

It's CHRISTMAS BREAK Already?!?

3rd six-weeks Update from The Legacy Ranch Campus

Wrapping Up the First Semester

November and December can be trying months here at the Ranch. As you might imagine, as children are separated from their families, the holidays are not easy, fun times. And while the Ranch does a great job of making Thanksgiving and other holidays special, it's still not the same as being at home with family. And our kids feel that.

Thankfully, we've seen a handful of sibling groups return back to family these past few weeks, and we hope things will go well with them. We've had some new groups arrive recently, as well. As our enrollment continues to fluctuate, our goal is to be a steady and consistent influence in the lives of our students.

In the Classrooms

K - 2

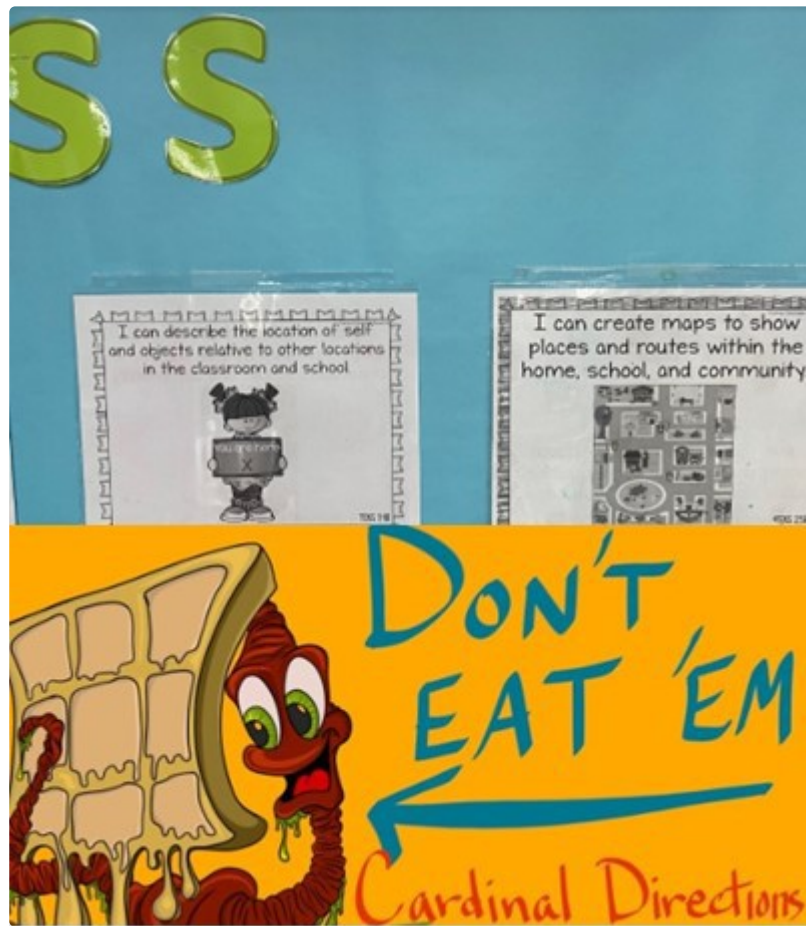
Kinders are learning to read!!! They can say (and SHOUT!) their sight words. They know more math concepts such as adding, subtracting, and measuring.

1st and 2nd graders are good at retelling stories and focusing on main ideas and details. 1st graders are continuing adding and subtracting while 2nd graders have started multiplying. They are super excited that they can skip count by 2s, 5s, and 10s.

Our social studies unit is all about geography. They all have learned cardinal directions and create their own little scenarios to help them remember directions, for example: "Never Eat Sour Watermelons" or "Never Eat Shredded Waffles" HAHAAH!!

We have also worked on various Thanksgiving and Christmas arts and crafts. The students are very excited about Christmas, but some of them are sad about the long break, because they enjoy coming to school.





Grades 3-5

Mrs. Atkinson's class learned different genres of traditional literature. The students thoroughly enjoyed reading *The Rough-Faced Girl* by Rafe Martin, an Algonquin Indian Cinderella. Students compared and contrasted different aspects of the story to the traditional Cinderella tale. The students also designed wigwams which were illustrated with important aspects of their lives.

Students also learned about legends in how they are handed down from earlier times and believed to have a historical basis. They enjoyed reading *The Legend of the Poinsettia* retold by Tomie dePaola and identified the story elements and created paper poinsettias for classroom holiday decorations.

We read different versions of *Twas the Night Before Christmas* and illustrated our own copy of the traditional tale for the holiday season for the whole class to enjoy. We shared this version with the K-2 classes during our end of semester holiday party.





Middle School & High School

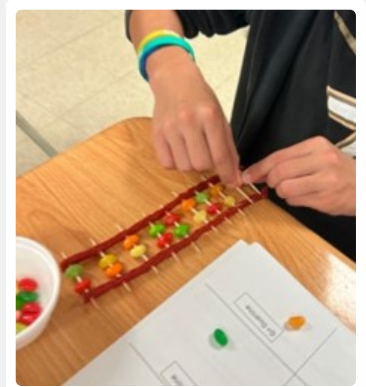
In Science, the middle school and high school classes enjoyed building some DNA models. "It's fun building models, when you get to eat them when you're done!", reported one random seventh grade student.

