



AT&T Classroom

A Night To Honor Accomplishments

Rcet
Spring II 2006

RCET staff recently honored the success of the 2005-2006 Cohort of teachers and their students at a celebration in the Moulton Hall Ballroom. A Showcase of Learning was presented to guests who circulated and discussed the accomplishments. The creative energy in the room was evident as these eight teachers, and the students representing their classes, talked with guests. Each teacher and the student representatives were recognized and presented with an engraved plaque documenting their experience. A very special award was given to retiring Rodyon Chlysta for his outstanding contribution to the AT&T classroom. For three years he has documented the events of the day with outstanding photographs, videos and recently, a pod cast. His photos enhanced the work at the Center and brought a lot of joy to the teachers and students.

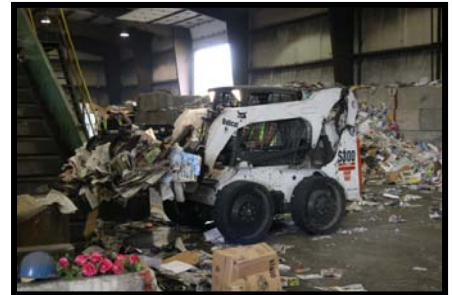


Crestwood Intermediate Students Study Ecology

The students of Theresa Boyle and Marcia Wallenfeldt explored the natural world with an emphasis on ecology. Their students adopted the mind set of a detective, making observations and looking for clues while developing a broad understanding of ecosystems. Launching the unit, Jeff Langstaff, a juvenile counselor with the Kent Police Department, talked to the children about what makes for a good detective. He explored new technologies that enabled him to explore his world in unique ways. Palm handhelds proved to be an important tool for the students as they photographed living and non-living things outside the classroom. These observations were sorted into a graphic organizer. Indoor ecosystems were created and notes were recorded on handhelds as the environments changed. Earthworms and their important role in the ecosystem were examined. A wormery was constructed to offer the opportunity for additional observations. The water cycle was investigated and stories were written using the "Drip Drop" theme. The question was, "What does an owl eat?" and the fourth grade investigators (FBI) were engaged to uncover the truth. Owl pellets were dissected and the bones of the prey were identified and made into an animation illustrating the skeletal system.

Earth Day Celebration with the Fourth Grade Investigators

Reduce, Recycle, Reuse! These were the themes for the Earth Day Celebration. The fourth graders started the day by visiting the Portage County Recycling Center where director, Charlie Ramer, gave them an understanding of the magnitude of the recycling process. During the afternoon, students toured the KSU campus gathering as much litter as possible, returning to the classroom to assemble the material into a litter sculpture.



Owl Pellet Dissection

Students photographed the dissection of the owl pellet. A pod cast was made of the entire process documenting the results of the investigation. The "owl" helped in the narration of the pod cast.



Fishing: A Fun Way to Study An Aquatic Ecosystem

Students learned how knowledge of plants, animals and habitat helped improve the anglers chances of catching fish. A visit from Charles Chlysta helped the students understand the aquatic system food chain and the importance of using that knowledge when planning what bait should be used. He demonstrated fly tying, explaining how to mimic insect structure and behavior. Crestwood students learned how to "Get Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs", an ODNR program. They each received a small tackle box with some fishing gear as a result of this study. Another wet environment was visited, the Kent Bog. Here Emliss Ricks, a naturalist, helped the fourth grade detectives discover the secrets of a unique world.

