

The Hawk Eye



Harrison Elementary School's Student Newsletter

Editor in Chief: Mrs. Herrera

Earth Day Gardening

By: Julian Katz and
Kiera D'Souza

Earth Day is celebrated on April 22nd in the United States each year. There is also an international Earth Day which was first celebrated on March 21, 1970. People celebrate this event in more than 193 countries! The holiday was started because John McConnell, a newspaper publisher and influential community activist, thought of the idea at a UNESCO Conference about the Environment in 1969. On February 26, 1971, the Secretary General of the UN signed a proclamation saying that the United Nations would celebrate Earth Day every year on the vernal equinox, making the March date the International Earth Day. In the United States, it was different. An environmental activist and Senator wanted to prove to other U.S. politicians that the environment is very important and that there were a lot of issues that needed attention. He planned Earth Day celebrations at colleges, universities, schools and towns/communities all around America. They were very successful and the holiday became official.



There are many different ways to celebrate Earth Day. Schools around the country may plant vegetables or plants like we did, or towns have cleanups. For example, on April 28th there was a Livingston Town Wide Cleanup. Every neighborhood in Livingston had people helping to clean up their part of the town.

For Earth Day at Harrison School every grade participated in a planting activity. The fifth graders and their kindergarten buddies planted flowers in ice cream cones for the kindergarteners to take home. Mrs. Adams and Ms. Favia helped us with the activity. They showed the kindergarteners how to loosen the soil and pinch the roots to make the plant fit. The fifth graders helped the kindergarteners put the plant in the ice cream cone.

The first and fourth graders did the same thing. The other grades planted flowers in the Harrison School garden. It was a great time!



Mitch and Martha Transform 3rd Graders to Storytellers!

By Deandra Kurti and Jahnavi Fernandes

Who are Mitch and Martha and How are they So Much Fun?

Mitch and Martha are Storytellers who travel the world, sharing their stories and folktales. They are also known as the Beauty and the Beast Storytellers. They have been telling stories since 1983. It's a tradition for them to come to Harrison and share their stories. Besides entertaining us with their witty and wise folktales, they also help prepare the 3rd graders for their Storytelling Festival, which occurred on Friday, April 5th. Though they don't have children, they work with millions of kids all around the globe. Every year we look forward to them coming to Harrison Elementary. Who wouldn't? Their stories are perfect for everybody. They always conclude with a meaningful message that all will remember. Mitch and Martha always make the story silly and fun with their sounds and emotions. They are an entertaining, lovable, and inspiring couple who Harrison has adored for many years, and will for many more years to come.



What Do Mitch and Martha Do And What Is The Storytelling Event?

Mitch and Martha come to our school every year. In fact, this year was their 15th year coming to Harrison Elementary School! Now you must be wondering, what do they really do that is so special for the 3rd graders? Well, every year the 3rd graders memorize a folk tale to present to other classes and their parents. Mitch and Martha's part in this is to help them use better expression and to help them learn more skills that will make their stories sound even better than they already are. The students are split into 2 groups. One group learns with Martha and the other group with Mitch. Then, they would perform to their parents. Because of this being their 15th year, the Student Council put together a big surprise! At the parent presentation, they gave Mitch and Martha flowers, gifts, and cards made by the whole school. They even made speeches for them too! WE CAN'T WAIT FOR NEXT YEAR!

3rd Grade Storytellers Interview

We interviewed John Sosa and Charlotte Ferry in Mrs. Sachs' third-grade class. This is more about their perspective on the Storytelling Festival.

Questions	Charlotte's Answers	John's Answers
What was your Story?	"The biggest Donkey of All"	"Anderclease and the Lion"
What was your favorite moment?	"When everybody was clapping for me, it made me feel really good and proud of myself."	"My favorite moment was after the storytelling event because I felt really good."
Who did you have to guide you?	Martha	Mitch
How did Mitch/Martha inspire you?	"Martha inspired me to be confident in my abilities and to look at others and speak with expression."	"He gave me good storytelling tips. They told me how to use hand motions to connect to the story. They thought I did good, which made me do better."
What did you learn?	"Mumbling doesn't help the story sound appealing. I also learned that I can speak very loudly and cheerfully."	"I learned how to speak in front of a big crowd."
Would you do storytelling as a hobby? Why or why not?	"I would love to have storytelling as a hobby because it's fun to do and recite."	"Maybe if I practiced a lot and had a good story to tell."

After the storytelling festival, many of Charlotte and John's friends agreed that they did great. Congratulations 3rd-grade classes! Thank you, Mitch and Martha, for all your love, support, and stories!

5th Graders Colonize Mars

By Barry Friedrich and
Ari Romero

The Mars Colonization Project was a great opportunity for 5th graders to learn more about the red planet. In this project we had to think of a way for humans to colonize Mars. We had to come up with solutions for the problems that humans would have to deal with on Mars. For example, there is no oxygen there, so we had to solve this by coming up with a strategy for making breathable air.

We worked in groups to build a 3D model of our assigned structure. Groups built vehicles, hospitals, science labs and classrooms, homes and recreation centers. Then, we created a tri-fold board with our group's problems and solutions for making Mars livable. Finally, we created a Sketchup model of our 3D model. We presented our projects to the 4th graders and our parents on March 22nd in the New Gym.

We started this project by learning more about Mars at the Liberty Science Center. The Planetarium was a huge dome in the Liberty Science Center and it was like a simulation of space. In the Planetarium we saw where we can look in the nighttime sky to find planets and stars! We also learned a little bit about each of the planets in our solar system. After the trip, we spent a few weeks in our classrooms building our projects.

Kallie Hwang's favorite part of the Mars Project was making the 3-D because she got closer to some of her teammates and it was fun building. Henry Lwamba said his favorite part was "building the 3D model because it was fun to work with other people." Overall, all of the 5th graders had a great time learning about Mars!

