

Third-Grade Field Trip

By Hanna R.

On Thursday, October 26, 2006, the third grade students went on a field trip to the Heritage Farmstead. Everyone had a great time! They learned how the early Plano people lived.

For example, the kids had to do some of their chores before they ate breakfast. They gathered eggs from the chicken coop, wheat from the field (even in the rain)!

If a family member were to be sick, they would have to sleep in a sickroom outside on a balcony. For some reason, they thought if you slept outside, your germs would just fly away with the wind!

Above every door, there was a certain type of window to get the warm or cold air to transfer through to a different room to keep the entire house the same temperature.

One thing our third-graders enjoyed the most was playing with the old toys that those kids had played with. Most of the toys were homemade dolls and other things.

We got to grind corn and feed it to the chickens. It was quite hard to grind the corn. It must have taken a lot of strength to do that every day!

If it was cloudy one day, there wouldn't be very much light in the house because there were only lanterns with very little light. It would be hard to go through the day in the dark!

For school, the kids would go out to the schoolhouse. Every kid would be in the same room no matter what grade they were in! But there were different lessons. With only one room in the schoolhouse, it was very hard to get around with all the kids in there.

Back then, each kid would only have one pair of shoes, which were pretty similar to each other, even the same for boys and girls. The shoes were much like boots, except they didn't resemble the fancy ones we have now.

In those days, when you had guests over or you were celebrating a special occasion, the children were the ones who would have to entertain everyone like playing the piano, dancing, or singing. They would think it was cute to see the kids enjoying entertaining everybody.

When the people washed clothes, they had to get a bucket filled with water and dip the clothing in the water with soap applied to it and scrub and scrub, then hang up the clothes. It took a while to get all the clothes washed and then wait for all their things to dry.

Our third graders were even allowed to wash and hang up the clothes. They thought that it was hard work, yet they liked it a lot!

Many of our students had never been there before, so they were amazed about everything! The boys and girls of third grade had a terrific time at the Heritage Farmstead!