

December 2011

Mrs. Cristina Fanning who spent time in China, is teaching our students about Chinese traditions through hands-on activities during the after school program!



Children were very attentive and engaged while having fun!



The session was rounded off with tasty treats that allowed students to show off their ability to use chopsticks - funny!



WONDER

WORKSHOP

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Mission Statement:

The mission of the Wonder Workshop Children's Museum is to promote education in the arts, sciences, and humanities. Our goal is to develop self-reliant children, families and community members. Our hands-on activities instill a desire for life long learning, recognizing cultural diversity, and fostering creative potential.

Board of Directors:

Diane Washington, Sherry White, Kelly Loub, Mrs. Jan Stepp, Jessica Hedgecock, Mr. David Griffin, Jeff Stepp, Simon Sylvester-Chaudhuri and Terry Jones

Advisory Board:

Anja Hightower, Brett Hightower, Joshua Runyan, and Nathaniel Thompson-Weaver

Please help keep your Wonder Workshop Children's Museum serving our youth by making a donation today. We are a 501 (c) (3) making your donation tax deductible on your 2011 end of the year taxes. Thank you!

I used to think I wasn't prejudiced by Pam Stokes

I was raised in in the Northeast and had very little exposure to people who were not white. Yet, when my parents used the term “nigger,” I knew it was wrong. No matter a person's race, ethnicity or heritage, they were a human being, no different than myself and thus, deserving of the same respect any person was due.

I have always been pretty naïve when it comes to people of other ethnicities than my own. If someone was not white, I made a lot stupid assumptions, but I didn't consider myself prejudiced. I kept my opinions to myself. On occasion I would voice one to a friend but there was always agreement..... until this semester at Manhattan High School where I found myself as Para educator support for a student in a sociology class. This class, Cultural and Ethnic Awareness, has changed my world, turned it upside down if you will.

I have always advocated for “both side of the coin”. One needs to always consider the problem, issue or situation from both sides before rendering a judgment. During the current chapter on Black Americans, I realized that my beliefs were severely skewed, so much so in fact that I realized I was indeed very prejudiced. And the person I saw in myself, I did not like at all. This class made me think, made me remember growing up, made me think about past encounters with people of different ethnicity and, above all, made me realize I have been wrong in my feelings.

I was encouraged by the teacher to think from “the other side of the coin”, to put myself in their shoes so to speak. It was obvious that, even though I thought I had been doing so for years, I truly hadn't been at all.

Through this class my eyes have been opened. In today's world as more and more people of different backgrounds come together, as the world continues to grow and blend, it is essential that everyone practice cultural and ethnic awareness, whether with the help of a class or simply by opening one's eyes to reality. We are all human beings with feelings, beliefs and cultures. We are all due respect from one another regardless of differences. We don't need to love, or even like, everyone. Prejudice needs to end. The key to the future is awareness and respect.

Joplin Missouri by Kate Taylor

On May 22nd a deadly tornado ripped through Joplin Missouri leaving thousands homeless and 162 people dead. Out of this massive destruction everyday people rose to the occasion to become heroes and life savers without any thought to themselves, these people stepped forward to do what they could to help ease the sufferings of others. Among these heroes were volunteers from all over the United States. Some had family and friends in the area and wanted to help them or even find them but many volunteers just wanted to help ease the pain of those suffering. In times like this I am thankful to say Goodness prevailed in our darkest hour. One man from Colorado hopped in his truck with his 3 children hours after the tornado passed to head to Missouri to lend a hand in the relief effort, he believed that there is no better way to teach good deeds than by doing them.

While many people rushed to Joplin to be at ground zero to help, many stayed home and started relief efforts from there. One boy in Westlake, Ohio opened a lemonade stand with all proceeds going to the victims. While another boy in Michigan involved his whole community in gathering supplies to be shipped to Joplin. These children are a great example of goodness and the true American spirit. They prove that you do not have to be big to make a difference!

