

A VISIT FROM HAYLEY THE BEEKEEPER.

We were so excited to meet Hayley today to not only show her our native bee hive, but also to tell her about what we all ready knew about bees and also what we were still curious about.

Hayley looks after both native bees and honey bees at her house. She became interested in beekeeping when she was looking for a new hobby and saw beekeeping classes advertised and now she has many hives at her house or loans them out to farmers to help pollenate their plants.

First Mrs Louise told Hayley about the learning we had already done on bees and then she read out our questions to Hayley so she knew what we were curious about.

Daisy's question was How do bees make honey (but she wanted to tell Hayley what she knew and if there was anything else we needed to know about this process.

Daisy did an amazing job at explaining the process of taking nectar back to the hive and vomiting into another bee's mouth who turns it into honey in their tummy and then vomits it again into another bees mouth before some more mixing happens in their tummy to make it more like honey before vomiting it into the honeycomb and then flapping their wings to dry it out. Hayley thought this was an amazing explanation and the only information she could add was that the nectar actually goes into a special type of stomach (not the one they use for eating their food etc) to make the honey process happen.

Louis - wanted to know how they collect the nectar. Hayley told us that each bee has a little straw like thing on their face that it uses to drink up the nectar. It is called a Proboscis.

Fred - wanted to know is we could taste some honey because he was running short of honey at his house. Hayley had brought along some honey for us to try a bit later on.

Ayla - wanted to know if bees make honey all year long? Hayley told us they do indeed but they are not as active in Winter time and in Winter time she will not harvest the honey from a hive as they bees need this to eat. Yes that's right bees actually eat some of their honey and need to keep making supplies for not only people to harvest but for them to eat. A bee hive usually needs around 120kg of honey each year for the bees to eat. Amazing.

Sam - wanted to know how do they vomit. And Hayley told us exactly how we might think - straight into the mouth of another bee.

Billy - Wanted to know how they get the pollen off their legs. Hayley told us that while the bees are collecting the pollen they have like a little pocket place to store it and they use their front legs to push it off their back legs to be able to pollenate plants and to feed the babies in the hive.

Malia - wanted to know how do you get the honey out of the hive. This was an interesting process that was spoken about as Hayley's talk went along.

Hayley thought we had amazing questions and that we were going to be very good caretakers of bees in the future because of all we knew and the fact that we were creating a great bee paradise in our kindy yard which is exactly what our bees need so they continue to help pollenate our plants and help the plants produce food for us to eat.





This is the amazing section of a bee hive that Hayley brought in.

There we so many bees and they were moving and busy all the time.

In the hive is a queen bee - she is the boss and will lay around 1000-2000 eggs a day (and she generally lives up to approximately 5 years). In the hive there are also boy bees called drones and all the other girls bees are the worker bees and they work hard all day and all night to feed the babies, build the honeycomb cells, collect the pollen and nectar, clean out the unoccupied cells each day and make the honey. Unfortunately they only live for about 6 weeks and this is why the Queen Bee lays so many eggs.

A bee hive will have up around 35000 - 50000 bees in it. Wow.

The honeycomb that is closed over has a special lid called a brood.



Hayley had brought along a section of the hive that had the honeycomb frame and honey oozing out of it. This helped us to understand the process of collecting the honey. The honeycomb frame with honey in it is collected from one part of the hive that is separated from the section where the queen bee lays the bee eggs - so they don't get mixed up. Hayley will put the honeycomb frame with just honey in it into a big container with a frame inside that is attached to a handle. She turns this around and around really fast and all the honey falls out of the frame. She then uses the frame which is made from a wax type substance and turns it into bees wax which she uses for lip balms, furniture wax etc.





Hayley also showed us the special suits she wears to protect herself from the bees so they don't sting her when she collects the honeycomb frame and also the big strong leather gloves.







And this is what is left behind when Hayley has taken all of the honey out of the honeycomb frame and she melts it down to make bees wax.







We then took turns at getting up very close and personal with the bees in the special bee case and at the end of the bee case we could put our ears next to a little speaker and hear them. They were definitely very buzzy bees indeed.









And last of all (the part Freddie was most excited about) - tasting the honey - so sweet, so full of flavour....sooooo yummy.





THANKS HAYLEY FOR TAKING THE TIME TO COME AND VISIT US AND TEACH US EVEN MORE ABOUT BEES, CARING FOR THEM, UNDERSTANDING THEM AND THANKS FOR ANSWERING ALL OF OUR QUESTIONS.

We loved your bee earrings very much too.

Learning tags:

4.1 ACTIVE LEARNING - BUILDING A POSITIVE DISPOSITIONS TOWARDS LEARNING - Significant Learning - Showing Curiosity and Enthusiasm for Learning

4.2 ACTIVE LEARNING - SHOWING CONFIDENCE AND INVOLVEMENT - Significant Learning - Sharing Ideas and Discoveries

At Forestview we are becoming global citizen when we learn how to care for country.

At Forestview we are becoming global citizen when we learn to be curious about the world.

At Forestview we are becoming global citizen when we learn to question, think and reflect.

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