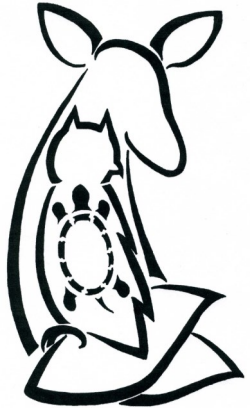


ENVIRONMENTAL
STUDIES CENTER

MOBILE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MOBILE, AL



Dr. Tracy Jay
Director

Susan Clement
Biologist

Tracy Delcambre
Resource Teacher

Troy Latham
Resource Teacher

Andra Meredith
Resource Teacher

Grace Phelps
Bookkeeper

Bradley Bullington
Grounds Keeper

Renee Perkins
Custodian



Volume IX, Issue I

Fall 2018

Critter Corner



Meet Clara

Clara came to the Center this year at the end of August. At the time she was about 2 months old. She was found in Tuscaloosa, Alabama on the side of the road next to her mom who had been hit by a car. Clara was found in early July and had an injured leg. She was brought to a vet and cared for there until they contacted us in August to see if we could take her. When she was found, her injured leg looked like it would be permanently damaged and she would not be able to survive in the wild with it. Her leg is now healed but she will be put in our deer habitat in mid-December because she is domesticated and can't be released. She has been housed in a smaller enclosure until she was weaned and at least half grown. Nick, our 8 year old deer will be so excited to have another deer companion since his companion, Jackie, passed last year. Stop by in mid-December to meet Clara and to see Nick in our deer exhibit.

What's Happening at the Center

The Environmental Studies Center has a great relationship with the local Boy Scouts. This past year we have had four Boy Scouts do their Eagle Scout projects at the Center. Michael Smith built a chimney swift “chimney”. It is near the lake and we hope it will be a good place for chimney swifts to nest since it is getting harder for them to find good nesting sites. Jonathan Moritz renovated the interior of our songbird aviary. He built two new food platforms and landscaped the aviary with fresh mulch and gravel. Brendan Dye built a bat house complex that has 12 bat houses in it. We are hoping this will attract more bats to the Center which is a safe place for them to live and eat our mosquitos. Joseph Ransom made some improvements to our white-tailed deer exhibit. He built 2 new shelters and cleaned up the exhibit and added gravel to some areas that had run off problems. We want to thank these young men for the fantastic work on their projects. We would also like to invite other Boy Scouts to think of the Center when it is time for their Eagle Scout projects to be done.



Food Platforms in Aviary



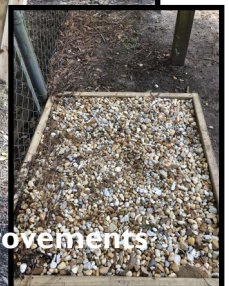
Chimney Swift Tower



Bat House Complex



Deer Exhibit Improvements



Annual Art Contest Winners

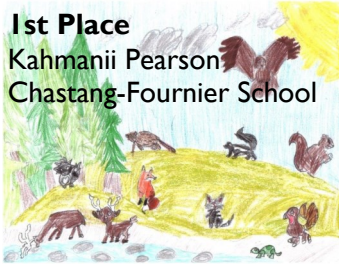
On November 3rd the annual art contest winners were announced at Open House. You can purchase a calendar with all of the winning pictures in our gift shop.

The winners are as follows:

Kindergarten-Third Grade

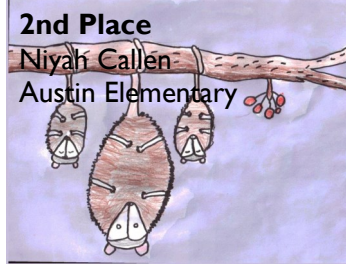
1st Place

Kahmanii Pearson
Chastang-Fournier School



2nd Place

Niyah Callen
Austin Elementary



3rd Place

Cullen Mitchell
Dawes Intermediate



Honorable Mention

K - 3rd Grade
Garrett Bolton
Griggs Elementary
Nevaeh Perkins
Griggs Elementary
Nadia Hudson
Robbins
Elementary

Fourth-Fifth Grade

1st Place

Dylan LeGros
Council Traditional



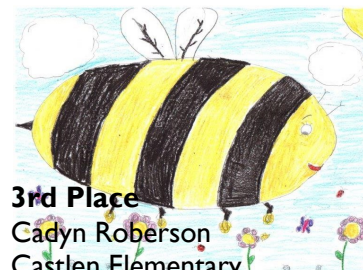
2nd Place

Bella Clark
Old Shell Road Magnet



3rd Place

Cadyn Roberson
Castlen Elementary



4th - 5th Grade
Daltrey LeGros
Council Traditional
Ava Wheeler
Haskew Elementary
Harmony Barnette
Wilmer Elementary
Carlos Ortiz
Castlen Elementary
Clara Hearn
Wilmer Elementary
Wykeith Topping
Chastang-Fournier
School

