


MuseumMobile visits Washburn Elementary

THROUGH DONATION FROM FNPCW

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The Cable Natural History Museum's (CNHM) MuseumMobile paid a visit to students at the Washburn Elementary School on Wednesday and is scheduled to visit another batch of the schools/students this coming Wednesday thanks to the Friends of the North Pikes Creek Wetlands (FNPCW).

FNPCW President Kathy Wendling said education is a big part of their nonprofit's mission.

"We really feel it is important to educate the youth particularly" she said. "We believe that educating youth is vital because it's the youth of today that are going to be preserving our special places in years to come."

Wendling said that the fall/winter series of presentations FNPCW held at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center had not reached as many youth as they had originally hoped.

"When we have presentations in the evening, we don't get as many youth as we would like and that became apparent to us when we had the raptor presentation last October," she said. "We really thought we would fill the room with youth, but you know at seven o'clock, a lot of parents are putting their kids into bed and getting their jammies on and reading stories."

Wendling said they contacted the CNHM's Naturalist/Education Director Emily Stone about what programs they would have available for students.

"She told us about the MuseumMobile program and we decided that was an excellent program," she said. "So we called Principal Al Krause of the Washburn Elementary School and they did not have the program. The Bayfield Schools do have the program and Washburn Elementary did not."

Wendling said Krause was thrilled at FNPCW's offer to fund that program for his student's.

"They are going to have a winter program and a spring program funded by our Friends group and that's going to be for 270 students in grades K through 5 in the Washburn Elementary," she said. "Washburn Schools already have the really strong environmental programs and this educational experience will fit in with their curriculum very well."

Krause certainly agreed.

"It's an amazing opportunity for our kids to just get hands-on with some museum artifacts and natural kinds of

things in addition to the other things we already do," he said. "This has spurred the idea for a whole science week we're going to be doing in April that the PTO (Parent-Teacher Organization) has gotten onboard with. So just her call to kind of get this going has developed all kinds of ideas that we've got rolling for this spring."

Krause said the MuseumMobile program will be back to do their spring program in April, as well as the PTO has scheduled another science person to come in April and there is another group that is sponsoring a visit by the raptor program in February.

"We found out about that (the raptor program) because we were talking to them (CNHM) about the MuseumMobile," he said. "This spring will be full of these science activities here.

"It's got us looking at how we can continue this going in the future."

Krause said they do hope to continue with these types of programs.

"The whole green and health and outdoor education is a huge part of who we are at Washburn, from our school forest to our lost city area and our gardening programs so this fits right in with everything we try and do," he said. "We are certainly going to be looking for funding within our budget or other sources to continue these kinds of experiences for our kids."

Jane Weber - the Museum's MuseumMobile educator - visited Ms. Ivy Meierotto's Kindergarten classroom at 9:30 on Wednesday morning with an assortment of objects and spent about 45 minutes engaging with the kids during an age-specific lesson about winter animals.

Weber began by introducing herself, talking with the kids about the museum and sharing what they would be doing.

"Today I have a bin full of stuff that I brought from the Museum and it's going to relate to the winter somehow and we're going to use our five senses to discover what's in my bin," she said.

Under Weber's tutelage, the students participated in sensory awareness activities where items were passed around in bags and cans and they had to guess what the items were only using their senses of hearing, smell and touch.

After all of the items were passed around and the students had an opportunity to guess, Weber revealed what they were and as a group they discussed each item further.

For more information on the MuseumMobile program visit them online at cablemuseum.org/school-field-trips/museum-mobile/ or call the museum directly at 715-798-3890.



SARA M. CHASE/STAFF PHOTOS

Students in Ms. Meierotto's Kindergarten classroom move in closer to see the animal pelts in the Cable Natural History Museum's MuseumMobile educator Jane Weber's hands during her visit to the Washburn Elementary School on Wednesday. The visit was made possible through funding from the Friends of the North Pikes Creek Wetlands.



Ms. Meierotto and some of her students (left to right) six-year-old Henriette Trimbo, five-year-old Addisin Bard and five-year-old Nora Haas, inspect an animal pelt up close during a visit from the Cable Natural History Museum's MuseumMobile educator Jane Weber.



SARA M. CHASE/STAFF PHOTO

Five-year-old Nora Haas and five-year-old Jonah Barker inspect an animal pelt up close during a visit from the Cable Natural History Museum's MuseumMobile educator Jane Weber.