



Bobcat News

Santa Visits Damon ISD

Eyes lit up and smiles filled the rooms when Santa took a break from his busy schedule to visit Damon ISD students. Santa and his helpers prepared a per-

sonalized stocking for each student filled with special treats. Christmas magic filled the air as Santa visited each classroom spreading Christmas joy. The staff of Damon ISD

hopes you all had a wonderful, safe Christmas holiday and wishes you much happiness in 2021!



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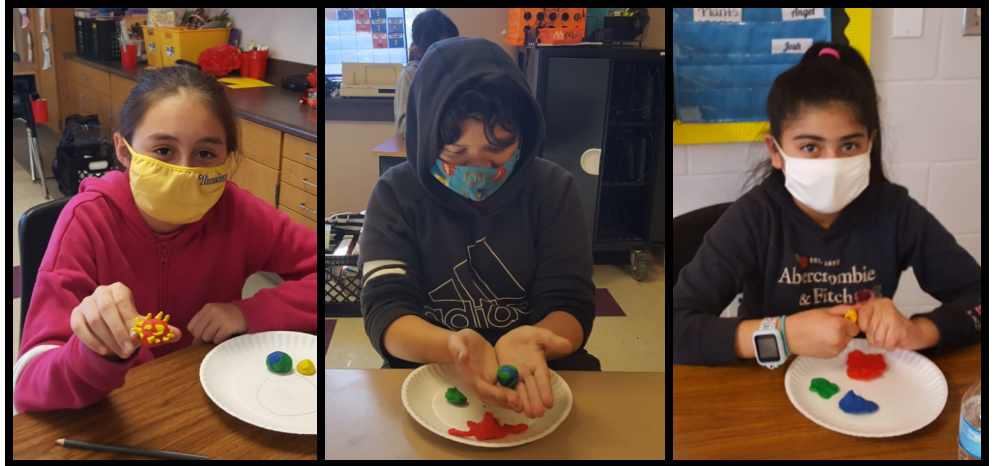
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Special points of interest:

- *Make sure your child charges their chromebook every night so it is ready for the next day!*
- *Students working from home must check in daily with their teachers for attendance credit! Truancy rules still apply!*

5th Grade Builds Solar System Models

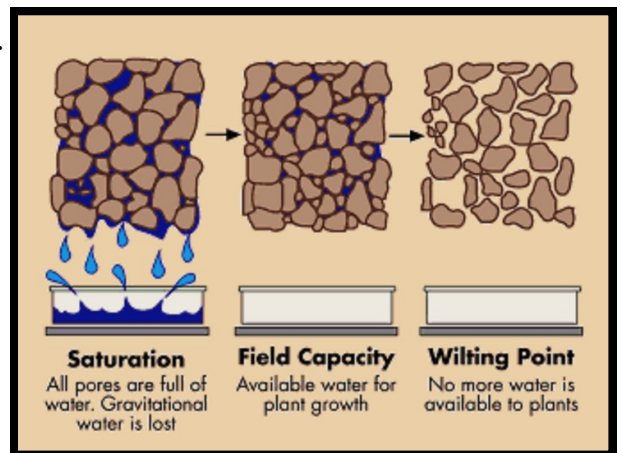
Miss Dudley's fifth grade science class built models of the solar system as they continued to learn about the planets and relationships to the sun. The students looked at the relationship between the Sun, Earth and Moon, including orbits and positions.



Third Grade Investigates Water Retention of Soil

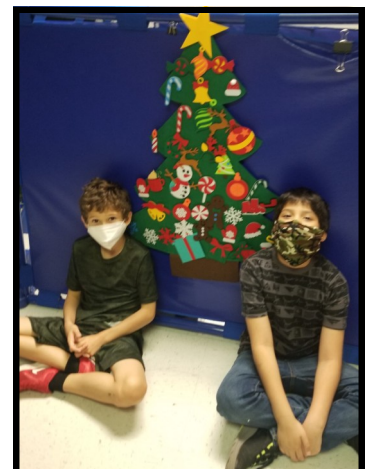
What better way to learn about the properties of the soil than testing the water retention! 4th grade students are required to learn about the capacity of soil to retain water and support the growth of plant life. Miss Dudley's class tested various soils to determine their capacity to

retain water. While doing this, students were also able to take a look at the various properties of soil such as color and texture. These students will definitely know what type of soil to use to grow some great gardens in the spring!



