

THE INFORMANT

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Pro Amore Discendi – For The Love of Learning

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MIDEVAL STUDIES – After studying Europe in the Middle Ages for six weeks, the 4th graders at Murfee Elementary celebrated with a fun Medieval Faire and Feast. For several weeks the students assumed a role from the Middle Ages and planned and prepared to play that role in a mock Medieval Faire. Students sold and traded goods, paid taxes, and "acted out" the feudal system. Thanks to the gracious opening of their beautiful home, the students were able to celebrate at Melissa and Toby Neugebauer's home. Students feasted on a typical medieval meal of meat, cheese, bread, and fruit. This day ended with a fantastic performance by Monterey High School's Madrigal Singers.



Murfee students gather outside of the Neugebauer home.

Sarah Cude

TUBMAN PERFORMANCES – Hope Shiver will return to Lubbock in January. She will make presentations as Harriett Tubman at several elementary schools. Mrs. Shiver has performed in professional musical productions throughout the world. She now resides in Houston and travels throughout the state performing as Harriett Tubman and Sojourner Truth at schools and professional conferences. Her Lubbock performances are planned for Rush, Iles, Murfee and Lubbock Christian Elementary Schools.



CORE KNOWLEDGE NEWS

TEACHER TRAINING – The faculty at Ramirez Charter School decided to once again incorporate Core Knowledge topics into their instructional program. An overview of Core Knowledge was presented to the faculty by Dr. Sam Ayers. They plan to reintroduce lessons in reading, language arts, social studies, science, music, and art. Ramirez also sent teachers to the regional conference.



ART PRESENTATION – Art collector Christian Thomas Lee shared selected pieces from his private collection with students at Murfee Elementary School and J. T. Hutchinson Middle School. He presented information to students about the artists and the specific pieces. He also encouraged students to “read art” – taking time to observe and appreciate a piece created by an artist. The Hutchinson presentations included students in the creative writing classes. Some of the art pieces in the collection were used as writing prompts for the classes, which will be printed in the school literary magazine.



HISTORY IN PERSON – Bill Perryman of History In Person shared a portion of United States history from the view point of Benjamin Franklin. He was dressed in appropriate attire to fit the time and life of Benjamin Franklin with the American flag and red, white, and blue decorations behind him. In addition to hearing history presented from the viewpoint of Benjamin Franklin, there was also a Power Point presentation with important facts and pictures. The Power Point enhanced the live

presentation. He made a similar presentation as Abraham Lincoln. He presented at Bowie, Honey, Murfee, Waters, and Roscoe Wilson elementary schools. He also made presentations for middle school students at J. T. Hutchinson and O. L. Slaton. The programs were funded by the CH and Helen Jones Foundations.

Courtney Yonke

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT NEWS



DAY OF THE DEAD – Art students from J. T. Hutchinson Middle School were invited along with students from All Saints Episcopal School, Preston Smith Elementary School, and Lubbock High School to create original pieces for the Day of the Dead exhibit in conjunction with the November First Friday Art Trail. An opening reception was held to highlight their work, which was displayed at the Louise Hopkins Underwood Center for the Arts through the month of November.

STORYTELLING – Jim Weiss of Greathall Productions in Charlottesville, Virginia, made a presentation to members of the Staked Plains Council for the Social Studies. The workshop was held at J. T. Hutchinson Middle School and addressed the use of storytelling as an instructional tool in the classroom. He provided examples and suggestions for enhancing reading and lecture to assist students in learning history. Mr. Weiss also spent the week enhancing reading and language arts classes through stories. He shared his talents with primary, intermediate and middle school students at Christ The King Cathedral School and Lubbock Christian School. Mr. Weiss also made presentations at the following Lubbock ISD schools: The LISD Bowie, Iles, Murfee, Rush, Waters, Roscoe Wilson, O. L. Slaton and J. T. Hutchinson.



Jim Weiss speaks to educators at J. T. Hutchinson Middle School

SCHOLARSHIPS – This spring, two students will receive Helen Jones Core Knowledge Scholarships. **Kelsey Odell** graduated from Canyon High School in Canyon, Texas. She is a junior majoring in Early Childhood Education. She plans to work on a Masters degree before she begins teaching. **Courtney Yonke** graduated from Coronado High School in Lubbock ISD. She is a junior majoring in Early Childhood Education. After graduation Courtney plans to teach 2nd grade and earn a Master’s degree in Special Education. Both are members of the LCU volleyball team, which advanced to the NAIA Tournament.

Kelsey Odell (left) and Courtney Yonke (right)



CONFERENCE – Several educators from Lubbock schools attended the Core Knowledge Regional Conference in Colorado. The sessions and unit Presentations were very beneficial.

LCU sent professors and education students to the conference. They included (front) Dana Reeger, Morgan Kirkpatrick, Holly Guillmen, (back) Dr. Jean Hines, Candice Sikes, and Lauren Pavne.



SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

January 21-22, 2007
Monday 21
Tuesday 22

Hope Shiver as Harriett Tubman
Iles (9:00) and Rush (1:30)
Lubbock Christian (9:00) and Murfee (1:30)

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