As we approach the seven month mark it is amazing to see how far the relief effort for Joplin has come. The tornado damaged 9 of their 20 school district buildings but still did not postpone the schools from opening their doors as scheduled August 17th. The school district is still in need of help but they are doing their best to ensure that their staff and students are having their needs met. Although rebuilding efforts has begun Joplin still has along way to go but they have not lost hope.

“Thanks for loving us without knowing us” From the grateful people of Joplin, Missouri.

For more information about the relief efforts visit: <https://rebuildjoplin.org/>

Park Rangers by Paul Weidhass

US Army Corps of Engineers park rangers are uniformed professionals who serve as the stewards of federal lands, waters, and park resources at Corps operated and maintained lakes.

Park ranger functions include park management; natural, historical, and cultural resource management; endangered and/or special status species management; shoreline management; visitor assistance; and the development of interpretive and recreational programs for the benefit of the public.

Park rangers are leaders in both emergency response and community outreach. Park rangers are the Corps' face to the nation and may be the only contact the public has with the agency.

During the recreation season, park rangers devote a large portion of their time to park patrols, since this is where much of the lake visitation occurs. Typical summertime duties are fee collection, park patrols, ensuring that lake visitors are in compliance with the rules, and checking boats to be sure required safety equipment is on board.

At Tuttle Creek Lake, the parks boast such amenities as campgrounds, picnic shelters, boat ramps, shower houses, hiking, biking, and horse riding trails, and even off-road vehicle areas. There is also a shooting range, a marina, and several cabins in the parks. Park rangers will be found checking all of these to ensure that they are safe and being used properly.

Things change dramatically when fall approaches. The parks become quieter, so attention is turned towards outlying areas. As an example, some adjacent landowners have farming or grazing leases with the Corps, so rangers check these crop fields and pastures to make sure that the land is being used according to the agreements. Rangers use the off-season to inspect the project boundary, walking the border of federal property, checking that boundary markers are intact and that there are no unauthorized activities.

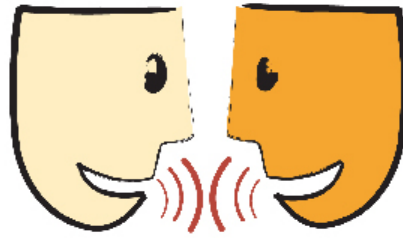
Rangers assist the public year-round, so in the wintertime, they may be directing hunters to public areas in search of game animals, leading field trips to view bald eagles in the wild, or catching up on office work.

Springtime in the Flint Hills often means the start of the fire season, Rangers help to control woody invasive vegetation on the prairie by using controlled burning as a tool. Fire helps to keep the prairies in native grass and wildflowers, instead of less desirable species such as eastern red cedars.

Some tasks occur year-round. A very important job of the ranger is inspecting the dam, spillway, and stilling basin. A wide range of instruments on the dam, including earthquake monitors, have to be read periodically. These instruments tell us that the dam is stable and safe, since many lives downstream depend on the integrity of Tuttle Creek Dam.

As you can see, park rangers do a lot of different things. Every day is different, and rangers get to meet some of the nicest people, who are out enjoying the parks: boating, swimming, camping, hiking, and observing nature. Would you like to be a park ranger?

Bullying by Carolyn Kaspzak



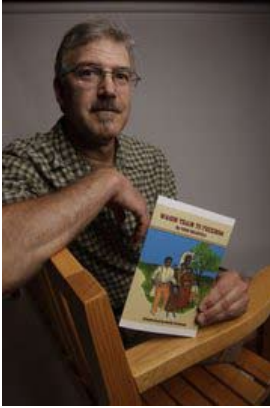
Let's talk about "talking." As a speech pathologist in an elementary school, I spend the majority of my day doing just that. Talking or "verbal communication" has many facets: The coordination of the breaths we take, the sounds we use in our words, how we think about those words, and the words we choose to finally come out of our mouths.

