



ASK News

Answering the questions you want to ASK



Education Through Exploration

Nana's farm By Claire

November 2011



Claire is holding a baby donkey so the kids can see one up close and personal.

Heiken's Ark. I bet you're wondering where the animals came from! Well Kathy and Dick Heiken got the animals from exotic animal sails. They started with camels and then got into other animals.

that they have.

There are a lot of animals there. They have 500 miniature donkeys, 70 fainting goats, 42 zebu, 35 watusi, 17 camels, 2-4 horned sheep, 3 zebra, 50 peacocks, and 2 dogs. I would say their most exotic animal is a zebra. The animals all have different personalities like the camels are gentle, curious, and intelligent, but they can get angry and stubborn because they are protective animals. Zebra are survivors. There they come from a place where animals and people use them for food. They protect themselves. There natural instinct is to kick and bite.

They do this to preserve breads. Some are becoming endangered like fainting goats and watusi. They also just like the animals

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Have you ever seen a zebra or a camel? Well if that was a no, then just stop at my nana's farm! It is located right outside of Norwalk; the name of it is

Special Dates

- ✓ Thurs. Nov. 17— WCC presents on Trees— primary & elementary
- ✓ Thurs. Nov. 17— parent meeting 7pm
- ✓ Mon. Nov. 21 — ASK Thanksgiving lunch-no need to send a lunch
- ✓ Tues. Nov. 22— Elementary to Playhouse— Junie B. Jones
- ✓ Nov. 23-25 — Thanksgiving break—no school
- ✓ Dec. 3&4 —The Art Thing fundraiser @ ASK
- ✓ Dec. 19 & 20— Parent conferences
- ✓ Dec. 21-Jan. 2— Christmas break
- ✓ Jan. 3— school resumes

Dual Enrollment By Drake

This year kids are disappearing from the Ask upper-pod, but they come back every day. So what is happening? Well, it's a little thing called Dual Enrollment. A few kids from ASK go to the Norwalk Public Schools for part of the day.

Dual enrollment is when a student is enrolled in two schools, hence the name. There are about four different types of dual enrollment. You can dual enroll for academic classes, extra-curricular activities, testing, and special education. You can call the District Office at: 515-981-0676, for more information on the specifics of

dual enrollment. There are many pros and cons. The best part is the fact that the child can interact with other kids his/her age. The negative part of interacting with other students is the fact that there are more chances for peer pressure to ensue. From peer pressure comes some stress (well most of the time). Peer pressure can also teach lessons to both the one(s) being pressured and the one(s) pressuring, so that's a positive out of a negative.

Ellen is one of the kids that goes to the public schools. "I really enjoy going." She likes the different learning styles of

learning. The dual enrollment offers more class options, which gives you a taste of high school.

Look at the time! I need to split like an apple. That isn't right. I need to split like a banana. Is that right? While I try to get my metaphors right, why don't you go on and read the other articles.



The two schools merged. I did this myself, using my know how from Eastveiw.

Inside this issue:

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Lego Robotic By Amber

At ASK two of the upper pod students are learning this really cool thing called Lego Robotics. Lego Robotics is a robot building program for all ages.

Lego Robotics also has programming involved. The programming process is where you tell it to do certain things and when to do them. Almost all the parts move. Here is the different one that you can build Tribot, Robo Arm, Spike and Alpha Rex.

The programming process comes when you are done Building the robot. Then you go to program, and you can tell it what you want it to do. Like walk forward for 10 seconds then go in circles. Or what ever you want. How you build the robot is you go to build and you pick the one you want to fallow and fallow the blue print till your done. When you are

building you have movers that make the wheels move if you have them.

Lego robotics is \$279.99 in a catalog called Lego holiday and you can also find it on Lego.com and it comes with 612 pieces in

all. That's a lot of pieces for four robots but it is a lot of fun.

Lego Robotics is a really fun and it can teach you a lot of cool things you can also program any way you want to and there is a lot involved and I want to build a clawed armed robot next in my progress. Cole one of my classmates is also doing this program and he like it a lot and he want to" build animals with claws" he also likes making it say phrases.



