

Kidzeum Hosts Grandparent's Day

By Beth Muselwhite
Kidzeum Director

The Kidzeum Open House for Grandparents on Friday, December 13th, at Grenada Elementary School was a huge success! Special Christmas cookies, a recipe for an Australian dessert, and lots of fun were shared by everyone who toured The Kidzeum's Christmas Down Under exhibit. Grandparents were greeted by Dr. David Daigneault, Superintendent of Schools for the Grenada School District, Beth Muselwhite, the Director of The Kidzeum, Mr. Ralieg Wood, Principal of GES 2/3 grades, Kidzeum teacher assistants, and PTA and community volunteers. Sounds of the season were also enjoyed as Mr. Morris Hubbard played the piano.

The Kidzeum was open for grandparents at new times this year. The second and third grade students visited from 9:00 until 11:00. The Kindergarten and first grade students' grandparents visited from 11:30 until 1:30 for their tours of The Kidzeum.

Grandparents toured the outback region that included several Australian animals the students had learned about in the exhibit. They met Stuftee and his Kelpy (dog) who were sitting in an over-sized Holden Ute (truck).

The Kidzeum's eighteen foot tall Christmas tree was decorated with large multi-colored bulbs, over sized, multi-colored sunglasses, star fish, sea horses, Australian flags, and multi-colored Christmas balls. The tree was the back drop for grandparents and their grandchildren's pictures made to remember this special day. Grandparents were guided around The Kidzeum kitchen, bank, and grocery as their grandchild/children led the way.

Each year The Kidzeum celebrates the season with an exhibit that takes the children to a different country at Christmas. The students are able to learn a variety of information about a particular country and how boys and girls live and learn in their own country compared to how we live in the United States.

Every year the exhibit at Christmas alternates from a country that is warm to somewhere that is cold for this time of year. This year the students were able to learn about Australia, "the land down under" during two visits to The Kidzeum.

For the first visit, the children in grades K-3 learned why children in Australia

wear singlets and bathers for a barbie on the beach on Christmas day! It's hard to believe it's summer time for Christmas in Australia, while it is the winter season for the USA.

So what does Santa wear for Christmas while it's summer time? And do Rudolph and the other reindeer pull Santa's sleigh to visit the children in Australia at Christmas? The students at GES discovered that boys and girls in Australia believe that Santa leaves his jolly, red suit and his reindeer in a safe place while he travels to the land down under. Santa dresses for the weather with his singlet (t-shirt), shorts, and thongs (flip flops), for the summer heat. The children in Australia believe that Santa trades his reindeer for six white kangaroos that are much more comfortable for Christmas in Australia.

For this exhibit, the students also learned all about the Australian flag, dollar notes, the sport of cricket, native Aborigines, and the capital city. The students compared these Australian items with our country's flag, money, sports, native Americans, and our nation's capital city. The children obtained knowledge about koalas and kangaroos and many other native animals while playing a native Aussie game and working on some Aussie slang.

For the second visit to Christmas Down Under, the children gathered around the Christmas tree as we shared The Christmas Story told around the world. The girls and boys grabbed clap sticks and jingle bells to sing "Aussie Jingle Bells". Afterwards, the children came together around the barbie for a tasty ice lollie!

Thanks to Mr. Embree Bolton for sharing his time, knowledge, and experience about living in Australia. Mr. Bolton was available each morning for a week during this exhibit to talk with the children in the hallway of GES, sharing his personal Australian memorabilia. Kindergarten through third grade students were able to ask questions, touch and feel items such as a didgeridoo (an Aboriginal instrument), a boomerang, kangaroo hide, Australian money, and listen to Aussie slang from Mr. Bolton. This was a wonderful culmination to The Kidzeum's Australian exhibit for the children at GES!

The Kidzeum will open the next exhibit on January 13th, titled The Night Sky.



(l to r) Bobby Martin (holding Mary Moore), Betty Martin, Linda Moore, Jimmy Moore, and (front) Ruby Moore



(front l to r) Devin Wilson, Lauren Harges, Nathan Harges, (back, l to r) Shirley Mathis and Aaron Travis



(l to r) Janice Mims, Reid Cannon, Chloe Cannon, and Martha Cannon



Jack Leslie and Shirley Vaughan



(front) Rylee Ryals, (back l to r) Nana D and Lora Ryals



Ashvin and Shanvi Kher



Shaniyah Miers and Mary Jones



Wilson, Jonah, and Sylvia Smith



Lizzie Mohead and James Austin



(front) Tatyana Tedford, (back, l to r) William Tedford, and Ophal Tedford



(front) Will Blaylock, (back, l to r) Kenneth Blaylock, and Lynn Blaylock



Presley Morgan and Jerry Bishop



Wanda Carpenter and Natalie Carpenter



(front) Connor Zess, (back l to r) Bo Morgran, and Linda Morgan



A'mariaya Cross, Lynett James, and Kailey Cross



Linda Mitchell and Keelin Bender



Dustin Brown and Brad Bush