

May 5th, 2017

Back in February we started an Eagle exploration with both the morning and afternoon classes at the preschool. This started out by watching an eagle family with the children via a live web cam on the internet. We had lots of conversation with the children and learned about the eagles. There were lots of questions; where they lived, what they ate, their size and much more. Some of the projects the children took part in were; drawings by observation through the computer, painting a life size eagle outline, measuring the wing-span of an adult eagle, and creating nests from natural materials. So when we learned about the organization O.W.L - the Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society- an organization that rescues and rehabilitates birds of prey, we were excited to invite them here for a visit.

This past Tuesday we were able to set up a visit from O.W.L. and Judy come to ISS with several of the birds, we were all very excited.

Judy: I come from a hospital for birds.

Judy brings out several photographs of different birds, first showing the group a photograph of an eagle.

Judy: Does anyone know what kind of bird this is?

Zack: That's a eagle. He catches fish.

Judy: You're right, this is a bald eagle.

The next photograph is of an owl.

Zack: He wakes up at night.

Judy: You're right, they come out at night.

Matthew: They eat worms.

Next Judy brings out several different types of feathers, and passes them out for the children to see and touch.

Mattias: A little baby. A fireman. (He laughs as he holds a large eagle feather and waves gently.)



May 5th, 2017

Zack: (*sings) I can believe I can fly

**Judy: Does anyone know how a bird eats?
They use their feet,**

Judy passes out several different bird feet with the talons attached. She holds up one of the feet that has lots of thick white feathers on it.

Judy: Do you think they live where its hot or cold?

Zack: Warm!

Ximena: Cold.

Judy: You're right, they live where its really cold. These feet are from a snowy owl. They live where there is lots of snow.

Penny: They are sharp.

Zack: Smells weird

Once the feet and

feathers have been collected and put away, Judy goes to bring in the first bird.

Judy: This is Johnny. Johnny is a falcon, he's the smallest falcon we have. He hurt his wing. He got hit by a car. His wing was so badly hurt that the wing had to be cut off. Which means that Johnny will never fly again, he will live with us forever.

Matthew: Why does he have black and brown on his tail?



Judy: The colours help him hide. The black and brown help him hide in the trees.

Judy: Does anyone know what Johnny likes to eat? It's small and squeaks.

Penny: A mouse!

Judy: Yes you're right, he eats mice.

Matthew: His body is so small, how does he eat a mouse?

Judy: He eats just like you do when your food is too big. He cuts it up into smaller pieces, using his sharp beak.

Judy puts Johnny the falcon and brings out the next bird.

Judy: This is Alba and she's a barn owl. When she was a baby she fell out of her nest and broke her wing. A farmer found her and brought her to us. She is another bird that will live with us for the rest of her life. She won't fly again.

Aurora: Does she come out at night?

Judy: Yes, she does come out at night.

Zack: What does she eat?

Judy: Same as the last bird. Mice.

Judy: Now do you see how she is bobbing her head very gently side to side? That means she is listening to everything you are saying, even you in the back. She hearing is very good, about 10 times better than our hearing.



May 5th, 2017



Zack: Why she has no ears?

Judy: She does have ears, they are small holes on the side of her head. Alba's hearing is so good she can even hear a tiny mouse underneath the grass, and then catch it for dinner.

Aurora: Or breakfast or lunch!

Matthew: Why she can't fly?

Judy: Because she broke her wing.

Von Von: Wheres mom owl?

Judy: Probably in the barn still?

Benita: Why didn't the mommy owl lift her up?

Judy: She was too heavy and the nest was way up high in the barn.

Judy answers several more questions and then goes to put Alba away, the children wave goodbye.

An experience such as this was very exciting for both the children and the adults, and probably not something most of us would get to experience outside of this opportunity. The children have been interested in learning about birds for months and so it was rewarding to have Judy come in and show us the birds, but also to answer the children's many questions that perhaps the teachers and parents wouldn't be able to answer or explain in the same way.

