

SKYTALKING



with



ARISTOTLE & BURGOO

A Newspaper for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Graders

Volume FIVE - Mid-Winter 2015

CONGRATULATIONS to OUR WINNERS!

Although it may seem a little late to be congratulating winners for our December snowfall contest, that's what we're doing! And here are our excellent forecasting WINNERS !

FIRST PLACE:

A TIE - Sharon Beck's 3rd Grade Class (Peterson Elementary)
Susan Catron's 2nd Grade Class (Maize Elementary)

Both classrooms were only one tenth of an inch off from the official snowfall amount in December of 4.2 inches. Ms. Beck's class predicted 4.1 inches; Ms. Catron's class predicted 4.3 inches.

We had four classrooms tie for 3rd through 6th place-each of those classes were only two-tenths of an inch off from the official total.

These excellent forecasters of the weather were:

Ruth Farrell's 2nd Grade Class (Maize Elementary)

Kristi Lawson's 2nd graders - (Prairie Creek-Andover)

Tammy Venning's 3rd graders - (Wheatland - Valley Center)

Catie Rudisill's 1st Grade Class - (Blessed Sacrament)

**NOW - IF YOU WANT to READ SOME
MORE ABOUT FORECASTING SNOW,
READ BURGOO'S BLOG on the BACK PAGE !**

KANSAS ANIMALS

WHAT THEY DO in WINTER

WHEN YOU LOOK OUTSIDE AT THE COLD, SNOW-COVERED GROUND, DO ANY OF YOU WONDER HOW THOSE ANIMALS ARE DOING OUT IN THE WILD? DO YOU WONDER HOW THEY ARE STAYING WARM? IS IT DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO FIND FOOD? WELL, HERE IS SOME INFORMATION TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND HOW OUR KANSAS ANIMALS COPE WITH A COLD WINTER.

THERE ARE THREE DIFFERENT WAYS ANIMALS MIGHT REACT TO THE BIG CHANGES THAT COME WITH WINTER ---

(1) MIGRATION...this is when animals MOVE themselves to a warmer, more acceptable climate. Animals, such as some types of birds, fly south so that they won't have to endure a cold winter season in Kansas.

(2) HIBERNATION ...this is when animals find a protected place, such as an underground den, burrow or cave. Then, the animals, such as lizards or turtles, spend the entire season sleeping in this winter home.

(3) ADAPTATION...this is when animals make adjustments so that they can cope with a cold winter. They may spend days, or even weeks, in their winter homes if the weather gets too extreme for them.

THE THREE ANIMALS BELOW are EXAMPLES of KANSAS ANIMALS that USE ADAPTATION

The FOX SQUIRREL



Our common squirrel in Kansas, which is the Fox Squirrel, usually remains active throughout the winter, except when it gets extremely cold. During those times, squirrels might remain in their nest for several weeks, in a state of **torpor**. This torpor state means that the squirrel is very drowsy and mostly sleeps during these periods of inactivity. Then, during those warmer winter days when the squirrel can return to a more active lifestyle, he often hunts across the grounds for acorns and other food items that he buried the previous fall, when food was much more plentiful.

The cottontail rabbit also remains mostly active throughout the winter. They often **adapt** when extremely cold, snowy days keep them in their dens for several days at a time. The need for food, however, soon brings them outside again.

The cottontail does change his diet in the winter. The green vegetation that they love to eat for much of the year is replaced with woody twigs, bark, and buds from trees. He finds these foods under trees and in brush piles, which also serve as excellent hiding places for the shy, **reticent** rabbit.

The COTTONTAIL RABBIT



The COYOTE



The coyote does not change his behavior very much as the weather changes from summer to winter. One adaptation he may make... he might stay in his den (usually an underground burrow) **all day** on cold, snowy days. But, the need for food will soon cause the coyote to venture out and hunt for nourishment. His diet does change. In winter, the coyote cannot find the insects and berries that he adds to his meals in the summer. His diet in the winter is almost always meat (and much of it is **carrion**).

The ADVENTURES of MORGAN P. MOUSINGTON

THE FIFTH EPISODE of a NEW ADVENTURE for MORGAN and his FAMILY



In our last episode, Morgan's father had just discovered that Morgan was upside down, stuck in a rockpile. Morgan's sister was nearby, talking to several marmots.

"What is going on here?" asked Mr. Mousington. He directed the question to Melanie, because it was apparent that Morgan could not answer, due to the predicament he was in.

Melanie did not know how to answer, because she was certain that she and Morgan were about to be in BIG TROUBLE.

"Well, I am waiting for an answer," said Mr. Mousington, sternly. "Melanie, why is your brother upside down in a rock pile?"

