

Summer science program interests Grover students

By ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Grover Elementary students let out a chorus of astonished shrieks Thursday morning when Schiele Museum science educator Steve Pin told them early settlers ate opossums.

That piece of information was only a small part of Pin's presentation to the students in the school's summer science program.

During the four-week program, which started June 2, students are studying animals, the solar system, weather and rocks and minerals.

"Kids love science," said school principal Jackie Lavender. "There is so much you can do."

Students are observing tadpoles mature into frogs and are then releasing the amphibians into a nearby creek. The students have made paper models of the solar system, stringing the planets onto a clothes hanger. The school has become a "zoo" of papier mache animals created by the students.

Before telling students opossums had once gone on dinner tables, Pin showed them an opossum from the museum's collection.

"I don't know if it's alive. I'm going to let you help me decide," he told the students.

They quickly guessed the hairy creature was a dead animal, deducing that from its failure to breathe and move.

Pin then quizzed the students on what kangaroos and opossums have in common.

"They have a tail," "they hunt for food," "they come out at night," students guessed. When no one could answer the question, Pin volunteered the answer - both female opossums and kangaroos have pouches to raise their young.

"They (opossum babies) are as big as a dime when they're born," Pin said. The tiny babies crawl into mom's pouch and stay there until growing larger.

Pin also explained that opossums' eyes often appear red when lit by car lights. The color we are seeing is

actually blood vessels.

A question from a teacher prompted Pin to explain the expression "playing possum." The animal often lays completely still to fool potential predators into believing it is dead and worth no further attention.

Pin also set up the museum's portable planetarium inside the gymnasium. Students scrambled to "see the stars."

The Cleveland County Arts Council coordinated the summer program's cultural component. Dulcimer player Joe Collins and dancers from the Beth Mayo Company have entertained the students. The children made ceramic masks with artist Sally Jacobs. She will also teach them to make rain sticks.

A visit by storyteller Jane Talbert and Shelby Police Officer Tony Walker is also on the agenda. Walker, a bike patrol officer, will talk about safety.

Sue Beatenhead from Glaze N' Amaze Pottery in Shelby is helping students make ceramic mugs and tiles.

"These are the things you want to do in the (school) year but don't have the time or funds," Lavender said. Funding comes from a

state 21st Century grant and is administered through the Communities in Schools program. The program is free for students. In addition to programming, the grant pays for teachers, assistants and college interns and lunch and bus transportation for the students.

"For kids in a rural setting, it's hard to get them here. It wouldn't be possible without the bus," Lavender said.

The program also includes field trips to the Schiele Museum planetarium and Martin Marietta's Aggregates stone quarry.

During its first two weeks, word of the program has gotten out in the community. Enrollment jumped from 27 students on the first day to 58 at the end of last week.

The activities are so popular with students, they do not want a day away from the Monday through Thursday program.

They want to come tomorrow (Friday)," said Aja Pass, Grover Elementary's CIS site director.



ANDIE L. BRYMER/HERALD

Steve Pin of the Schiele Museum uses a stuffed opossum to teach Grover Elementary students about animals during the school's science camp. The students are also studying the solar system, rocks, minerals and weather. Arts, crafts and field trips are also part of the program.

Middle School names honor roll

Kings Mountain Middle School honor roll for the fourth nine weeks grading period.

(A Honor Roll)

7th grade - Brooke Avery, Haley Barrett, Jessica Bell, Melinda Bell, Brittany Belt, Leslie Boyd, Emily Britton, Rebecca Broadway, Jordan Childers, Ryan Davis, Megan Ellis, Jennifer Farley, Nicholas Furr, Brian Goodwin, Justin Gsellman, Brittany Hale, James Hale, Melissa Hamrick, Courtney Hartgrove, Kelsey Harvey, Townsend Haynes, Justin Heinbach, Laura Hollifield, Deanna Humphries, Sigourney Johnson, Katelyn Latham, J'Lisa Littlejohn, Jessica Lockhart, Hannah McGill, Ker Medero, Caitlin Mezey, Rhonda Morelock, Matthew Murphy, Jordan Page, Arti Patel, Haley Peeler, Kyle Richards, Taylor Rippy, Jeffrey Robinson, Jericka Ross, Heather Rudnick, Jessika Rutherford, Carmen Scism, Mark Sumlar, Kristen Tate, Kassia Walker, Brittany Weathers.

