



Casey Art News



Casey Benefits from Multiple Community Partnerships

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First grader Charmzliil reads a book with the help of her Book Buddy, Mr. Frank Hadden. Book Buddy volunteers are provided by the Covenant Presbyterian Church.

At Casey Elementary, we are privileged to see our community working together for our school on a daily basis—from parents to local businesses and neighborhood partners. We have four local partners (two businesses and two neighborhood partners) who work with our school in a variety of ways, offering both time and resources.

Bank Plus donates technology funds to our school monthly, provides Reading Fair judges, and even teaches finance lessons for older students. The architecture and design firm Cook Douglass Farr Lemons (CDFL) joins with Bank Plus in providing for needy students at Christmas time. CDFL also provides student incentives and contributes to our PBIS rewards program, prints out our annual curriculum charts, and provides judges for the Science Fair.

Our neighbor Covenant Presbyterian Church hosts an annual beautification day when dozens of community members and Casey families work side by side on our school grounds. They also provide our school with Book Buddy volunteers who work weekly with students to improve their reading skills.

The Eastover Foundation is our other neighborhood partner, which has supported the school with several major projects, including painting the interior of the original wing of the school, sponsoring a wellness program with healthy snacks, installing landscaping around the school sign, and purchasing new basketball goals and striping the basketball court.

We want to thank all of our adopters and partners for helping our school to be the best possible environment for our students to thrive and succeed.



School Adopter Coordinator Ms. Weems stands with Mary Lewis and Linda Lambeth from Covenant, Laura Sermons from BankPlus, and Principal Rhoda B. Yoder.



Casey has been designated as a Model Whole School and receives support from the Mississippi Arts Commission, which in turn is supported by funding from the Mississippi State Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.



Fifth Graders Impress with Their Performance of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*



The fifth graders spent more than two months studying and preparing for their performances of one of Shakespeare's darkest tragedies.



They analyzed the text, with emphasis on new vocabulary and figurative language. They also created character portraits and setting backdrops as they learned more about the story and the characters they were playing. They performed the play on October 22 for parents and again the next day for students.



"Will these hands ne'er be clean?"



"Double, double, toil and trouble..."



"Is this a dagger which I see before me?"



"Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow..."

Third Graders Create a Stunning Program on the Wonders of the Rain Forest



The third graders have studied animal habitats in great depth. They created detailed murals of the desert and coral reef before devoting their creative talents to the exploration of the Amazon Rain Forest.

In their December 3 program, the students performed the play "The Great Kapok Tree," a musical demonstration of the layers of the rainforest, and rap songs with original lyrics about the plight of this endangered ecosystem.



Student Work Shown at the Art Museum



On November 17, the Mississippi Museum of Art hosted a one-night-only pop-up exhibit of student art from Model Whole Schools throughout Mississippi. Included in the exhibit were artworks created through arts-integrated lessons at Casey. Several kindergartners, third graders, and fifth graders came to see their work displayed.



Above, Ms. Daschbach stands with a student and her parents. On the right, Ms. Dean takes a picture of her own proud kindergartner.



Students were happy to see Principal Yoder at the exhibit. At top, she poses with a group of kindergarten artists, and below that a third grader proudly shows her the work she created.



November 20 was Career Day, and the students met interesting people from all walks of life, including professionals from the police and fire departments and the Mississippi Science Museum. We thank our PTA president, Shmeetra Hoskins, for organizing so many wonderful presenters.

Special Events for December 2015-February 2016

Thursday, December 3

6:00 p.m. At the PTA meeting, third graders present an arts-integrated program on the *Wonders of the Rain Forest*.

Friday, December 4

Students in kindergarten and first grade take a field trip to Thalia Mara Hall to see *The Nutcracker Ballet*.

Tuesday, December 8

Students in second and third grades take a field trip to the Belhaven Arts Center to see the puppet show *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*.

Monday-Friday, December 7-11

Casey Book Fair held in the library.

Friday, December 18

At the 9:00 assembly in the library, 4th and 5th grade Strings students and recorder players will perform and all students will participate in a holiday singalong.

February TBA

First graders will take a field trip to the Mississippi Crafts Center in Ridgeland.

Thursday, February 25

6:00 p.m. At the PTA meeting, fourth graders present the musical Black History program *I'm Gonna Let It Shine!*

Friday, March 4

Students in second, fourth, and fifth grades take a field trip to New Stage Theatre to see the play *A Wrinkle in Time*.

Native American Art and Dance



The second graders held a special Thanksgiving celebration on November 19. They performed dances they had created with Ms. Chitwood to represent the dances of the Native Americans and the early European colonists, as well as a "thankful" dance to express all the things for which the students feel grateful. After the dances, they enjoyed a Thanksgiving feast prepared by parents.



First graders learned about Native American culture and designs from Ms. Walker's art class and from Ms. Hogan.





In art class, second graders have learned about different types of balance, like symmetry and radial balance by using their bodies. They studied the Expressionist art of Edvard Munch and created artworks to express emotional states like his painting, *The Scream*.



Fourth graders have begun taking dance class from Ms. Chitwood this fall. They begin by learning to manipulate the elements of creative movement.





At the end of the first nine weeks, students who had earned enough Cougar Cash or Dojo points enjoyed treats and several rides on a giant slide as their PBIS reward for exemplary behavior.



Our musical guests this year have included the Symphony Orchestra's String Quartet, who performed for 4th and 5th grades and Mr. Anthony Friday, a professional musician who entertained Ms. Daschbach's kindergartners and played a duet with his daughter Kiersten.



Out of the twenty students who competed in the upper grades' school-wide spelling bee, the champion was fourth grader Brooklyn Harper, who will go on to compete at the district level!

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