Christmas Fun and Learning

Mrs. VanDyke's class enjoyed decorating a felt tree while practicing taking turns. A special thank you to Mrs. Black for supplying the tree which gave students the opportunity to not only enjoy its fun and beauty, but use it as a learning experience!

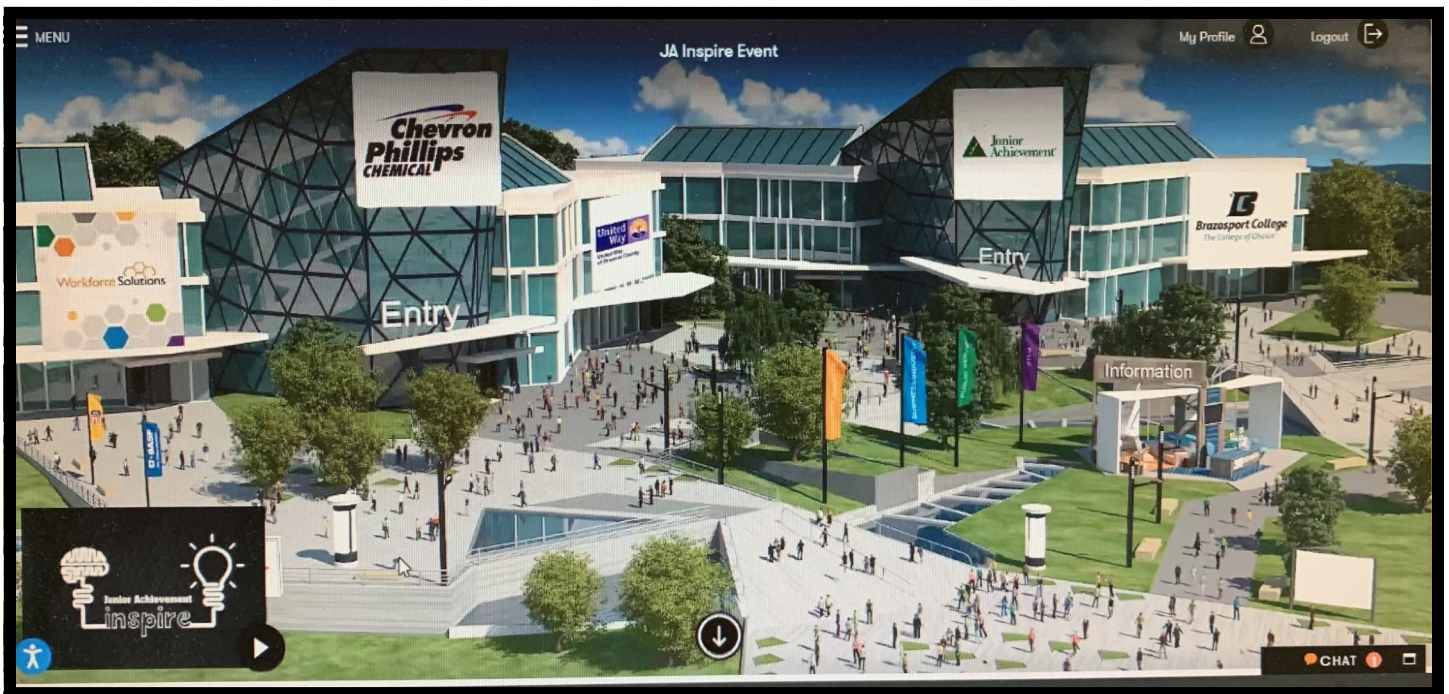


8th Grade Attends Virtual Career Fair

On Friday, December 11, Damon ISD 8th graders attended a Virtual Career Fair -JA Inspire Event. Through the Zoom platform, students were able to listen to guest speakers in various career fields such as proc-

ess technology, marketing, advertising, veterinary medicine, cosmetology, banking, business, nursing and many other fields. A special thank you to Junior Achievement, Brazosport College, event sponsors and

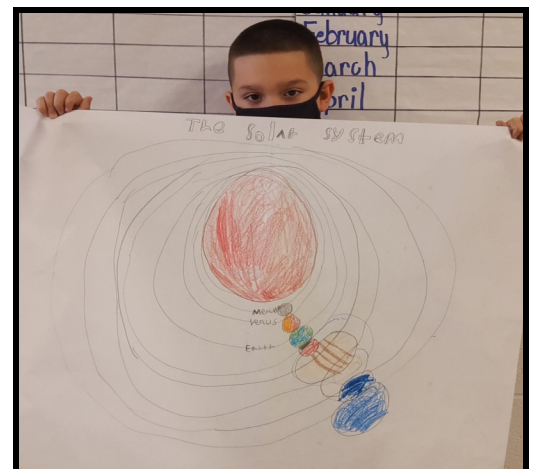
all the guest presents. Damon ISD students walked away with a wealth of information to help them start looking at the various career fields available to them.



