On Tuesday, October 7th, the entire 5th grade participated in the famous Junior School Dinosaur Dig.

First, we went to the science room and received our instructions from the wise scientist, Mrs. Macki. Then, we went outside and got knee-deep in mud searching with our fingers for ancient dinosaur bones. Some groups found them very quickly, and others didn't, but we all eventually found a bone.

Once we felt one, we had to brush off the dirt and carefully lift it up from the ground. Then we went inside and brushed off the rest of the dirt. After that, we had to draw our group's bones on our grid map and ask everyone else to draw theirs on it.

Finally, we sat down on the grass and watched a lady put all the bones on a life size model of a Maiasaura and tell us how it died. Sadly, it parished because a bigger dinosaur, Tyrannosaurus Rex, bit its leg.

On our way back to our classrooms, we answered the questions in our Dino Dig booklet. Overall, it was fun, even if it was tiring!

By Sharmila Prabhu

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Houses Keep On Helping!

**The House meetings have been going great so far!**

All of the houses have been trying to help the community and others around the school as much as possible. They have been doing an awesome job!

*The Green House* is taking care of the playground equipment they bought for us last year, and everyone smiles as they do it.

*The Red House* helped the *Yellow House* with their project for recycling a lot of paper. I know that one total of the bags was 93.1 pounds, and now they have over 300 pounds. They have helped the *Red House* with the ornaments for the Marines.

*Mrs. Bailey* goes scooting by! This year, Crazy Hat Day was a huge success with the whole school participating. This launched *Green House* into the blanket project for needy kids.

Last year, *The Red House* donated pet items to dog shelters and made cookies for seniors citizens. This year they have made beautiful holiday ornaments for the Marines.

The school can't wait to have new ideas to help the community and the school. Everybody also is very curious to see who will win this year's House Cup! Let's keep on helping. Let the games begin!

By Kelli Conway

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**Detroit Country Day School**

**Junior Journal 2008-2009 Volume 1**

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**A special thanks to our teachers, Mrs. Cucinella and Ms. Savage!**
Story Contest!

Story Contest! Story Contest! Anyone can enter in the Story Contest! You may write about a mystery or make a fantasy. Anything you want.

Make sure the story is in the “Dear Blabby” box located in the computer lab by February 12, 2009. The max length should be two pages. We hope that a lot of people will enter! The newspaper club will make necessary edits for the stories. For the winner, there will be a secret prize! We hope you have fun writing. Make it great!

- Kelli Conway

Pet of the Paper!

Do YOU want to have a chance to have YOU and your PET become "PET OF THE PAPER"? "PET OF THE PAPER!" is a nice chance to get you and your pet into the next paper. All you have to do is put a picture of your pet and a convincing paragraph about why your pet should win in the DEAR BLABBY BOX. PLEASE understand pictures will not be returned.

When the next paper comes out, the winning pet will be featured: PLEASE give us your first and last name.

- Jillian Campbell

Submit a photo of your pet and a convincing paragraph about why you should win!

Boys verse Girls: Bakugan

What are Bakugan? That would be your first question. Well, they are the hottest toy in the minds of 5th grade boys.

Here is the opinion of 5th grade girl, Pavani Veerisetti, “I think boys who collect Bakugan are crazy. They are spending six or even 10 dollars on worthless and useless pieces of plastic.”

Here’s another girl, Sonali Prasad, “Those balls they are always talking about have absolutely no purpose, and they’re a waste of money!”

If you didn’t like those answers, then listen to the opinions of 5th grade boys, Cole Wiand and Vaasu Guduguntla, “They’re cool because they open up and they’re magnetic,” and “I think the only cool thing about Bakugan is the way the balls transform into shapes. They’re boring otherwise, since there’s really no other use for them.”

Now, have you made up your mind about liking Bakugan or not? If you haven’t, you should check them out! Note: They are now banned from school, so we must keep them at home.

-Alice Risov
Odd Start

The NFL has had one of the weirdest starts in history this year. Some of the best teams are doing badly and some of the worst teams are doing the best.

The Dallas Cowboys were supposed to be one of, if not, the best team in the NFL. They started with four wins and three losses (4-3), including losses to some of the worst teams in the league. With 13 Pro-Bowl players last year, the Cowboys may have too many star players and everyone is playing for themselves and not for the team.

Another example is the San Diego Chargers, who were also supposed to be one of the best teams in the NFL. However, they are 3-4 including a loss to a team that went 1-15 last year who already has more wins than all of last year. On the other hand, the Tennessee Titans, who were a mediocre team last year, are 6-0 this season. And the Denver Broncos, a very bad team, are 4-3 including wins over NFL powers San Diego, New Orleans and Tampa Bay. The Philadelphia Eagles were expected by many to win the Super Bowl but are underachieving at 3-3.

The 2007 AFC champion Patriots who were 16-0 last year, are only 4-2 by comparison. The Patriots are a different example of the strange start to the 2008 season. Their problem this season could be missing Tom Brady who is hurt, or that they are just too full of themselves after a perfect regular season last year.

Even with the weird start to the season, teams like the Washington Redskins are doing about as expected. Overall, the amount of good and bad teams is still equal, even with the odd start to the season.

My pre-season predictions haven’t changed too much because there are still a handful of good teams playing well and bad teams playing badly. Although the Patriots are a better and deeper team, they will miss Tom Brady too much, as his replacement at quarterback has no playoff experience. The Steelers will then win the AFC conference championship game over the Tennessee Titans. And in the Super Bowl, I have Washington beating Pittsburgh.

