

Hands on History Night

The Circleville City School Foundation awarded a mini-grant for the purchase of supplies to be used for the first *Hands on History Night* which took place on Wednesday, March 1st, 2017. The Extra Mile after-school program and Circleville Elementary hosted students and families in Grades 3-5.

During *Hands on History Night*, students interacted with different Pickaway County community presenters to learn about local history. Some of these topics included: The Slate Run Historical Farm, The Mt. Oval Historical Farm, Historical Kitchen Tools, Native American Artifacts, Rug Hooking, Life of an Ohio Frontiersman, The Ted Lewis Museum, stationery creation and Ohio Canals.

Three ‘Museum in a Box’ kits were rented with topics on Pioneer Life, Tribes of the Ohio River Valley, and Early Ohioans from the Ohio History Connection based on Ohio Department of Education (ODE) Social Studies Content Strands and Curriculum for each grade level. These kits, loaned out for a two-week period, became an interactive extension of the event as they were made available to social studies teachers at the elementary school for supplemental classroom instruction.

Driving the event were the Pioneer Journals students created in their daily art classes with Mrs. Hoskins leading up to the event. At the event, students would check in and receive their Pioneer Journal and then visit the ‘open house’ style event and go station to station to receive a stamp from each presenter – gaining a wealth of knowledge and picking up an appreciation for many historical practices along the way.

Circleville Elementary teacher, Evan Debo, stated “the CCSF mini-grant supplies were the driving component to the turn out we saw. To date, this was the largest school-wide function I have been involved in that was not an athletic event or a music program. Students and parents came in droves because students were able to create that pioneer journal we used with the CCSF grant funds leading up to the event and were enthusiastic about the event as a result.”

He recommends the following information for future CCSF supporters: “I think many people want to know how to be involved, but are not sure where to start. Contributions to CCSF allow board members and educators the fiscal ability to bring the classroom experience to life through events and hands on activities like this. As an administrator, the CCSF and its supporters have been our vehicle to provide expanded learning opportunities that we would not otherwise be able to provide, and I am incredibly indebted to the entire board’s dedication to make some of those ideas a reality for our students.”



pictured:

Pioneer Journals served as the pulse of the event as students used them as a passport on their journey through Circleville's past.

“Our staff was thrilled to partner with the many local historical groups set to present at our first ever Hands on History Night,” Principal Karen Bullock said. “Students and their families found many of the hands-on activities and presentations interesting and enjoyed learning facts and historical practices from our rich Circleville heritage.”

It was estimated that approximately 350-400 people turned out for the inaugural event at Circleville Elementary and school administrators already have their eye on making the event an annual project moving forward.

The event was made possible by a Circleville City School Foundation grant and the Extra Mile program.