Third Grade Creates Solar System Posters

Have you ever wondered where the Earth sits in relationship to the other planets? Just ask any third grader and they will be able to tell you. In Science class with Miss Dudley, students made posters of the solar system depicting the order of the plan-

ets in relationship to the sun. Third grade students are expected to identify the planets in Earth's solar system and their position in relation to the Sun as part of their required TEKS objectives. Great job, 3rd Grade!



PK Loves Christmas!



Evelyn

Nathan

Gabriel

Rylie Ann

Sunnie

Salazar Declared Spelling Bee Champions

The Scripps Houston Chronicle School Spelling Bee took on a different look this year. In place of the traditional spelling bee to determine Damon ISD's school champion, class champions competed using an online test. After all students tested, the student with the highest score received the honor of being Damon ISD's champion. Congratulations to seventh grade student Trey Salazar. Congratulations to Trae for being an amazing spellers. He will represent Damon ISD at the

county spelling bee which will be held in February. Other participants included:

3rd Grade: Skylar Greenwald, Ryker Haeffner

4th Grade: Bailey Gup-ton, Skyla Benavidez, Dax Haeffner, Brooklynn Bowen, Patrick Smith

5th Grade: Rhyanna Reyes, Elena Ramirez, Jaydon Laughrey, Angel Valentin, Erick Angeles

6th Grade: Elida Ramirez, Brooklynn Morris

7th Grade: Trae Salazar, Valentin Cardenas

8th Grade: Rebekka Pence



Damon Bobcats Take State Interim Assessments in Grades 3-8

Grade	Subject Tested	Date of Test
5 & 8	Science	January 26, 2021
3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	Math	January 27, 2021
3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	Reading	January 28, 2021
8	Social Studies	January 29, 2021

We want all parents and families of Damon ISD students aware that we are collecting benchmark data the week of January 25, 2021. The information collected will be critical in supporting instructional decisions for our students. During Covid-19 our students have received their education in formats unlike any ever presented in the history of schools. We want to assure where our students have excelled, where there are gaps and where they are tracking at grade level.

Please support us in this endeavor. Please encourage your child to give their very best effort on these assessments. Knowing that the data they provide will help us support your child in very individualized ways when it comes to their learning.



Specific ways you can help your child:

- Assure he/she gets plenty of rest each night
- Assure he/she knows the importance of the assessments
- Assure he/she is in attendance everyday and on time

We are excited to provide this opportunity for our students. We know that this opportunity is also one that allows our students to shine and demonstrate their learning even in a very challenging school year.

Damon ISD School Improvement Update

We are happy to share that even in the face of adversity during the year of Covid-19 that our teachers and team have stepped up to every challenge! Teachers are working hard to deliver instruction so that our bobcats can learn and excel at Damon ISD.

This month will be our 2nd reporting month to TEA regarding our TIP (Targeted Improvement Plan). We have continued to track our students progress in reading and math. We are working hard to address the gaps that surface along with stretching our students that are excelling.

You may hear your child reference I-Station. We are using I-Station in reading and math to help us progress monitor the growth of our students in these two subject areas. Students spend 45 minutes the first week of each month completing an assessment that provides valuable data relating to a student's progress. If you want to know more about I-Station and the data collected please reach out to your child's math or reading teacher.

We also collected writing samples in December 2020. This collection has been rated based on the TEA rubric for writing success. We are working individually with students to assure they are addressing the gaps we found in December hoping to improve their writing scores when we collect our next sample in February.

Finally, in December, TEA announced that district letter grade scores will not be given for the 20-21 school year. This is great news for communities and school districts as the pressure for learning during virtual school has been a tremendous challenge. However, the state is still requiring the STAAR assessments be given and the data collected. For Damon, since we are a school in needs of improvement, this collection process is critical. We look forward to the assessments and the opportunity for our students to demonstrate their learning. We also realize that from March 2020 until today there may be gaps in our students' education and we relish the opportunity to collect this critical data to help us make important decisions for individual students relative to their instruction. Please contact Lisa Spain at lspain@damonisd.net with questions specific to school improvement.