Now, a lot can change in the second half of the season, as it did in the first half. It just goes to show you that you can’t be sure of anything until it actually happens.

-Ben Yared

Wombats Are Cool!

Not many people know about the wombat, but it is a pretty cool animal. Let me show you what I mean.

The wombat can burrow tunnels up to 100 feet. That’s why it has such big legs. If it had little legs like the owl, I think the wombat would get pretty tired. The wombat has a big nose a square body and big legs. It is not commonly seen, but can be seen in zoos.

There are three types of wombats: the southern wombat, the eastern hairy nose wombat, and the northern hairy nose wombat. I think they are all pretty cool! The wombat usually lives in grassy or woody areas, because they are plant eaters.

A young wombat resting in a beanie.
Credit to wombatcountry.com.

This animal is one of my favorites. I wish I could have one for a pet!

By Ailsa Bentley

Bad Hair Day

Have you ever had a bad hair day? Do you ever find yourself in a bad situation that no matter how hard you try, how much gel you use, how much blow drying you do, or straightening, you still get the same bad hair-do? I sometimes feel it’s hopeless, and I leave my house completely self-conscious the whole day. I feel everyone looks great, except for me.

Now with head lice being our bug guest in the school, you don’t really have a choice. Either you ponytail it or cut it short. But the question is: How important your hair style is to you? You need to know yourself inside and are great, regardless of your bad hair day.

-Ariana Tagavi
English Schools Compared to DCDS

My name is Melissa, and I am in Mrs. Pritchard's 5th grade class. I came from England six months ago. You might think it was hard for me to settle down in the middle of the school year, but it wasn’t really. I started off at Detroit Country Day School in Mrs. Cucinella’s class, and she is a very nice teacher; not that the other teachers aren’t, of course. Making the switch from my English school to DCDS made me think about the differences between the two.

English schools are great because you do not have much homework; only one piece of reading homework and one piece of math homework per week. The bad thing about that is that you don’t learn enough, and you can fall behind if you move to a different school, like I did. Also, the school doesn’t handle or control bullying. I should know because it happened to me.

I think DCDS is cool because you learn a lot about many different subjects that are a lot of fun, but you also can get good grades too! For example, you do clay figures with crazy, wild faces in fifth grade with Mrs. Jenkins. You also get to do fun brochures on a Native American tribe for a history project. Overall, I think DCDS is WAY better than any school in England. GO DCDS!

By Melissa Beyrand

Fun Facts

- A hyrax is a small mammal that is adapted to living in mountains and trees.
- The closest relative to a hyrax is an elephant (if you knew what a hyrax was)?
- The capital of Germany is Berlin.
- The Great White Shark can grow up to 20 feet and 5000 lbs?
- Bet you didn’t know it’s impossible for people to lick their own elbow?
- It’s physically impossible for pigs to look up into the sky?
- A shrimp’s heart is in its head?
- Los Angeles’s full name is “El Pueblo De Nuestra Senora La Reina de los Angeles De Porciuncula”.
- If you have headphones in your ear for an hour can increase the bacteria in your ear by 700 times?!!
- An ostrich’s eye is bigger than its brain.

BY Jacob and Rohit

Fashions at the BBQ

I observed a lot of cool, hip fashions at the BBQ early this fall. People really went all out to show off their school spirit and spurs. There were patched jeans, cowboy boots, bandanas, and tons of cowboy (and girl) hats. Some people were even sporting cowboy shirts, really nice plaid ones too!

The event was filled with color and DCDS families having fun! What a great event. The DCDS BBQ was a big hit! Way to go!

By Melissa Beyrand
**Tips on How to be Cool**

Tip #1: Be yourself! If you're funny, be funny! If you're artistic, be artistic! Make sure you use your talent wisely, or you probably won't feel right!

Tip #3: Some people don't feel like they're cool and I want them to feel cool because they really are and they should know that, so feel cool to be cool!

Tip #4: If you have a friend

- Madison Copley

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**Holiday Do’s and Don’ts**

1. **When the holidays come, do travel!** What’s better than spending Christmas with your relatives?

2. **Don’t forget outfits!** You can get special Christmas clothes at clothing shops.

3. **Don’t criticize gifts.** Don’t do it even if it’s THAT hideous.

4. **Do save the gifts for opening time.** You shouldn’t open them early, it ruins the surprise.

5. **Don’t** and I mean DON’T

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**Spook-tacular Facts**

Halloween seems like only yesterday! We just had a lot of Halloween fun, so here are some spooky facts about the Halloween season! Did you know that:

- In the old days, people wore costumes to scare evil spirits away?

- The most pumpkins carved in one hour is 42 by Stephen Clarke for a TV show in New York?

- The Winchester house in California is considered to be haunted and was actually built for ghosts?

- Halloween is the second only to Christmas in spending. Consumers will spend over $2.5 billion during Halloween. That’s a whole lot of candy, costumes, decorations, and party goods.

- There are no words in the dictionary that rhyme with orange? Hard to believe for such an important color?

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By Emma Kreil
Blabby is Back Boys and Girls!

Hi guys, I’m back. I’ve just been relaxing at the beaches in Florida all summer, but now I’m ready for all your questions.

Do you need help with an annoying sibling? Are you having a tough time memorizing your math facts? Do you need tips to be a better athlete?

Dear Blabby is the answer to all your problems! Write to Blabby! You can drop off your questions in the Blabby Box located in the computer lab near the printer closest to Mr. Pohl’s desk. Blabby will give you his/hers opinion in the next Junior Journal Edition!

Do you need help? Write to Blabby!