This is what a finished Trio Bot looks like. It took me tow and a half hours to build this. When it is done you can start to program the robot.

Badminton at ASK By Cole

One volley, two volley, three volley, four... Birdies are flying out the door every Wednesday during badminton at ASK!

What is badminton? It's a game where a shuttle cock is batted back and forth with light rackets over a net. What are the rules? What you want to do is hit the shuttle cock, aka birdie, over the net. If it's in bounds on the other diagonal side of the net and hits the ground you get a point. Ya-hoo! Only the person that's serving can get a point. If the birdie is coming at you from the person diagonally across from you, hit it but if there in front of you don't hit it and you get closer to the serve. It is all about fun!

Where do we play? Well we play at Ellen's house across the street from ASK. We play in her backyard where the nets are and the fun begins!

When we play badminton middle school students plays middle school students, elementary students play elementary students, and refs are random teachers. They walk around and watch the games.

I really enjoy badminton. It's really fun and you get better coordination! Some students think it's good exercise! And all students agree it's pretty awesome!



This is me about to hit the birdie.

Haiku, Haiku, what are you? By Shannon Kaldenberg

Japanese, haikus are

With seventeen syllables

In just three lines

A haiku goes like

Five, seven, then five again

With its syllables

Haikus used to be

Part of a longer poem

But now stand alone

This would be haiku

If it had just one fewer

Syllable in this line

-Oscar Wilde

Haikus are easy
But sometimes they don't make sense
Refrigerator
-Rolf Nelson

From block to paper By Ellen Wines

Do you like art? So do we! The past few months our upper pod has been learning about and experimenting with block printing, and now we want to share our knowledge with you.

Mrs. Tanya and I were introduced to the idea at a summer camp we both go to. Tanya had done block printing in high school, but hadn't thought about it in years. Once we saw it at camp, she got the thought we could teach it to the other older kids. So with the materials ordered, and the kids excited, we were ready to start.

Block printing is a lot of fun, and the best part is there is something for everyone. You start out with an idea of what you want to carve. Then you either draw it or find a picture of it. You take the picture and put it on your linoleum block by drawing on it or using carbon paper. You can choose different size carving tools to make your lines thicker or thinner. Anything you carve out will be what turns up white on your paper.

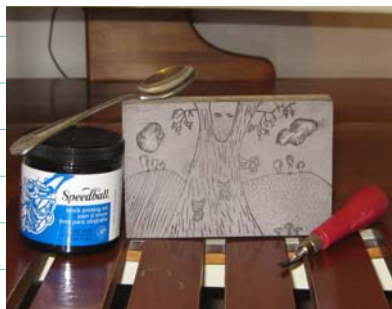
Once you have carved what you want, use a roller to put on the paint. Then set the paper on top of the block and press it down using a spoon in circular motions. Check it by lifting up a corner and holding down the

other side. Once you see the final picture, wash it off and carve more if you want to change anything.

Some things are easier to carve than others, for example, circles are very hard, and curves are much easier.

Block printing is unique. There are so many ways to do it. You can even try different materials. We experimented with using thin pieces of foam, and believe it or not, it worked just as well as the linoleum blocks, and it's a lot cheaper.

Art is special. It's a way to show your emotions through all kinds of forms. Art is fun, free, and expressive. So next time you think, "What do I want to try new today"? Remember this article, and try block printing.



Here are some of the materials we use for carving, and a beautiful finished block done by our very own Amber.

FARM from p.1

Donkeys on the other hand are caring and loving. They are also very curious animals! They LOVE attention. They are a very mellow animal.

It takes a lot to run the farm! They get up at 6:00-6:30a.m. Then start to do morning chores. While they are doing their chores, they look for anything or anyone that needs extra attention. There is always a project to be done around the farm, whether it is to get food, to fix a gate, or to help an animal that is hurt. Then Kathy goes to get any food or mineral that they need for the animals. Next they do their nightly chores. Finally they are done for the day! I know owning the farm sounds like a lot of fun, but there are still some problems. For example coyotes live around the farm and like to kill animals. Raccoons like to eat peacock eggs. Then there are possums that carry diseases and give those diseases to the other animals. You also need special permits to own some of the animals like zebra, zebu, camels, and watusi.

