



# Weekly Recap - Zoo Elective

December 3rd-7th

Journeys & Upper School

## Monday, December 3rd

### Group 1

***Ms. Mikael and Ms. Jessica H.***

***Ayrton, Carson, Chance, Chase, Dublin, Maddox, Hendrik, Sebastian, Zander***

Students delved into the deep blue sea and learned about how animals interact with the ocean. Students also learned about how animals have adapted to live in the water.

### Group 2

***Ms. Jenn and Ms. Michelle***

***Charli, Eva, Gio, Zoey, Xavier, Jacob, Ricky, Grady, Ian***

Students discussed the success story of the American Alligator in Florida. We observed the alligators and noted observations in our nature journals. We discussed alligator populations and how they were once on the Endangered species list and now they are nearly at carrying capacity.

We discussed sea turtle population sizes of the different species and how they have had success in recovery. We talked about their basic biology and life history along with current threats. We played a game to simulate how researchers count turtles.

### Group 3

***Ms. Amanda Rose (Mr. Kris and Ms. Natalia Subs)***

***Athena, Christian, Harper, Jonas, Keonte, Olivia, Selena, Sarah, Charlotte***

Students participated in a "Hitchhiking Bugs!" Bug Hunt and Demo, played a Monitoring the Spread: Pheromone Trapping Game and enjoyed a Trading Cards Activity and Exchange.

### Group 4

***Mr. Dave***

***Avery, Brie, Damian, Grace, Kenley, Nate, Neven, Samuel, Landen***

Students explored Animal Traits and described how each animal's distinct features are fitted to its environment.

## Tuesday, December 4th

### Group 1

***Ms. Mikael and Ms. Jessica H.***

***Ayrton, Carson, Chance, Chase, Dublin, Maddox, Hendrik, Sebastian, Zander***

Students learned how trees provide a home for many different animals. Students observed a demonstration of a sea turtle's egg nest and took note of the fragile yet protected environment the baby turtles hatch and climb their way out of. Students visited the Aviary section and on the way we spoke about the differences of the Macaws, Wild Horn-billed bird, while taking note of the type of environment they live in judging by the surrounding plants.

The children fed the parakeets and did a brain exercise by getting into a circle, closing our eyes, and pretending to be the types of birds we observed in the sanctuary. Some were rainbow Macaws in a silly pose, others pretended to be in sleeping position by crouching down closing their eyes and twisting their heads toward a shoulder with their arms tucked in.

### Group 2

***Ms. Jenn and Ms. Michelle***

***Charli, Eva, Gio, Zoey, Xavier, Jacob, Ricky, Grady, Ian***

Students participated in an activity to illustrate what makes up a habitat (food, water, shelter, space) and then observed the habitats in the Florida and Australia loops.

We talked about different habitats that are present in upland areas of Florida and introduced the concepts of succession and talked about the importance of fire. We will look at animals that live in upland habitats both in the Florida loop and in the Africa loop to draw similarities.

### Group 3

***Ms. Amanda Rose***

***Athena, Christian, Harper, Jonas, Keonte, Olivia, Selena, Sarah, Charlotte***

An experienced guide took students on an exciting quest into the zoo to explore how some animals adapt and others do not to environmental changes. Each group traveled behind the scenes to meet Florida animals, explore prehistoric fossils, tour the Wild Florida loop in the Zoo and visit our conservation station to make an impact in our community.

Students participated in a Python in the Glades case study and a Wild Animals as Pets: Cost vs. Benefit Analysis Activity.

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### Wednesday, December 5th

#### Group 1

**Ms. Mikael and Ms. Jessica H.**

**Ayrton, Carson, Chance, Chase, Dublin, Maddox, Hendrik, Sebastian, Zander**

Students learned what animals need to stay alive: food, water, shelter and place. Students participated in a series of activities to illustrate each concept during the course of the day.

Students read a story about deer and visited the deer, fox and otter in the Florida Loop.

#### Group 2

**Ms. Jenn and Ms. Michelle**

**Charli, Eva, Gio, Zoey, Xavier, Jacob, Ricky, Grady, Ian**

We designated two data recorders that wrote the Australia species names and, for each species, wrote the students' impressions. At the end of the Australia loop we stopped at the benches to discuss impressions and talk about values and contributions. We discussed importance of first impressions vs. using data to make decisions about animals.

We read a book together about Florida manatees and their history and conservation status in Florida.

#### Group 3

**Ms. Amanda Rose**

**Athena, Christian, Harper, Jonas, Keonte, Olivia, Selena, Sarah, Charlotte**

Students participated in a conservation based activity and learned what they can do at home to make a positive impact on the ecosystem. Students dissected flowers to gain an Understanding of how pollen spreads and joined a Toxic Plant Scavenger Hunt.

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**Mr. Dave**

**Avery, Brie, Damian, Grace, Kenley, Nate, Neven, Samuel, Landen**

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### Thursday, December 6th

#### Group 1

**Ms. Mikael and Ms. Jessica H.**

**Ayrton, Carson, Chance, Chase, Dublin, Maddox, Hendrik, Sebastian, Zander**

Students learned how animals and plants get their energy and explored the concept of photosynthesis.

Students learned about herbivores, carnivores, omnivores and the food chain.

#### Group 2

**Ms. Jenn and Ms. Michelle**

**Charli, Eva, Gio, Zoey, Xavier, Jacob, Ricky, Grady, Ian**

Plant chromatography: Understanding Nutrient Uptake in plants (TBD)

Invasively delicious! Create ways to get rid of invasive plants: recipe journal activity (Bonsai Loop)

Invasive Plant Seek and Destroy! Game and Activity (Australia, Asia, Florida trails)

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#### Group 4

**Mr. Dave**

**Avery, Brie, Damian, Grace, Kenley, Nate, Neven, Samuel, Landen**

Students returned to their favorite exhibits to explore, add observations to nature journals and ask questions.

### **Friday, December 7th**

#### **Group 1**

***Ms. Mikael and Ms. Jessica H.***

***Ayrton, Carson, Chance, Chase, Dublin, Maddox, Hendrik, Sebastian, Zander***

Students learned more about how adaptations protect animals in their habitat (camouflage). Students played predator/prey and red fox/deer games.

#### **Group 2**

***Ms. Jenn and Ms. Michelle***

***Charli, Eva, Gio, Zoey, Xavier, Jacob, Ricky, Grady, Ian***

Mapping Natives: students marked on map where natives are

Conducting a Field Study: how to, graphing, observations journaling activity

Weekly Plant Seed Bracelet ID and share, visit to paws on petting zoo

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