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Students Learn about God's Wonders

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Ruth Murdoch Elementary School

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Students learn about God's wonders

Michigan—Ruth Murdoch Elementary School (RMES) has seen a change in the appearance of their fifth grade students this year. They come to school clean and ready to learn. They leave school filthy, but with smiles on their faces. What's going on? Joel Bennett, RMES fifth grade teacher, has all the answers.

"The fifth grade is working on a simulation in which they are digging for fossil replicas that I have placed in two sites on our grounds," says Bennett. "The students are watching for layers of soil as well as keeping records of what they find and how they find it."

This is a science project where the students really get their hands dirty and learn about our Earth and our Creator. The group has dug about 2.5 feet down, and they're not showing signs of stopping. It's a lot of hard work, but the lessons learned are so worth all of the effort that the entire group has put into this project. Science, creation, hard work, record keeping, interpersonal skills and teamwork are all being taught.

Bennett continues, "The students are using hand shovels, buckets and



Wendy Keough

Ruth Murdoch Elementary School fifth graders are learning about their Creator through a paleontology dig on their campus. Their teacher, Joel Bennett, started the project last summer.

their hands to remove the soil. We have a few brushes to dust away the soil from the fossils to see them more clearly. We have set up little flags that mark off a grid. When a fossil is found, the students do not remove the fossil until they log which grid the fossil was found in, how deep it was in the dig (with a Jacob's Staff and a yard stick). The fossil is then bagged and numbered for later." Bennett planted 43 "fossils," and he plans to keep the project going until each one is found.

"We all are working together and having a great time," said Kinley Reed, RMES fifth grader. "Our dig is really interesting to me because we are all so outgoing, trying our very best to work it all out. ... It doesn't matter who comes in

first or last. ... Even if you come in last, God would be like, 'Good job! You are very good!'"

Cheers of excitement ring through the air as new fossil replicas are found. One student shouted, "I found a new layer of soil!" and classmates rushed over to the "site" where he made his discovery. When this project is done, another teamwork project begins—filling in those holes!

What a creative way to teach his students about the wonders our God has made! This is truly an experience that these kids will remember for a lifetime.

Wendy Keough, principal's assistant, Ruth Murdoch Elementary School



Allan Smith

Several Indiana Academy staff members and Cicero Church members walk together to the girls dorm to pray during the prayer walk.

Church members join Indiana Academy prayer walk

Indiana—Indiana Academy (IA) is blessed with a strong, supportive church nearby whose members are actively engaged with the students and

staff. The Cicero Church's Academy Relations Committee plans several activities each year to let students know they care, including the popular "Prayer Warrior" program.

On Sabbath afternoon, Aug. 22, church members met with the IA staff and selected students to pilot a new event, "Campus Prayer Walk." Small groups walked to each department where they stopped to pray for the specific needs of that area. Groups specifically prayed for staff members' requests, including: loving service to students and parents, purity on campus, wisdom to guide when correction is needed and courage to follow in Christ's example. After the prayer walk, the group met in the cafeteria for an informal potluck supper.

Bill Hicks, IA principal, said, "It is a real blessing to have committed church members pray for Indiana Academy's success. We have a great student body this year, and we can feel God's presence on campus."

Allan Smith, marketing and recruitment director, Indiana Academy



Allan Smith

Students who participated in the prayer walk pause to pray at one of the designated areas on the Indiana Academy campus.