



Kell PRIDE PRESS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE KOPPELMAN ENVIRONMENTAL LIFE LAB

The Kell Pride Press is a quarterly newsletter that highlights student activities in the Life Lab at Blissfield Elementary School. The Pride Press was started by fifth grade students Gianna Martinez and Eloise Terry under the guidance of lab Director, Mrs. Davis. Paige Braun is the co-editor.



KELL HIGHLIGHTS

The shade system was replaced using the funds raised from the 2025 Royal Walk fundraiser. The Blissfield Rotary Club made a generous donation to cover the remaining funds. Data was collected via an electronic temperature monitor showing a 30 degree difference between no shade system and the newly installed shade system. This is an essential component to temperature control in the greenhouse. Thank you to the Blissfield Community and the Blissfield Rotary Club for supporting this much needed repair!



WHAT BCS STUDENTS ARE DOING IN THE KELL

Kindergarten

Classes started the year off being introduced to facility rules and expectations and enjoying classroom visits by Kell animals. Students explored the Kell, made scientific observations, and ended the marking period with a hands-on activity for their 5 senses studies.



First Grade

Students visited for rule and expectation refreshers. They completed a writing activity that included student artwork. They were able to visit with animals, have hands-on time with them, and explore the space.

Second Grade

Second graders learned how to keep a science notebook and made observations. They also charted animal data to include math studies. They ended the marking period with plant studies which will carry over into the next marking period.



Third Grade

Third grade took the Kell on its maiden voyage for the year, kicking it off with a social studies lesson about Michigan state symbols. They participated in a scavenger hunt for all of Michigan's symbols. Students read to animals, had writing activities paired with student artwork. They also studied climates around the globe and participated in several hands-on activities including matching games and phytoplankton tag.

Fourth Grade

Fourth Grade students enjoyed leisurely visits reacquainting themselves with the animals and the space. Some classes also learned about solar energy and were able to test a real solar panel!



WHAT BCS STUDENTS ARE DOING IN THE KELL



Fifth Grade

Fifth graders take turns coming to the Kell in small groups to help with animal care and practice leadership skills with younger grades.

STEM

Mrs. Hojnacki visited with GSRP students for STEM where they read a story and learned about spiders and their webs.



High School

High school students taking the Zoology independent study class come work in the Kell 3 days a week. While in the Kell they gain hands-on experience taking care of animals and providing medical care in real life scenarios. They also practice leadership skills with elementary students.

Kritter Club

Kritter Club is an after-school club with over 40 members across grades K-9. Students focus on skill building, relationship building, animal & facility care and social emotional learning.



ZOOKEEPERS OF THE MONTH

Students in third and fifth grade act as the schools official Zookeepers. Interested students apply to be a Zookeeper just like a real job. Under the supervision of Mrs.

Davis, they rotate in small groups to help care for the Kell animals. Through the Zookeeper program, students learn about animals from all over the globe and how to properly care for them. They practice leadership, responsible behavior, teamwork, and social skills. They also exercise compassion and demonstrate patience. Their math and reading skills are put to the test as they carefully follow written instructions to properly measure out food and supplements. Our Zookeepers are an integral part of daily care.

These students are recognized for their outstanding performance to our Zookeeper programs:

3rd Grade



LILY HOAG

5th Grade



EMERALD KELLER



NEW ARRIVALS

PARTHO EGG

“Georgia”, a female crested gecko, laid a parthenogenetic egg. Parthenogenesis is a form of reproduction where organisms produce offspring from an unfertilized egg. Students will be able to observe development of the embryo and watch a life cycle happen right before their eyes! In the photo, you can see the beginning stages of the gecko’s development. The red ring is the developing embryo. Over the next 90-120 days, students will be able to observe the different stages of development right in the palm of their hand through a process called candling.



NEW ANIMALS

