

# Hard hats and roadways

## Preschool students visit Manistee road commission Thursday

By Arielle Breen, Staff Writer **Published 6:37 pm EST, Thursday, February 20, 2020**

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Students asked Manistee County Road Commission staff how they move the sand and then had a chance to learn about vehicles and stand in an equipment bucket at the road commission Thursday. (Courtesy photo)

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MANISTEE — Crystal Harthun's Kaleva Norman Dickson preschool class had an interesting visit to the Manistee County Road Commission Thursday morning after learning about roads and transportation through school.

Harthun said in an email that the visit was part of the class curriculum segment that focuses on transportation and roads.

"We began a road/transportation study in January and have built our lesson plans based on the interest from the children," she said. "We have learned about

how roads are made, what materials are used to make them, what vehicles are needed to build a road and what types of transportation can be used (air, land and water transportation)."

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Harthun said Team Elmer's Concrete donated vests, hard hats and cones to the class and the students had a chance to use the materials during free play time.

She said the 12 students in the class also learned about engines.

"Lucas Oil (Products) donated an oil crank display so we could compare different brands of oil, which involved learning about how oil helps an engine," she said. "We then had toy engines to take apart, which led to questions about engines and an investigation of my old truck. We explored the battery, engine, radiator, talked about what makes it go, how to honk the horn (their favorite part) and many other things."

Harthun said that led to questions about how to fix a car and where a vehicle owner could take it to be repaired.

"We were able to reach out to a mechanic at Parkdale Auto (Sales & Service) who shared some pictures of how mechanics work in a shop to repair different parts of a vehicle that are broken," she said. "The preschoolers have had many

questions and we have thoroughly enjoyed this investigation and study. When we wrap up a study, we try to find something that is exciting, fun and unique to end with."

That's where the Manistee County Road Commission visit came into play.

"We were put in touch with the road commission, who welcomed us very warmly to visit their building (to) explore the vehicles, ask questions and learn about the jobs the different vehicles there do," Harthun said. "Our preschoolers enjoyed honking the horn in the big plow truck, learning about the road grader and (they) explored to see where the salt and sand come from for the plow truck."

She said the class was very appreciative of the opportunity to explore the road commission.

"We believe hands-on learning is much more fun and stays with children longer when they get to be actively involved in their learning," she said.

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