

Rumson Students Spend a Day “Down on the Farm”

As part of a life skills and social studies integrated unit of study, a class of fortunate Forrestdale students had the opportunity to visit Longstreet Farm at Holmdel Park for a Farmer’s Field Day Cider Churning experience. The class trip included a hands-on tour that integrated topics related to agricultural and social history.



Students learned about daily chores with animals.

Longstreet farm is maintained as a living historical farm from the 1890’s and has been re-created to show both daily and seasonal agricultural and domestic activities. The students’ tour guide Miss Kim, was adorned in 19th Century period dress, was informative and engaged with students throughout the visit. Students learned about the different chores, crops and raised breeds that were on the farm. She even taught students how to nurse a calf; and student Ellis Daly was intrigued with the nugget of

information she shared about this, “I learned how the farmers place a ring over the nose of the calf so that the baby will not continue to take the mother cows nutrients.” Miss Kim also discussed how important it is to appreciate the 19th century farm life, preserving history and historic practices. Student Meghan Wyckoff noted, “I could not believe that the house we were in was built in the 1800’s!”

During their field trip, the students’ eyes were opened to how hard the children, their same age in the 19th century, worked on the farm, performing chores on a daily basis. They also realized how difficult it was to make a simple glass of cider back then, as students were asked to assist by crushing and placing apples into a grinder and then using cheesecloth to make the final product. In conjunction with social studies, students discussed natural resources and how Longstreet Farm worked to preserve, recycle, and reuse their natural resources. For instance, after apples were utilized to churn cider, they were then fed to the pigs.

This field trip experience was extremely educational and informative for the students, as they developed a greater appreciation for how life was on the farm in the 1800’s while exploring one of the historical locations right in their own county.