



Truro Central School's

PUMA PAGE

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SHADOW PUPPETRY

Thousands of years ago, according to legend, Chinese Emperor Han Wudi was heartbroken over a sudden death in his family. The Emperor's advisor, desperate to cheer his ruler, was absently watching children playing with parasols in the garden under a bright, midday sun. Watching them play, he observed the beautiful shapes and movements of the shadows cast by the parasols. Suddenly, he was struck with an idea.

That evening, the advisor invited the emperor to shadow puppet play, which cheered the emperor so much that he went on to rule a prosperous country for many more years.

Such is the legend of the origins of shadow puppetry in China. However, shadow puppetry is an art form with ancient traditions in not only China, but also in India, and Indonesia.

Some 5th grade students read the book *Shadow Magic: The Ancient Art of Shadow Puppetry* and then created their own shadow performance. Here's just a glimpse of their creations!



LIVING IN THE STONE AGE

Sixth Graders are continuing their studies of the Paleolithic Neolithic Eras. Students attempted to create their own stone tools using the hammer percussion and hammer and anvil techniques. It was much more difficult than it looks!

As the last ice age ended, the large game that early humans relied on became more and more difficult to find. That meant that early humans needed to improve their hunting techniques to be more successful. This led to the evolution of the atlatl, the predecessor of the bow and arrow. Thanks to the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, students had an opportunity to learn how to use this ancient weapon. They learned that many of the arrowheads they can find on the Cape are actually the projectile points of darts used with atlatls. Throwing the spears with and without the atlatl, students discovered first hand how much more effective this weapon could be than throwing spears alone. Unfortunately, none of the sixth graders mastered the technique enough to bring our woolly mammoth home for dinner.



OCEAN LIFE IN PRESCHOOL

As part of their study of ocean life, Truro Central School preschool students got the opportunity to closely observe some local animals from their classroom tank. Their conversations included how the animals looked, felt, moved, protected themselves, and ate.



MIX-IT-UP LUNCH

Mix-It-Up Lunch is part of an international campaign that “encourages students to identify, question, and cross social boundaries”. It supports our efforts at Truro Central School to provide a safe and inclusive environment for our entire school community. Thanks to Nancy Winslow for organizing this annual event and the Truro Educational and Enrichment Alliance for the fun eye glasses!