On the surface, it all seems pretty simple. When something goes wrong, however, things get complicated. Personal struggles with verbal communication are out there for the world to see. From stuttering and lisping to processing a conversation 30 seconds after everyone else, communication problems are obvious. They make you seem different. Differences can be painful especially amongst peers in schools.

In a 2011 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Leader article about teasing and bullying, Judith Maginnis-Kuster, a speech pathologist and professor at Minnesota State University states "Bright kids are teased about being 'teacher's pet' or 'curve-pushers'. Kids with glasses are sometimes called 'Four Eyes,' Physical differences often bring out teasing with names like 'Bean Pole,' 'Shrimp,' or 'Fatty.' Most of us remember being teased and that teasing hurt."

A study on bullying and adolescents who stutter (Blood & Blood, Contemporary Issues in Communication Science and Disorders, 2004) revealed that students who stutter as their communication difference were at a 43% higher risk for encountering bullying behaviors than students who did not stutter. Another study (McCormack, Harrison, McLeod, Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research, 2011) examined more than 4,000 Australian children with and without communication impairments. The results of their study revealed that children with communication differences reported more bullying than their peers who had no communication obstacles to overcome.

Schools across the nation, including our own locally, are working hard to educate staffs and students about the progression from teasing to bullying and the long term effects on children who endure bullying in the schools. Research supports that Speech Pathologists are also on board in that process since our students may be targeted as the result of their visible differences when they "talk." Our efforts focus on providing our students with words and strategies to be more successful communicators." When they are successful, everyone benefits from talking together.



A book review by our own Elora Root who currently attends Eisenhower Middle School

“Wagon Train to Freedom”, by Todd Mildfelt, tells the story of several slaves and people who worked on the Underground Railroad. The book tells a story, but also gives very useful facts. Anyone who thinks the Railroad was not in Kansas should read this! I certainly learned a lot about the actual travelling and escaping that took place on the Underground Railroad. I would recommend this book to any student who wants to do a report about the Underground Railroad, or who just wants to know more about it.



Peter Else leaves our Board of Directors after three years of great service to our kids and families. We thank you for all you did for us and you will be missed. However we wish you and your family the best in all you do as you open up a new chapter back east!



SHORT STORIES

By Homer Wells

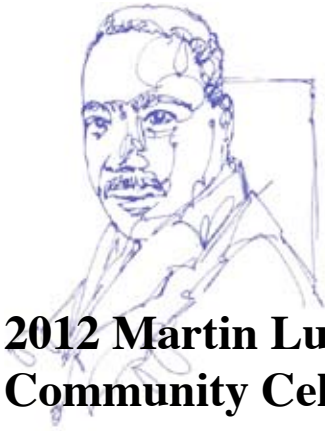
The Pendergast Gang

During the great depression my dad bought a Diamond T truck. He hauled anything he could get paid to haul. He delivered sand, cement, coal, etc. for the lumberyards, and two nights a week he would haul cattle to the Kansas City stockyards. This was during the Pendergast era (crime boss in K. C. during the depression). The stockyards were in KC, Kansas but they had to go through KC, Missouri to get to them. The K. C, Mo. Police would give them tickets on trumped up charges. They gave Charley McCrab a speeding ticket for driving over 30 MPH up the hill as he left the stockyards and got into Missouri. Charley went to court where the judge asked how he pleaded. "Not guilty," said Charley, "If you can get my truck to go 30 miles an hour up that hill you can have it 'cause you are a better driver than I am." The judge dismissed the case.

Stanley & the Fish

Stanley and I were fishing in the big hole in South Fork out at Uncle Bill's place. The bull-heads were really biting good. Stanley had two hooks on his line and it really wasn't unusual for him to catch two at a time. He had his sinker on above his hooks and had the line run through the hole in the sinker. Just above his hooks he tied a small stick about like a match-stick. This would allow the bait to tumble along the bottom of the creek and the sinker would hold it on the bottom. We had been fishing about 2 hours and had a heck of a stringer of bull-heads when Stanley pulled in three; one on each hook and one had the stick crossways in his gullet. Well, that was the end of the fishing. He would not take those fish off his line because he wanted to show Homer (my dad), and Homer wouldn't believe it unless he saw it for himself. On the way to the car we had to cross a little stream and Stanley thought he should give his catch a drink. When he put them in the water guess what, the one on the stick came off. Stanley shoved that stick down that fish's throat until it stayed, and then we proceeded on to the folks.

