

February 19, 2015 – Staunton City Schools Tip Sheet

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Lee Students Participate in Rotary Youth Leadership Conference

(STAUNTON, VA – February 19, 2015) Three Robert E. Lee High School students were participants in the annual Rotary Youth Leadership Conference held in early December. Victoria Nay, Kyle Vanhoy and Irfan Surahman traveled with other students from the area to Blacksburg, Virginia for this three-day event. The annual conference brings together young men and women from as far away as Winchester, Virginia and Greenville, Tennessee and provides them with an opportunity to learn and practice leadership skills and to develop new friendships.

The participating students reported learning leadership techniques that were in many ways untapped resources for them. Victoria Nay stated that before attending the conference she did not know the capabilities of her leadership skills. She said that while she is an extrovert and loves people, she did not feel as equipped to be a leader as she now does after the training she received at the Conference. Exchange student, Irfan Surahman said that the Conference was an amazing weekend in his life and he really enjoyed meeting with other exchange students and learning many new strategies to help him be a better leader. Another participant from Lee, Kyle Vanhoy stated that RYLA was an eye-opening experience. He had a great deal of fun while learning invaluable leadership skills. The Rotary Youth Leadership Conference has continued to grow in popularity each year due to the great reviews from the students who attend.



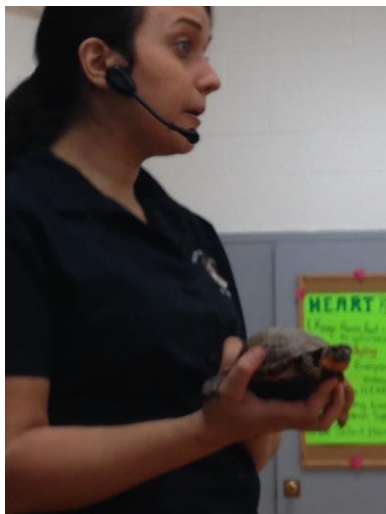
Victoria Nay, Kyle Vanhoy and Irfan Surahman participated in the Rotary Youth Leadership Conference.

The Wildlife Center Visits Bessie Weller

(STAUNTON, VA – February 19, 2015) First and third graders at Bessie Weller hosted the Wildlife Center on Monday, February 9. Raina Krasner, Outreach Coordinator from the Wildlife Center in Waynesboro led students through learning about Wilson, the box turtle, Phebe, the opossum and the first grade's beloved Gus, the barred owl adopted by Ms. Stinnett's class.

Perhaps you have wondered what a turtle's shell is made of, if a turtle has a backbone, or if turtles hibernate. Maybe you are curious about what other mammals besides primates also have opposable "first toes." Or maybe you would like to know which bird has a call that sounds similar to "who cooks for you." If so, just ask any first or third grader at Bessie Weller Elementary School and they can fill you in with answers to all of these.

As a part of their studies, earlier this school year Ms. Stinnett's first grade class became "scientists" by dissecting owl pellets to explore owl hunting habits (from SOL 1.5a). Ms. Krasner's presentation added to their information and focused on SOL 1.7 - investigating and understanding weather and seasonal changes and how changes in temperature, light, and precipitation affect animals. The first graders are planning a field trip to the Wildlife Center this spring to culminate their studies. For more information on the animals at the Wildlife Center who serve as Educational Ambassadors, please be sure to visit <http://wildlifecenter.org/critter-corner/education-animals>.



Raina Krasner from the Wildlife Center introduces Wilson the box turtle to the students.

The Number “100” at McSwain

(STAUNTON, VA – February 19, 2015) McSwain Elementary School is using celebrations of the 100th day of school to encourage students in their efforts to learn to count to 100 in various ways. For a five-year-old, the concept of one hundred begins to take shape as kindergarten students learn to count. Being able to count to 100 by ones, fives and tens is an emerging skill. As students experience various ways of reaching the landmark number, their concept of its actual size is refined. As the school year progresses, more and more students are able to reach the goal. February is a good time to celebrate, as the 100th day of school falls during this month. This year, the big day was February 6.

Kindergarten students rotated through various classrooms to experience the number 100 in different ways. Wearing the number was emphasized by placing 100 beads on a necklace. Counting by tens was emphasized as students were encouraged to have ten beads each of ten different colors. Students also designed a hat with 100 dots on the strips of paper that created the crown. Another center emphasized writing the number, then using a hundred red cups to build a wall or fort. As a group, the students compiled a list of 100 words. Ms. Fitzgerald helped students record the words on a large piece of paper and made sure that no words were duplicated.

One additional 100th day activity involved the students making a prediction. Each student created a picture of what they think they will look like when they are 100 years old. They were also to predict what they might do at that time. Lacey, in Ms. Humphrey’s room, wrote that she will bake cookies when she is 100 years old. She explained, “I like chocolate chip cookies. I would bake them for my daddy because he always makes them for me.”



McSwain students work with the number 100 in their celebration of the 100th day of school. Hayden adjusts her 100th day hat while Truman counts to be sure he has 100 cups in his wall.

Lacey stands by the photo she drew of herself predicting how she will look when she is 100 years old.

