

## North Arlington Public Schools to work with NJMC, Ramapo College

This year the North Arlington Public Schools have received a grant to work with the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission and Ramapo College that will provide learning experiences to school district's children at the Environmental Center as well as work to give staff in-service opportunities in environmental studies. The Meadowlands Environment Center (MEC), located off of Valley Brook Avenue in Lyndhurst was formed to increase awareness and enjoyment of our vital ecosystem.

The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission and Ramapo College of New Jersey entered into a partnership in 2003 to develop a comprehensive environmental education program for schools and the general public. Jefferson School first graders

and their teachers Mrs. Carla Pereira and Mrs. Arienne Paglucci recently spent a day at the Center and attended a program entitled "Story of the Sun."

The children followed Emile Egret on his journey from his evening roost just outside the "big city" to his daytime feeding grounds in the salt marshes of the Lyndhurst-North Arlington Meadowlands and back again. Through an interactive, multimedia story-telling experience, students tracked the sun on its apparent path across the sky and understood the important role this apparent motion plays in the lifecycles of plants and animals.

This program tied into the science curriculum; exploring nature and the lifecycles of plants and animals. It is also designed to promote skills for

working together and to instill an appreciation for reading. "Story of the Sun" is designed to meet the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards.

On the same day, fourth graders and their teachers Mrs. Cheryl Herrmann and Mrs. Christine Rotondo also visited MEC. During their program entitled "Solar Energy: That's Hot," they viewed the sun through telescopes with special dark glasses; learned about the tilt, rotation, and orbital pattern of the Earth around the sun; discussed the causes for our four seasons and constructed environmentally appropriate dwellings complete with seasonal foliage. All of the MEC programs are interdisciplinary and integrate an outdoor component with classroom instruction.