When we got to the folk's house they were still up and Stanley proceeded to tell Homer about his fantastic luck. Wiping his face as he went on about how hungry those fish were. He showed him his line with all three fish on it and told him it really happened then turned to me and said, "You saw that didn't you." I couldn't help myself and said, "Stan, you know you stuffed that stick in that fish's mouth up there at that little stream." I tell you he sputtered and spit, and of course Homer went right along with it. We kept him going until Homer finally



2012 Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebration

Wednesday, January 4, 2012 – USD 383 Proclamation
6:30 P.M. Robinson education Center, 2031 Poyntz Avenue
Open to the public

Sunday, January 8, 2011 – Deadline for Art, Writing and Video Entries
Sponsored by the Manhattan Public Library, www.manhattan.lib.ks.us
Contact: Janene Hill, 785-776-4741

Tuesday, January 10, 2012 – City Proclamation
7 p.m. City Hall, City Commission Room
Open to the public

Saturday, January 14, 2012 – MLK Jr. Community Celebration and Candlelight Walk
6:30 – 8:30 p.m., Manhattan High School East Campus Auditorium,
9th & Poyntz Avenue
Candlelight Walk from MHS East campus to First Lutheran Church, 930 Poyntz
Contact: Rev. Jim Spencer, 785-537-1496

Sunday, January 15, 2012 – MLK Jr. Youth Celebration and Sunday Supper
4- 6 p.m., School of Leadership Studies, Kansas State University
Mid-Campus Drive & Petticoat Lane
Art, Writing and Video Contest Awards and Reception
Open to Public
Contact: HandsOn Kansas State, 785-532-7607, handson@ksu.edu

Monday, January 16 2012 - Prayer Breakfast

8 a.m., Clarion Hotel, 530 Richards Drive

Speaker: Charles Scott Jr., son of Charles Scott Sr. who argued Brown v. Topeka Board of Education before Supreme Court

Buffet: \$10/person, no advanced tickets

Contact: Rev. Jim Spencer, 785-537-1496

Day of Service- Day On, Not a Day Off

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Volunteer registration online, www.handson.ksu.edu

9 a.m. volunteer check-in begins, Manhattan Town Center Hall

Contact: HandsOn Kansas State, 785-532-3670, handson@ksu.edu

MLK Jr. Holiday Community Activities- Manhattan Town Center Mall

Honoring the Day

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Music, entertainment, dance, choirs, presentations, vendors

8th Annual Spirit of MLK Jr. Community Service and Art, Writing and Video

Awards

Noon – 1 p.m.

MLK Jr. Birthday Celebration

4 p.m.

Cake cutting and open to the public

Jokes & Riddles Galore!

- 1: Lives without a body, hears without ears, speaks without a mouth, to which the air alone gives birth.
2. How many sides does a circle have?
3. What is round as a dishpan, deep as a tub, and still the oceans couldn't fill it up?
4. It's been around for millions of years, but it's no more than a month old. What is it?
5. I make a loud noise when changing my jacket and become larger but weigh less later. What am I?

1. A: An echo
2. A: Two (inside and outside)
3. A: A sieve
4. A: The moon
5. A: Popcorn



Looking for a way to sweeten the wait for Santa's sleigh? This little item should help.

Materials

Square tissue or cracker box

Candy canes

Red tape or paint

Candy

Instructions

Cut off and discard the top of the box. Trim the cut edge of the box so that it resembles a sleigh.

Cover the sleigh with red tape or paint, or leave it if you like the pattern already printed on.

Cut holes in the lower corners of the sleigh and insert candy canes "runners."

Fill the sleigh with candy.