Sixth-Eighth Grade

1st Place

Derrick Taylor
Dunbar Magnet



2nd Place

Madisen Howard
Dunbar Magnet



3rd Place

Kaitlyn Smith
Dunbar Magnet



6th - 8th Grade
Alyssa Rodgers
Causey Middle
Annie Tran
Causey Middle

Ninth-Twelfth Grade

1st Place

Jade Jackson
Theodore High



2nd Place

Savannah Hudson
Theodore High



3rd Place

Maureena Wilson
Theodore High



9th - 12th Grade
Diane Hanes
Theodore High
Lindsay Imsand
Theodore High
Rikki Mingus
Theodore High
Jacob Kendall
Theodore High
Lin Gates
Theodore High
Jeremy Bankson
Theodore High

Katie Clara Gubler McCreadie



Born: December 15, 1989
St. John's, Newfoundland
Canada

Died: August 7, 2018
Mobile, Alabama

The Environmental Studies Center lost a very special person this year. Katie McCreadie passed away in Mobile on August 7, 2018. Katie was an employee of the Center since 2009. She was a true lover of animals. Her passion was exhibited in her work at the Center. She started off as a volunteer at the Center before she became an employee. She was majoring in Biology at the University of South Alabama and planned on working with animals as her career. We acquired a young deer shortly after Katie passed away. We have named her Clara in honor of Katie Clara Gubler McCreadie.

A Go Fund Me account was started in Katie's memory and so far it has raised almost \$5,000. The money from this account will be going to the Environmental Studies Center in her memory. We appreciate and want to thank everyone who has donated. Katie will always be a part of the Center. She will be missed dearly.

Wildlife Wish List

Clip-on clamp lamp	1 cc and 3cc syringes	Chicken vegetable baby food	Small frozen fish
Pine bark mulch	Pine shavings (for cages)	Dried whole corn	Cheerios
Cages	Baled hay	Frozen mixed vegetables	Scratch feed
Heating pads	Ziploc freezer bags (gallon & quart)	Fresh fruits and vegetables	Wild Birdseed
Liquid laundry soap	Bleach	Raw peanuts (in shell)	
Liquid dishwasher soap	Paper towels	Nuts (in shell)	
Wal-Mart gift cards	Newspaper	Dry dog food (small bites)	
60-watt light bulbs	Plastic wrap	Unsalted sunflower seeds	
Scrub brushes	Dawn dish soap	Canned sardines in water	
Cash	Animal crackers	Canned dog and cat food	



Wildlife Adoptions

For a \$25 annual donation you can help with the feeding, care, and shelter of one of the native wildlife housed here at the Environmental Studies Center. Not only can you adopt an animal for yourself but, you can give an adoption as a gift. Adoption benefits include: adoption certificate, photograph of your animal, fact sheet about the species, recognition of your adoption on the exhibit, and Environmental Studies Center e-Newsletter.

Complete the information below and mail it to the Center with your payment. Make checks payable to the Environmental Studies Center.

Animal Adoption



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____

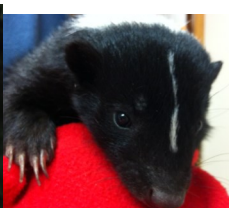
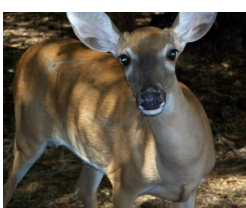
Email Address: _____

Please choose one: ☐ Raccoon ☐ Deer ☐ Pelican ☐ Seagull ☐ Alligator

☐ Barn Owl ☐ Canada Goose ☐ Black Vulture ☐ Turkey ☐ Coyote

☐ Red-Tail Hawk ☐ Bald Eagle ☐ Skunk ☐ Turkey Vulture ☐ Screech Owl

☐ Barred Owl ☐ Great-Horned Owl ☐ Great Blue Heron ☐ Other: _____



Recent Patients



Forster's Tern



Baby Carolina



Red-tailed Hawk



Baby Whistling Duck



Baby Grackles

Thoughts from the Director

And so the adventure begins...

I write this sitting behind a desk where some of the greatest environmental educators in Mobile County have sat. I am humbled and honored to be here as the new Director at the ESC. This is truly a special place where students and educators alike come to learn of the uniqueness of our coastal ecosystem. It is a place where citizen science is fostered in order to promote environmental awareness and stewardship. It is also a place that is just cool to come and hang out and visit. Now, as I close the door on the past, and open the door to the future I take a deep breath and step on through to start a new chapter in my life and that of the Center. I can't wait for you to see all of the wonderful things we have planned for you. Come see us. Come see for yourself all the exciting things we have to offer. Come meet our exceptional staff. Come see us and see why one student recently called it, "The best day ever!" We look forward to seeing you all.