I told ASK about Kathy and Dick and their great farm and we set up a visit! we saw all the animals! Everyone loved different things Mitaya liked the kittens because they play a lot. Miya liked the goats and the camels because she liked to watch them walk around outside. Caliegh liked the cats and camels she liked them because she got to hold the cats. "I think it was a lot of fun! And the kids had a really great time." said the primary teacher Mrs. Rohde.

I think that having a grandma and grandpa who own such a wonderful place is truly a blessing.



What are you thankful for?

	Eating with my mom and dad. -Cedric		My cat CoCo. -Noelle
	Tucker, my dog. -Caliegh		I have a zhu zhu. It's special. -Devin

Pumpkins By Brian Millard

Pumpkins, corn mazes, pedal karts, and a kid fun center... what is happening? On October 14th 2011 ASK Learning Center went on a field trip to Howells pumpkin patch for a full day of fun.

Why did we go you ask? Well, the younger kids love going to the pumpkin patch and so does the big kids, trust me. We also go because we need a break from our tough, tough, tough work, wink, wink, and we need to get our pumpkins to carve them for Halloween.

What! You don't know what the pumpkin patch is? Do I really need to explain it? Well Howells pumpkin patch is a fun place to go with your families and friends. I think the adults will like it as much as the kids will. The kids will have lots of fun there because

there are pedal karts, a corn maze; and you can choose a pumpkin, you can ride on a tractor to get the pumpkins, and a fun center for kids. In the fun center is a big bin of corn, pedal tractors, a slide but I think it hurts you bottom at the end of the slide, stacks of hay the kids you can play on and all sorts of things your kids will love. Oh yea you can also pet goats and feed them to, and you can ride mini horses.

Devin said "I liked when we got to pick our own pumpkins and got to bring them home and he also said that he liked going through the corn maze, riding the little tractors, and going on the hay". Kaden said "I liked feeding the goats and that we got to pick our own pumpkins, he also said he liked the corn maze, and the big tractor ride. Hans said "he liked the corn maze and playing

in the corn. And Cedric said "he like getting the picture on the hay.

There are fun things to do at the pumpkin patch. There is a cool thing for the parents and that is a gift shop. It's in the white barn. There are two levels and there is a lot of stuff. Get this the pumpkin patch is also a tree farm.



This is some of the kids trying to get the teeter-totter level.

Geocaching with pics By Grace

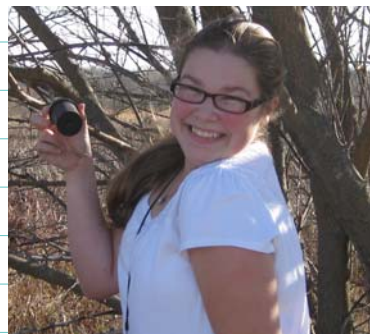


LEFT:This is a picture of Shannon and what she found is a GEOCACH hiding in a tree in a hole.

RIGHT:This is the one I found GEOCACHING its in a tree it was very hard to find you will have to have a person to help you get it. Tanya and Claire had to help Grace grab it from the tree.



This is a picture of a tree with a GEOCACH in the tree and they are pretty small that's why you look very hard.



LEFT: This is the one Ellen found by the radio station. She found it in a tree. It was easy to find. It was by the road of the station. So that is why it is easy to spot.

Teacher's Note: I would like to remind our readers that this is a student written and edited newspaper. Our purpose is to give the students a meaningful project in which to practice their writing and editing. As teachers, we are able to use this format to introduce new skills and monitor growth. There is not a better, more entertaining way to view a writer's evolution than to look back through several years of articles. This is the product of eight student reporters, all with varying writing abilities. We hope you enjoy watching their writings grow over the years. Enjoy!—Tanya