

# EDUCATION

## MDCS kids go on field trip to Children's Discovery Museum

By Madison Gunter, JJ Jobe, Chelsey Jenkins, and Danielle Johnson  
MDCS students

*NOTE: This is the first part in a three-part series written by the MDCS students.*

We first went to the Children's Discovery Museum, where we learned about movement of water, dams, and force and motion.

In another exhibit we got in wheelchairs and tried to follow a path to get mail from a mailbox. It is hard to be in a wheelchair. An older person is not as strong as us, so they can't do it as well as we can.

We saw a beehive with many worker

bees and a queen that ordered them around. There are many places to explore at the Discovery Museum.

After leaving the museum, we ventured to Cloudland Canyon State Park and found the lodge that was our home for the next two nights. Some students helped the adults in the kitchen make dinner, while others recorded interviews about the Children's Discovery Museum on a camera. Everyone else played outside. What a stupendous day!

**Gabe Sessoms tries out his skills in a wheelchair at the Children's Discovery Museum.** (Submitted photo)



## Kids at West conference with museum

By Madison Christopher  
West Elementary student

Mrs. Jessica Cline's class had a polycom on Oct. 12.

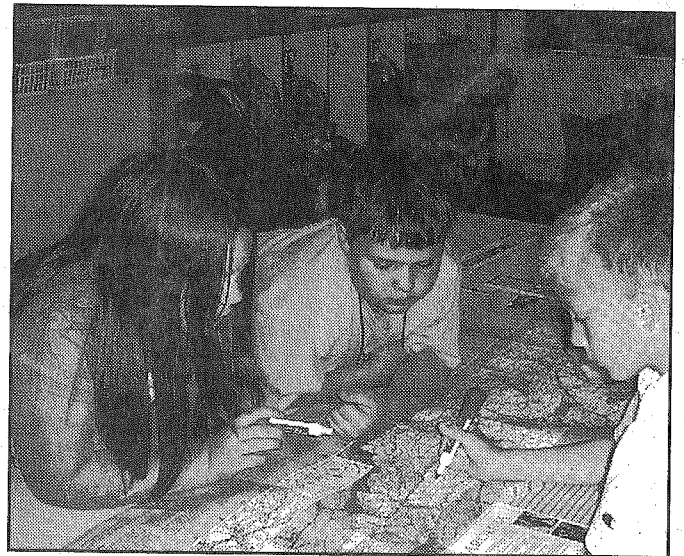
A lady from a museum in Raleigh talked to us on a TV screen, similar to a video chat. We have been studying the coast of North Carolina in Social Studies. She showed us a snake, and we circled the coastal plains on a map.

We also did a fun activity with a group. We got objects or pictures of animals that live on the coast. We were able to feel and talk about the animals. We then presented to her what we had learned. We also got to see

baby snails. At the end, we got to go around one more time and see every object.

We asked lots of questions and learned a lot. Then she told us maybe we could visit the museum one day on vacation. Our class enjoyed the polycom and the view of the museum. We had fun and will never forget this awesome adventure!

**From left, Haylee Davis, Naven Sherrill, Robert Green, and Connor Hyatt review a map.** (Submitted photo)



## At GCA, small hands do big work

By Mrs. Debbie Schultz  
GCA teacher

In the K-4 class at Grace

had beautiful handwriting.

The K-4 students trace just a few letters every day to start them on the road to writing.

the children have a work sheet to color something related to the lesson that day. They color as a group at their desk with their

While the children are young and just developing their fine motor skills, a number of activities are available to them

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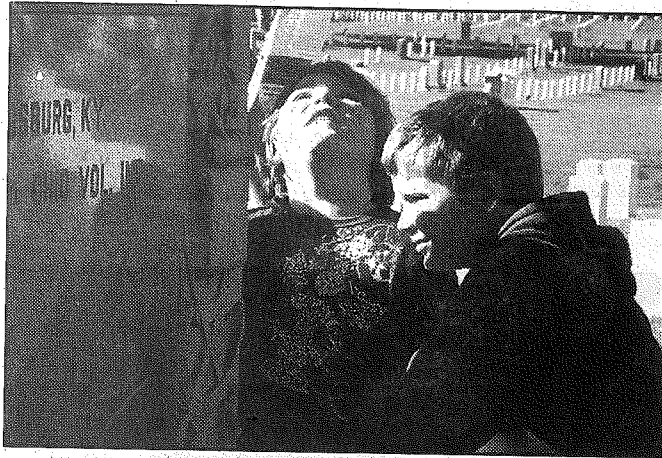
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**LEFT:** MDCS students Somersey Gammon and Caleb Birchfield at the Chattanooga National Cemetery. **RIGHT:** Galen Krugly in the Chattanooga National Cemetery. (Submitted photos)

# MDCS kids visit cemetery, battlefield

**By Galen Krugly, Caleb Birchfield, Gabe Sessoms and Wyatt Weeks**  
*MDCS students*

*NOTE: This is the second of a three-part series written by student groups.*

Ms. Janet Smith's fifth grade class of Mountain Discovery Charter School went to the Chattanooga National Cemetery and Chickamauga Battlefield on day two of our three-day school trip.