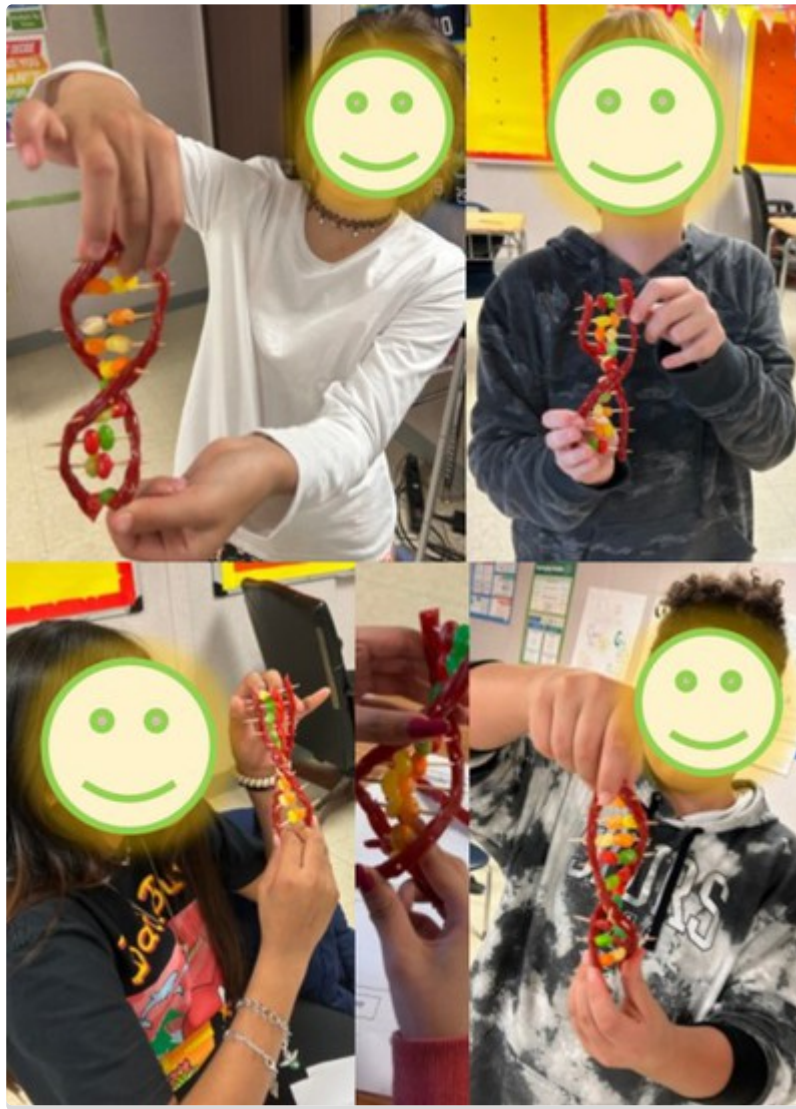
Building a 3d model of a DNA molecule is a fun and tasty way to get ALL students involved and learning the importance of the DNA molecule. Students get excited when they get to eat the material used to building the DNA model.

Fun fact for the readers:

- If you uncoiled all the DNA you have in all your cells, and laid them end to end, you could reach the moon 6000 times!
- All humans have 99.9% common DNA.
- Humans and chimps share around 95% of their DNA.
- Siblings share 50%, whereas twins share 100% of their DNA.

Students were learning about the structure and function of DNA. Throughout the unit, we discussed the main structure and the main function of DNA . BY engaging each learner into building their own unique strand of DNA, they understand that not two individuals have the same DNA (unless you are an identical twin). At the conclusion of their model they observed how their strand was different than the student's strand next to them . Students where able to manipulate the models and gained a better understanding of the structures that make up the DNA molecule. They also discussed the main function of the DNA molecule (to store genetic information).





For one of our ELA and Social Studies projects, our middle school and high school students created an "All About Me" book using different text structures. The students used what they were learning in the unit to create different stories about their own lives.

One example the kids enjoyed was a compare and contrast Venn Diagram where they compared themselves to their siblings and friends. They also crossed social studies with ELAR by creating sequenced and chronological events that they placed into timelines.



On Thanksgiving, the Ranch Facility helped all the kids enjoy a 'traditional' holiday meal. Along with a lot of great food, the kids learned some table manners and how to take turns at the dessert table :). It was fun for the school staff to hear the kids talk about their Thanksgiving meal. The school staff is thankful to work with a loving and caring Facility Staff that works so hard and goes the extra mile for these children.





Campus Focus: Granelia Hendricks; Instructional Assistant

When my sons were in school, I volunteered as a reading tutor and substitute teacher while also operating a successful small business. Following the graduation of my youngest from high school in 2015, I continued concentrating on my business and in caring for my elderly mother for another six years until I started working as an I.A. at The Legacy Ranch campus.

This is my second year supporting the teachers, and I have admired their dedication to making a difference in the lives of these children. At the time of my hire, I had been attending Victoria College to pursue a nursing degree to work primarily in elder care. However, I quickly fell in love with the children here and have found my interest in wanting to attain a degree in education.

I have just finished my second term working towards a B.S. in Transformational Christian Education offered through Hartwell University. My next term begins in early January.



The Legacy Ranch Campus

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