As Melanie started to speak, she cleared her throat to give her more time to think of an answer for her father. That's when the head marmot interrupted.

"Well, it is quite a curious thing," started the marmot. "You see, as we were motoring up this road, and we were looking in this direction and we saw an explosion."

Melanie realized that the head marmot was trying to help her and her brother from getting into trouble. Mr. Mousington turned to look at the marmot.

"I did not HEAR any explosion," he said to the marmot.

"Neither did we!" replied the marmot. "We didn't hear it...we SAW it!"

"What do you mean you saw it?" asked Mr. Mousington. "You don't see explosions...you hear them!"

"That was what was SO strange," replied the marmot. We saw it but we didn't HEAR it. We saw dust fly up in the air, and then we saw a little mouse crash down in those rocks. In fact, those legs sticking out of the rocks must be the legs of that mouse. Certainly very strange!"

Mr. Mousington started to move toward the rockpile where Morgan was stuck upside-down.

"Before you go over there and get busy," said the marmot, "allow me to officially introduce myself."

Mr. Mousington stopped to look at the marmot.

"My name is Mack. I am the head marmot on the Marmot Rescue Squad." Then he stuck out his paw to shake paws.

Mr. Mousington shook paws with the marmot and nodded.

"My name is Mr. Mousington and my children are right there and right there." He pointed toward Melanie and the rockpile.

"Very pleased to meet you," responded the head marmot. "Now, I have something to show you before you leave."

Mr. Mousington was anxious to get over to the rockpile and find out why his son was stuck in that rockpile.

"Okay," said Morgan's father, "but please hurry. I have to find out why my son is in the rockpile and also to find out if he has hurt himself."

"Well," replied the marmot, "when we heard the explosion, I immediately took out the TRANS-INSPECT-O-METER out of the vehicle and pointed it at the place where the explosion occurred."

Mr. Mousington had never heard of such a tool as a "TRANS-INSPECT-O-METER" before, so he looked puzzled.

"You took what out and pointed it toward where?" asked Mr. Mousington.

"I took out the TRANS-INSPECT-O-METER and pointed it right over there. Right there! Right at the rockpile." Mack the marmot was waving his hand, pointing toward the rockpile.

"Sooooooo...what does that mean?" asked Mr. Mousington.

"What does a "TRANS-EXPECT-O-DOMETER do?"

"You didn't say that right," replied the marmot.

"I know I didn't say that right because I've never heard of what ever that thing is that you are saying," said Mr. Mousington, now very frustrated with the marmot.

"It's called a TRANS-INSPECT-O-METER," replied the marmot, just a little bit smugly.

"What does it do?" asked Mr. Mousington. "What do you need it for? How does that help?"

"Well, it does a lot of things," replied the marmot. "For one thing, it helps us evaluate every accident scene and every crime scene."

"It helps you evaluate crime scenes?" asked Mr. Mousington. "Are you thinking that there's been a crime here?" Mr. Mousington was now flabbergasted.

"We're not sure what happened here," replied the marmot.

"But the TRANS-INSPECT-O-METER will tell us what happened."

TO BE CONTINUED !

BURGOO'S BLOG

Hey There, Students! It's winter time and yet the weather forecast is for a high of 68 degrees today (Monday -January 26th). It feels like it is almost SPRING to a gulf coast bird like me!



Late
January,
2015

Well, in this issue, I want to discuss the weather in more detail with you guys! I want to talk about the weather and how different it can be from one part of our country to another.

While I am writing this blog, our weather here in Wichita, Kansas is just beautiful! As I mentioned above, the high today is forecasted to be around 68 degrees. And tomorrow and Wednesday (January 27th and 28th) the highs are supposed to be near 70 degrees. That is Burgoo's kind of January weather!

Well, I know you guys remember Mr. Robbins' book about the Ditto-Flake-Flu. That was when Aristotle and I went to Kennebunk, Maine on Christmas Eve and Aristotle made all of his snowflakes exactly alike. I remind you of that story because in Kennebunk, and a lot of other towns and cities in the New England area, they are expecting a lot of snow from a HUGE STORM tonight and tomorrow. (For those of you reading this at a later time, the snowstorm occurred on the 26th and 27th of January.) The weather forecasters were saying that some places in the path of this HUGE STORM may get up to THREE FEET of SNOW! I said THREE FEET! Not THREE INCHES -- THREE FEET!

Aristotle and I (and Mr. Robbins) are going to keep in touch with those students and teachers in Kennebunk, both before and after this HUGE STORM. We will try to find out how bad this storm really was. And we will try to find out how much school they missed and what they did during the storm.