The National Cemetery has more than 47,000 graves. We thought it was very profound that these men that died and were buried there are remem-

bered as heroes. We saw more than 5,000 unmarked graves — because many men died in such harsh ways they couldn't be recognized or because they didn't have identification back in the Civil War.

There are also seven exceedingly valiant military heroes buried there — all of whom earned the Medal of Honor. We felt odd and pitiful because we were walking among the graves of thousands of men that died in battles to make our country the great motherland it is now.

Many of the trees in that cemetery are more than 100 years old. As some of the trees

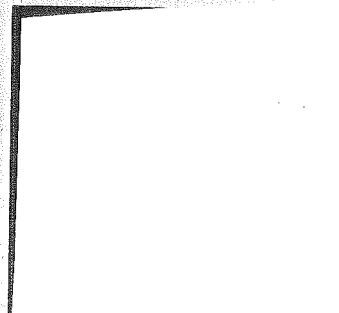
grew bigger, the roots wrapped around some of the Civil War grave stones that we saw. The American flag at the cemetery was at half mast, which meant a veteran was being buried there that day.

That afternoon we went to Chickamauga, which was a large historical battlefield. We visited one area — a large, open field with little hills, next to the Chickamauga Battlefield Museum, and looked for artifacts like cannon balls.

The museum had lots of information and items, including a gun collection. We toured battle sites like the Snodgrass House, which is on top of a

hill. One of the things we learned was that the Snodgrass House was just an ordinary family's home that was taken over and turned into a field hospital.

The fifth grade really enjoyed the field trip to Chattanooga.



# MDCS students visit Chattanooga

By Chloe Collins and Trey Pate  
MDCS students

*NOTE: For the third consecutive year, fifth graders from the Mountain Discovery Charter School traveled to Chattanooga, Tenn., for a three-day exploration. Civil War battlefields, Chattanooga's National Cemetery, and Cloudland Canyon State Park were just a few of the historic sites the class visited and were the major academic*

*focus of the trip. Led by teacher Janet Smith and parent chaperones, all students documented their experiences using video, still pictures, and journals. Student groups were responsible for cooking, cleaning, and working as a single, supportive team. The following is the last of a three-part series written by student groups.*

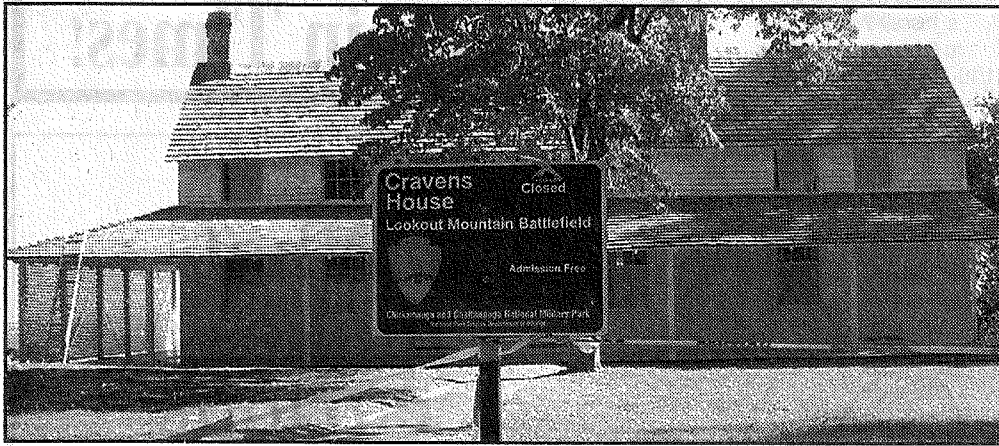
Mountain Discovery Charter School's fifth grade class went on a three-day field trip to Chattanooga, Tenn. They

went to study about the Civil War and canyons.

On the third and final day of the trip, they took a hike to the battleground named Lookout Mountain, where soldiers fought over the control of the mountain. Later that day the students hiked about a mile to the Craven's House. The Craven's house is famous because both sides of the Civil War used it as a command center during the battle that took place on Look-

out Mountain in 1863.

The house was destroyed during the Civil War by musket fire and cannon balls. Also some veterans of the war took souvenirs from the house, but it was rebuilt by the owner after the war and is still standing today. During the three-day field trip, the fifth grade learned a lot about their nation's history.



A photo of the historic Craven's House. (Chloe Collins)