8th grade - Elizabeth Bridges, Halie Calvert, Casey Camp, Tyler Cannon, David Clark, Jennifer Cole, Alex Fields, Kelly Flynn, Brittany Grant, David Hunter, Jennifer Lineberger, Paul Mansfield, Hitesh Mirchandani, Megan Neely, Jaimin Patel, Jalisa Pettis, Sarah Russell, Nikita Scotland, Bennett Suber, Caitlyn Suber, Lauren Suber, Courtney Tate, Angela Wall, Jessica Yarbrow.

(AB Honor Roll)

7th grade - Daniel Asgari, Timmy Athitang, Tequila Badger, Kristen Batchler, Caleb Beach, Jacob Bell, Eric Boakye, Kelli Bolt, Joshua Bridges, Aaron Brown, Kimberly Bumgardner, Sharif Burris, Caleb Campion, Nicholas Cash, Adam Casim, Jason Chanthasone, Kristin Cogdill, Travis Crisp, Avery Dahl, Blair Darnell, Brooke Davis, Hillary Davis, Rand6y Deal, Erika Dover, Austin Durham, Casey Edwards, Derek Evans, Courtney Falls, Lewis Fannin, Andrew Fedyschyn, Avan Fields, Laura Gaffney, Brianna Green, Richard Greene, Jordan Guyton, Maggie Hall, Michelle Hamrick, C Haraszkiwicz, Tyler Hellstrand, Nicholas Hensley, Jonathon Hines, John Hinson, Erica Jackson, Jaye Jackson, Dominique Jager, Mariama James, Max Kersbergen, Tabitha Lamb, Jessica LaPoint, Preston Lee, Brandon Light, Chelsey Loman, Krystal Luckey, Joseph Maner, Megan Martin, Tony Martin, Jonathon McCreedy, Alex McDaniel, Marshia Meeks, Brandon Mitchell, Steven Montgomery, Mark Parsons, Rahil Patel, Brianna Pharr, Paul Philavong, Cory Phillips, Christopher Potts, Jonathan Quinn, Tyler Ray, Charles Rhodes, Brooklyn Roberts, Kristen Roper, Teddyra Roseboro, Brittney Self, Bradley Setzer, LaChrita Shull, Phillip Sisler, Antonio Sloan, April Smith, Hillary Smith, Megan Smith, Lee Stone, Ashley Stroupe, Katie Swafford, Kaitlin Teague, E Thammachack, Ghady Thavysay, Casey Thomas, Gabriel Thomas, Desman Thompson, Jeremy Tucker, Eric Van Buren, Joshua Vassey, Sandra Walker, John Walters, Fletcher Webster, Briana Williams.

8th grade - Alexander Adair, Brandy Adams, Nikita Adams, Kyra Alexander, Krista Anderson, Danny Athitang, Amber Baxley, Brittany Beard, Karrie Bell, Chadwick Blanton, Cody Blevins, Megan Bradshaw, Corry Branham,

Jonathan Brice, Megan Burton, Brian Byrd, Tasha Calhoun, Bryan Chapman, Morgan Childers, Stephanie Clark, Katie Cooke, Stacy Crawford, Jonathan Davis, Ryan Davis, Taylor Deaton, Erika Dillard, Robert Dotson, Erin Ellis, Tabatha Farley, Carol Gordon, Christopher Greene, Martha Griffin, Jocelyn Guzman, Eilene Hansen, Benjamin Hart, Jennifer Herndon, Lindsey Holland, Cortni Hulon, Daniel Humphries, Alicia Jimson, Michelle Jones, Brian Kies, Christian Lail, Haley Lail, William Lawrence, Laura Lawson, Ryan Leach, Jennifer Lingg, Andrew Livsie, Ashley Lockhart, Megan Lowery, Kinsley Mashburn, Daniel McAbee, Brittany McClain, Mone't McClain, Chelsey McNeill, Christopher Miller, Cole Moore, Anthony Nations, Natalie Nieves, Edmundo Obando, Naly Phongsouvanh, J.L. Presnell, Brittany Pruett, Chase Ramos, Sara Roberts, Antwain Ross, Adam Sellers, Vanessa Sidavong, Anthony Simpson, Andy Siravanta, Nathan Smith, Reid Smith, Michael Stiles, Tara Stowe, Andrew Turner, Elizabeth Van Dyke, Jonette Wallace, Angel Watson, Laura Weigel, TiAnna Whitaker, Brittany White, John Witherspoon, Brittney York.

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