

Amazing Third Graders by Mrs. Rebekah Spragg

Our 3rd grade class might be small, but we are mighty! They were excited to win the Penny Challenge for Jump Rope for Heart this year. Mrs. Wolff gave them an extra PE class. I did not even include my donation until the count was over. They also won the Box Top Challenge and enjoyed earning a sundae party. They worked together as a team and encouraged each other. They also made a list of things they wanted to make sure we did before the end of the year. We had many things added to our list, but I will tell you about a few of their requests.

AC-T was able to get two virtual reality goggle sets through a grant this year. The class was given a writing assignment to persuade me to take them on virtual field trips. Their writings included places they wanted to visit and why they would want to go there. We had fun taking virtual field trips to Hawaii, Greece, Rome, St. Louis, New York, and Washington D.C. We visited the jungle, the St. Louis Arch, national parks, the safari, the Grand Canyon, ocean, and national monuments. We also saw our organs and the systems of our body.

Not all of our field trips were virtual. It is so important for students to have real experiences as a class. Threshermen's provided a trip to the past. We are very fortunate to have local citizens volunteer their time. We also went to Farm Safety Camp at the Alley Mansion to learn about all types of safety. AC-T took the whole school to Pocahontas to see a movie before Christmas break. The 3rd and 4th graders loved going to the Shrine Circus in Sioux City. They also went to Sioux City to perform with a symphony. We ended the year, by getting to go skating in Storm Lake.

The kids enjoyed learning about the human body and our organs. The students observed dissections of a shark, stingray, squid, salamander, frog, and pig. Chris Bean visited our classroom to teach about the heart. She brought different heart specimens to dissect and showed us what inflated and deflated lungs look like. We appreciate her expertise and willingness to share her knowledge. Our culminating activity was to help dissect a frog in a small group and identify all of the organs!

We learned about the three types of rocks and watched, The Rock Odyssey. The students enjoyed learning about rocks and seeing my rock collection. A

former "Rock Hound" student, Shawn Sigmon, sent some cool rocks to share with my classes. I may have created some more "Rock Hounds"! They also made fossils of dinosaur feet and shells. We also learned about crystals and saw them form on a little tree.

We learned about all different kinds of animal life cycles earlier this year. Then in the spring, Will Voyles and Kooper Bean brought eggs to hatch. We had 29 fertilized eggs and ended up with 26 of them hatching. Many students were able to adopt a couple of cute baby chicks. The whole school enjoyed visiting to see our babies. Many were born on Mother's Day! Mrs. Bean brought different types of chickens, a turkey, and a goat to visit one day, too. We loved to have her come, and she took a couple of chicks home to provide some extra veterinarian care. She is awesome!

Will Voyles showed his classmates and me how to use 3D pens. We had a great time creating some cool designs. It was fun to have a student teach his peers how to do something.

The class also got to use the Break Out box for several lessons. They solved problems and unlocked the locks when they figured out the solutions. They also were able to work on digital break out activities.

Another favorite activity was bartering. We each brought goods to trade with each other for Social Studies.

These students practiced and performed four plays for the community. They did an amazing job and will be performing again as 4th graders. I am so glad I will get to work with this amazing class during the play again next year. I miss them already!