Dr. Tracy Jay

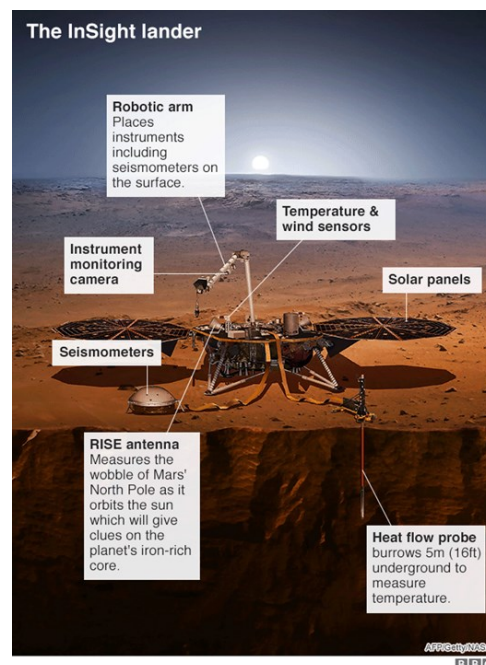


A Little Insight into InSight

November 26, 2018 has become a historical day due to the landing of NASA's InSight on the surface of Mars, the fourth rocky planet from the Sun. The journey began almost 7 months ago and covered 301 million miles. The landing was stressful for the InSight team due to the thin Martian atmosphere that does not provide the friction needed to slow down the spacecraft before making contact with the surface. But, it was flawless making the InSight landing only the 8th landing on Mars and the first one in 6 years. InSight landed on the equatorial plane named Elysium Planitia, which is now referred to as the "biggest parking lot on Mars" by the NASA InSight team.

Why are the NASA scientists along with scientists from the European countries of the United Kingdom, France, and Germany investing so much into this mission? This is the first mission that will focus solely on the interior of a rocky planet other than Earth. The mission will last for one Martian year, which is approximately 2 Earth years. During that time, the probe will make observations that will give scientists new insight on how rocky planets such as Venus, Earth, and Mars form and change over time. This knowledge may lead to the understanding of how the rocky planets Venus, Earth, and Mars turned out so differently and why only Earth is a sanctuary for life.

InSight is an acronym for Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigation, Geodesy, and Heat Transport, which summarizes the functions of all of the parts of this probing robot. The robot has an arm that will be used to slowly set the instruments remotely from the comforts of the Earth's surface. There are two main sets of instruments that will explore the Martian interior. The burrowing heat probe nicknamed the Mole, created and financed by German scientists, will begin hammering its burrow into Martian crust as deep as 16 feet. The probe will gauge heat flow at different depths. The collection of super sensitive seismometers, created and financed by the United Kingdom with input from France, will be on alert for 'marsquakes' (get it? Like Earthquakes, but only it happens on Mars.) The seismometers will be protected by a shield that will provide insulation from the drastic wind and temperature changes that occur on the surface of Mars. The position of InSight will be tracked over the time of the mission in order to learn more about the core of Mars and whether it is solid or liquid based on the wobbles of Mars' axial tilt.



Partners in Education



degussa.

PVOC

Pleasant Valley Opportunity Club

*Dr. Louis Buckalew
& Family*

**ENVIRONMENTAL
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**MOBILE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

MOBILE, AL

**6101 Girby Road
Mobile, Alabama
36693**

**Phone: 251-221-5000
Fax: 251-221-5002**

www.mcpsesc.com

**Open 8:00a.m.-4:00p.m.
Monday—Friday**

**Individual Admission:
Free
\$2 Donation appreciated**

**Group tours:
Reservations required
Contact 251.221.5000
for pricing information**

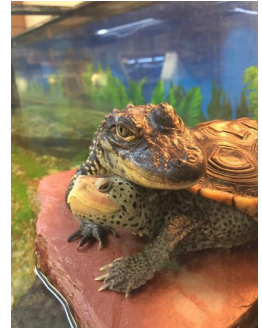
Non-profit organization



Wild Adventures

The Environmental Studies Center is a natural sciences education facility designed to provide unique learning experiences. In addition, wildlife rehabilitation plays a vital role each day here at the Center. With over 500 acres of rich woodlands, the Center affords teachers, students, and the general public an opportunity to experience firsthand the natural environment. Natural resources include pine and bay forests, swamps, freshwater streams, carnivorous plant bog, and a twenty-acre lake.

Man-made resources include numerous nature trails, covered pavilions, live animal exhibits, butterfly garden, and native plant garden. Indoor facilities include an auditorium, gift shop, and classroom containing live reptile exhibits, a saltwater aquarium, and numerous preserved specimens native to Alabama.



The Environmental Studies Center houses a wildlife rehabilitation program that is dedicated to the care and potential release of injured and orphaned native wildlife. The wildlife rehabilitation program receives over 800 wild patients a year. These animals all need food, care, and shelter to survive. The program relies upon donations from people like you for its operation and success.

**Environmental Studies Center
6101 Girby Road
Mobile, Alabama 36693**