

Local Schools



[TOP](#)

Southwest Elementary 1st Grade Students Earn POR Awards

MARCH 08TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Southwest Elementary 1st Grade Students Earn POR Awards

Dexter, Missouri - Southwest Elementary honored 1st Grade students with Positive Office Referral certificates.

This award was presented to students who consistently showed the 3R's RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, and READY TO LEARN.

Each student received a certificate and a FREE Taco from Taco Bell.

Emma Whiteman from Mrs. Ryan's class and Aria Baker from Mrs. Boyer's class are pictured.

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Southwest Elementary Kindergarten Students Earn POR Awards

MARCH 08TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Southwest Elementary Kindergarten Students Earn POR Awards

Dexter, Missouri - Southwest Elementary honored Kindergarten students, with Positive Office Referral certificates.

This award was presented to students who consistently showed the 3R's RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, and READY TO LEARN.

Each student received a certificate and a FREE Taco from Taco Bell.

Pictured from left to right are Emma Greene from Mrs. Cooper's Classroom, Tyalen Sjolander also from Mrs. Cooper's Class, Eli DeAlba, Mrs. Cooper's Classroom, and Lailyana White from Mrs. Fortner's Classroom.

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Dexter Students Dissected Owl Pellets and Learned About Food Chains

MARCH 07TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Dexter Students Dissected Owl Pellets and Learned About Food Chains

Naturalists and an education consultants with the Missouri Department of Conservation's (MDC) Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center visited third and fifth grade classrooms in Dexter and Oran recently to give nature programs. These visits are part of a large effort to take nature programs to students who might not otherwise get to visit the center.

“We taught the students about food chains while exploring owl adaptations and pellets,” said Sara Bradshaw, a MDC education consultant. “All of our nature programs teach about animal conservation, habitats, nature appreciation and connect to classroom science studies.”

Bradshaw said the lessons are part of MDC's Discover Nature Schools (DNS) program. DNS emphasizes hands-on learning, teaches problem-solving, and provides authentic and local contexts for learning. Its lessons teach students from pre-K through high school about Missouri's native plants, animals, and habitats and connects them with nature. This particular DNS lesson is Nature Unleashed, featuring information about animal

adaptations, food chains, and owl pellet dissection activity.

“Many people don’t know what owl pellets are,” Bradshaw said. “But they actually teach us a lot about these fascinating raptors and provide a perfect exploration of the food chain.”

Bradshaw said an owl pellet is a tight little ball of items that an owl cannot digest. When an owl eats small rodents, birds and bugs each night, its stomach can’t digest things like fur, teeth, feathers and bones, so the owl will regurgitate these items in the form of a pellet. She said the pellets are heat sterilized before the dissection activity, which kills any living organisms that might still be present in the pellets.

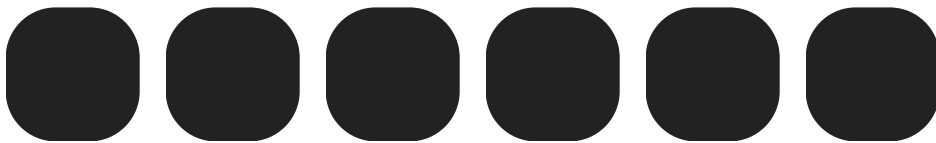
“These extra parts tell us what the owl has been eating,” Bradshaw said. “It’s a very fun, educational activity the kids really get excited about.”

Bradshaw said the schools get excited about saved costs when naturalists visit. DNS lessons provide a field experience without the costs of a field trip. She hopes the programs help teachers see how they can tie nature as a theme into their current teaching strategies using DNS curriculum as the lesson or supplement to their lessons. Schools that participate in DNS are provided free curriculum and become eligible for field trip grants.

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[Go to post](#)



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Reality Fair Teaches Budgeting to Students

MARCH 07TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Reality Fair Teaches Budgeting to Students

More than 60 Poplar Bluff High School students signed up to participate in the fifth annual Reality Fair to learn about money management during an event similar to a poverty simulation held Wednesday, Feb. 27, at Three Rivers College.

Administered locally by the Ozark Federal Credit Union in partnership with business leaders, the program was developed by the University of Missouri at Kansas City and the Department of Economic Education.

“One person changes career paths eight times in a lifetime,” Ozark FCU Business Development Specialist Davine Conover explained to over 200 students, including those of Neelyville and Naylor.

Students were randomly assigned family scenarios on an app through which they received a unique profile that included a career path, income, spouse, children, a credit card bill, insurance co-pay and student loan debt.

They were tasked with visiting several booths in order to make mock financial purchases, both major and minor, then gathered in the Tinnin Center theater for a lecture about the importance of wise financial decisions.

“Everything we do revolves around money,” stated Conover, who has been teaching financial literacy for over 14 years. “These [healthy] habits start today.”

Pictured: Realtor Terry Stewart walks students through various pricing options for mock expenditures.

Photo and article submitted by Tim Krakowiak, Communications/Marketing Director, Poplar Bluff R-I School District

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[TOP](#)

PBHS Rolls Out Coffee Service

MARCH 05TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

[PBHS Rolls Out Coffee Service](#)

Poplar Bluff, Missouri - The Poplar Bluff High School Coffee Crew began serving refreshments to teachers on Tuesday, Feb. 12, in an effort to provide students an opportunity to work on pre-vocational skills for their post-graduation transition.

Every Tuesday and Thursday during first and fourth hour, the students bring around a cart to faculty members who order coffee, tea or bottled water. Punch cards designed by the Technical Career Center computer graphics class are purchased by staff for \$5 for 10 drinks, plus one freebee.

The concept of the Coffee Crew came after a visit to Jackson High School earlier in the academic year, according to Mindy Garrett, R-I special services director. The cart was purchased through a mini-grant teacher Jeanette Miller was recently awarded from the Academic Assistance Group, and special aprons were designed by teacher Alexis Blevins.

Chartwells supplied the containers.

Jaden Sharp, a senior who works at Starbucks, donated several pounds of specialty coffee to help launch the program, which is sustained by generous contributions.

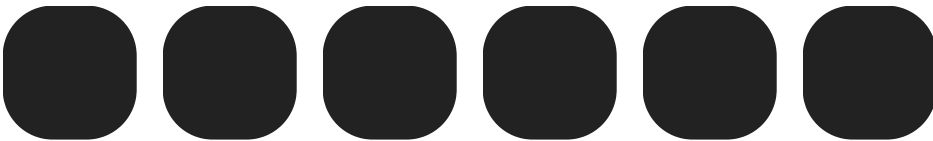
Pictured: Foreign language teacher Charley Harper receives a hand-delivered herbal tea, after teaching students how to say 'coffee' and 'tea' in Spanish.

Photo and article submitted by Tim Krakowiak, Communications/Marketing Director, Poplar Bluff R-I School District

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