

Around Dawson

With Assistant Principal Barbara Diamond

December 2009

Eyes on Owls Returns to Visit Grade Two



Students in second grade, who study owls as part of their curriculum, had a presentation by wildlife rehabilitators who run the Eyes on Owls Program. They are licensed to keep owls who have become disabled in order to use them for educational programs. The six owls that were presented to students would be unable to survive on their own. These owls are native to New England. Students learned about their vocalizations and specific markings. They learned that the Great Horned Owl has eyes that are locked in place so the owl can rotate its head in a three quarter circle in each direction. They saw that owls have many layers of down to keep them warm as well as oil on their feathers to make them waterproof. Prior to the program students had an extensive unit on the owl which included dissecting owl pellets. Students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to see the nocturnal animals up close.

Fifth Graders are Elected to Student Council – First Project Under Way



The eight new student council members are busy planning a Hats on Day for Friday, December 11, 2009. On that day students and staff are invited to wear a hat and donate \$1.00 for the privilege of keeping it on during the day. Canisters for donations will be placed in classrooms. Anyone wishing to create a hat is welcomed to do so. The money will be donated to the Foundation for Children with Cancer, which provides financial assistance for families of children with pediatric cancer. Donation boxes will be available in classrooms on December 11th only. While \$1.00 is the suggested donation, any amount a student wishes to give will be appreciated.

Book Club Exploring Skills with Reader's Theater



Fifth graders who participate in Book Club have been meeting weekly during recess. The group started off enjoying short stories and has moved on to performing Reader's Theater. The plays allow them to improvise some acting skills as they explore the meaning, vocabulary, cultural information and varying themes of the genres they are reading. The students are enjoying making connections to their experiences as well as trying their skills at dramatizing the roles.

**Until next time,
Barbara Diamond**