

SO MUCH GOING ON... AND JUST A CLICK AWAY!

As we enter this very productive time of the school year, we just want to remind you to visit our website, especially our teachers' blogs, to find out what's going on at Hillel. You can click on the hotlinks provided in this letter, or better yet, visit our entire website and poke around for yourself. The YouTube icon takes you immediately to the videos we've posted... no searching necessary!

NIGHT CREATURE STUDY TAKES KINDERGARTEN TO BOONSHOFT - Our kindergarten students needed to make a trip to the *Boonshoft Museum of Science & Discovery* to get some answers they needed. It seems that during our in-depth investigation of bats, the scientists grew attached to the lovely flying mammals and wanted them as pets. Miss Tita had to do some quick thinking to deter their desire to have the bats as pets without hindering their adoration for them.

In her recent blog about the experience, she says, *"We spent some time researching on the website of a bat sanctuary down in Texas. We learned that there are actually laws that prohibit people from keeping bats as pets unless they have the habitat and ability to provide for all of their needs. In addition, we learned that bats kept as pets barely make it through their first year, while bats in the wild or those kept in suitable environments can live to be 25 years old! As a compromise, we decided to take a trip to Boonshoft Museum of Science and Discovery on Thursday to see the bats and speak with an expert as a culminating event."*

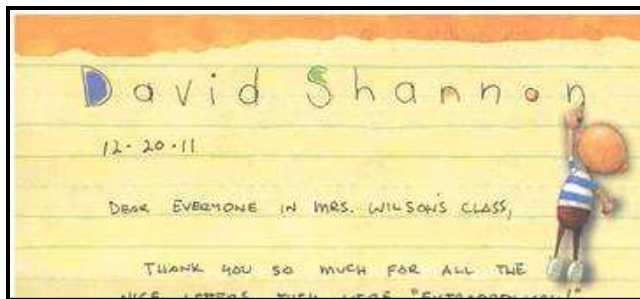
Now with a focus on owls, visit Miss Tita's blog <http://misstitaskindergarten.blogspot.com/> to find out more... and to see how the pumpkins have been growing.



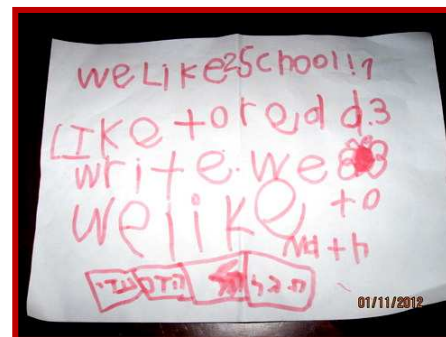
GRADE THREE STUDENTS HAVE ROCKS IN THEIR HEADS! - Miss Troha's students got some expert instruction from UD geologist and full-time faculty member, Katie Schoenenberger. In her latest blog, <http://daytonhillelthirdfourth.blogspot.com/> Miss Troha writes, *"Katie explained that she not only studies rocks and minerals but the Earth's processes (natural disasters, glaciers, fossils, etc.). Since we have been discussing root words, the students understood that the word geology not only applies to rocks and minerals, but to the study of the Earth (geo=Earth, soil). We explored and discussed the different types of rocks and minerals, how we identify and classify them and how the rock cycle works. Using hand lenses and field notebooks, the girls observed and recorded their findings...."* Be sure to visit Miss Troha's blog to see photos and find out more.

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CALDECOTT AUTHOR WRITES TO HILLEL STUDENTS – Our 1st and 2nd grade students learned that some of the very best surprises still come in snail mail. In her Hillel blog, Mrs. Wilson gives you some background. She writes, “*If you can remember a few months back you might recall our author study on David Shannon. We discussed his many hilarious books, learned new vocabulary like "extraordinary", mapped where David Shannon lives in reference to where we live, wrote our own versions of "The Bad Case of the Stripes..."*” If you want to know more, especially what the rest of the letter said, you’ll just have to visit Mrs. Wilson’s blog to find out! <http://kwilsonblog.blogspot.com/>



TWINNING CONTINUES KINDERGARTEN BOOK – Kindergarten students in Israel enjoyed the book our students sent them so much that it’s become the hottest item in class. Students are trying to copy the English words even though they don’t know what any of the letters stand for. Imitation is the highest form of flattery!



NEW YOUTUBE VIDEOS UP – BLESSINGS AND PUPPETS - So much to see, so little time to do it! How are you coming with your Birkat Hamazon blessings? If you’d like a little guidance on the second paragraph of the second blessing, just hit the YouTube button on our home page and you’ll get help from our student experts. Want help with some simple Hebrew? Some of our fourth graders put together short puppet shows designed to help our non-English speaking friends in Israel learn a little.

CHARLOTTE’S WEB performances which will be held at The Engineer’s Club, 110 E. Monument Avenue on January 28 at 8:00 p.m. and January 29 at 3:30 p.m.. Charlotte’s Web is being produced by Yale Gliner and directed by Michael Wadham. From the sounds and sights of rehearsal (we’re transporting our young actors to the Club for this week’s sessions) you will not want to miss this charming musical featuring such promising and enthusiastic thespians. See you there!

VIDEO PEN PALS FROM GRADE 4 – Students in Mrs. Thau’s Hebrew classes have composed personal letters to their pen pals in Israel... but they are going to save tons on postage. That’s because Mrs. Thau and her partner teacher in Israel have arranged for the students to videotape themselves reading their letters. Our students wrote and read their letters entirely in Hebrew so their friends could easily understand them.

TABLE ETIQUETTE BEING TAUGHT – Some really important skills are best learned in person. Fortunately for Hillel students, they get to learn from an expert. Linda Weprin, founder and director of the Midwest School of Etiquette, has agreed to make three visits to Hillel to teach our children the finer points of dining etiquette. She explains, “*Our program is based upon consideration for others and how it helps us to achieve our goals. The life skills that we teach will carry over to adulthood and are sure to provide an edge in future endeavors. Dining plays a big part in our lives and an early program in perfecting these skills will provide an advantage into adulthood.*” What a great opportunity for our students in grades 1-4! First stop, what about all those forks and spoons?

STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT STAINED GLASS RIGHT AT HOME! It may be the closest field trip our students have ever taken... and one with the most beauty. Mrs. Ayers and Mrs. Sloane led our students on a wonderful journey exploring the fabulous Beth Abraham stained glass windows. Those windows, so expertly crafted and installed, were the perfect examples the teachers needed to talk about the power of art and its importance to all of us. They served as an inspiration for some quick student pieces afterward. Marc Chagall would have been proud!



A REMINDER TO SUPPORT OUR PATRONS - Hillel

Academy of Greater Dayton enjoys the generous support from a number of community sponsors. If you look behind the exciting things going on in our classrooms, when we're out in the community, or at play outside, you will find that we benefit from their willingness to support us with both talent and charitable gifts. We want to give a special thanks to the good people at Bernstein's Fine Kosher Catering, F&S School Supply, and Quanexus for their continued support. Please support them as you can.

