

# Creative Arts AND SCIENCES



## January, February and March have been busy months for Winthrop School enrichment!

The Winthrop PTO Creative Arts and Sciences Enrichment arranged with our teachers, to bring some hands on science programs, a professional storyteller and live a'cappella music performance to the Winthrop School community and classrooms.

Fourth grade students experienced the night sky in a darkened, inflatable planetarium to learn more about night sky, as part of their science curriculum studies of space science. A program of the **Boston Museum of Science**, the traveling planetarium recreates a “virtual” nighttime environment, for learning more about the planets and universe. A museum educator lead the

program, along with the teachers, for each of the fourth grade classrooms.

Another **Boston Museum of Science** traveling program, gave first graders and kindergarten students a chance to see first hand, native wildlife and learn about animal habitats. With a specially equipped video camera, students saw them “up close and personal,” in a demonstration and educational talk given by a MOS educator.



A renown Boston story teller and college literacy professor, **Sharon Kennedy** kept kindergarten, first and second grade students spellbound, telling native folk tales that have been past down through generations, from Ireland and Haiti. Using folk tales researched during her travels, performing in character, she captivated students, with her imaginative stories.

### **High Tech High Touch Science**

fourth grade students had an opportunity to work in their classrooms on various hands-on science demonstrations and experiments. A national program, High Tech High Touch Science based in Acton, MA, brings visiting working scientists into classrooms, and providing materials and equipment for students to work in groups on science experiments.

On February 23rd, all Winthrop School students, grades K-5, heard Boston based soul-pop/R&B, a cappella band, **Ball in the House** perform. Their music includes popular music heard on the radio, along with iconic American music of MoTown. A five member band, they have performed in 45 states, average 250 dates a year in performing arts centers and schools around the country. They have opened for major acts such as Jessica Simpson and the Temptations. Most recently they appeared on NBC's *America's Got Talent*.



Students learned from singer, Jon Ryan, how to beat box and create the full sound of a drum-set. and about sound technology and engineering. Band members demonstrated the vocal parts of a choral melody and demonstrating how individual voices work together to harmonize.

**Ball in the House** left students with an upbeat message, encouraging them to take part in school, community and church music groups if they enjoy music (even if their interest is not shared by their friends). They also emphasized the benefit of practice, and encouraging students to support each another's diverse interests, whether it's sports, music or performing arts. *(CD's are available for purchase, from Mrs. Davis.)*

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*All visiting enrichment presenters and performers have commented on how well behaved and attentive an audience Winthrop students have been, and how insightful their questions are.*

## **Thank you PTO!**

Teachers and students forwarded cards and letters expressing their appreciation to Winthrop parents, who through their PTO membership contributions, have enriched their school day experience through these educational, curriculum based enrichment programs!

## Still to Come.....

March 16th **“Dinosaur the Musical”**  
Stoneham Theatre\*  
Grade: 2

March 17th **Paul Revere House**  
Historical classroom  
presentation Grade: 3

Date TBD **Lexington and Concord**  
History,\* battleground site  
visit *TBD*  
Grade: 5

May 4,5,6 **US First**, Robotics Science  
Day Camp, @ MVMMS\*  
Grade: 5

*\*partial funding through PTO Creative  
Arts & Sciences Enrichment*