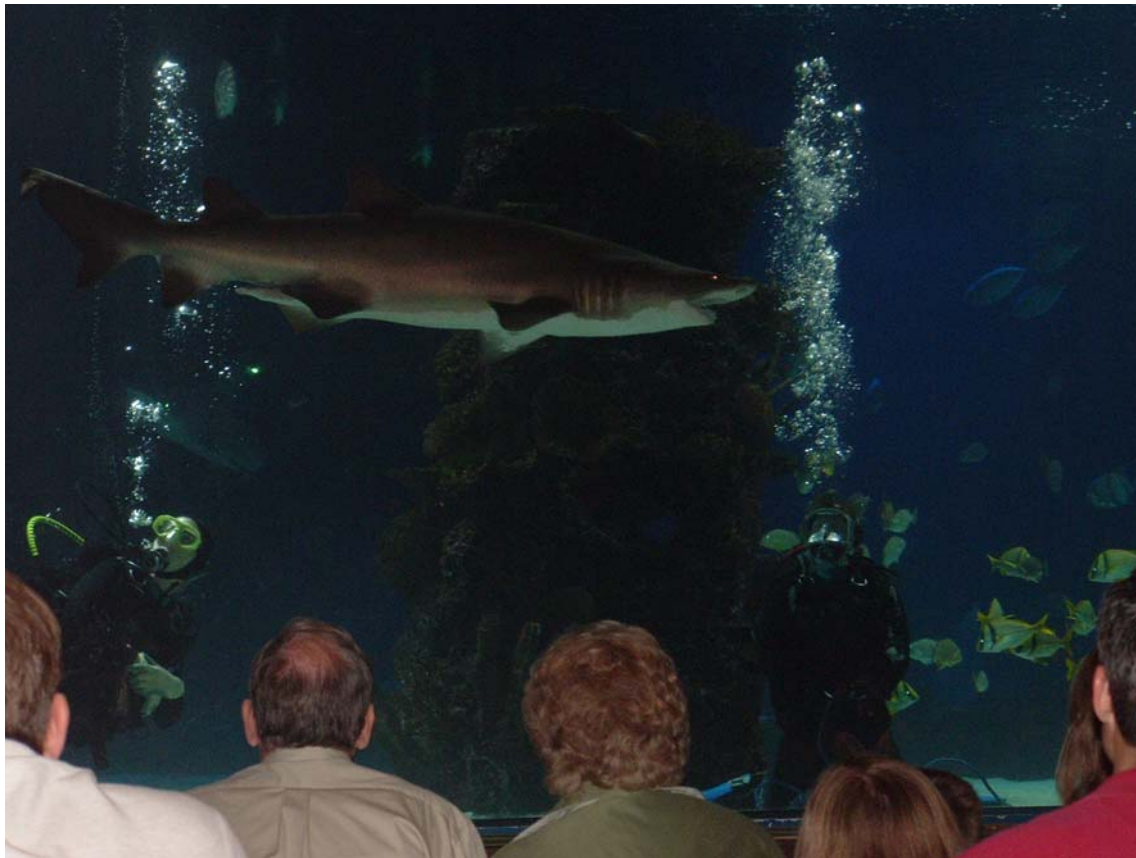
What else have we been up to?

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Important Dates

- September 29th
Early Dismissal 12:00



Shark swimming through the bubbles of the diver.



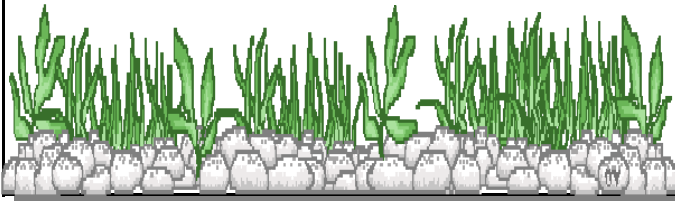
stonefish, shark egg sacs



While Madeline is nearly swimming in the shark petting tank, Julia, Kyla and Molly wait to pet the sharks. This was a highlight of the visit. NO FEAR!

Landscape Recap

Awesome and Amazing... Many parents came out last Saturday and helped us with our spruce up efforts...wow...the place looks great. It didn't take long, but the teamwork really made a difference. A huge thanks to Judy and Doug Smith. They brought tools and the truck to help haul away the mess plus stayed until 2:00. You guys are great. Tim and Paul Hodge came and were a huge help in cutting, trimming and removal of debris. Mrs. Gumser lent a hand in trimming the bushes back and Jacob and his brother Ben helped out too.



Classroom News From: Alyssa Dinsmoor

My favorite thing this week was the game "I Have, Who Has." Someone says, "I have the word... Who has the synonym for ...(another word)." It helps us to learn synonyms. Example: "I have the word famished. Who has the synonym for pretty?" The person with the synonym would stand up and say, "I have the word pretty, who has the synonym for ...?"

Thank you Alyssa. I believe Alyssa may have some other news for us next week. She missed our trip to the Newport Aquarium and her mom told me yesterday she was having a few contractions. Watch next week for more news.

Reading

We continue to work in the book The Giver. It is an odd book about a community that has made everything THE SAME because of the problems that differences or choices made in the past. It is a good book and interest has peaked as the action picked up. We will be finishing this book next week.

Tall Tails finished up this week. It was a fantastic book about the travels of Lewis and Clark and their companions. It presented many historical facts and will be a great bridge into our next unit of study in Social Studies.

Our read aloud has been The City of Ember. This book is great. It is very descriptive and the class made drawings about places in the story this week. Those are in their take home folders. It is so easy to picture what is happening in the book because of the authors details. Ask your child about this book. I love hearing them ask if I would read more. I want to develop a love of reading in the class by showing them all types of literature. Books can take you anywhere.

What else have we been up

- In language arts we have been working on singular and plural nouns, pronouns, and possessive nouns. Students have done a great job of practicing these skills.

- In math we have been working on ordering decimals, making decimals out of fractions and ordering mixed numbers. We have worked on simplifying fractions too.

- We continue to practice math skills like three digit addition and subtraction, three digit multiplication, converting km to m and subtracting m from km.

- We have worked on exponents and writing numbers in standard form. Small group work is great because I know instantly who needs extra help. Look for samples of these concepts in your child's Friday folder.

- We have been working in class on vocabulary building with synonyms and the "I have, who has" game. We also are working on building spelling skills with weekly review words. Some students will have these weekly words sent home to practice while

others will be spending more time on vocabulary building skills.

- In Science we discussed how salt water reacts differently than fresh water. We observed how the increase of salt in the water made a difference in the density of the water. We put an egg in regular water and in water with a similar density to ocean water. The egg in the fresh water sank, the egg in the ocean water floated. We predicted what would happen to fresh water and salt water as they froze. We observed the water at half hour intervals. The salt water remained slushy for a long time while the fresh water froze from the top down until it was a solid piece of ice. We will be

wrapping up our study of the ocean. We will write about what we have learned.

- I am preparing for our next unit of study. I can't wait for you to hear about it...but I will let your children tell you.

