**Plainfield School 5th Annual Ag in the Classroom Day**

The local 4-H Club (Bloods Brook Bale Busters) was instrumental in offering an afternoon of agriculture for 120 K-4 students.  The 8 interactive stations were focused on last spring's Ag in the Classroom literacy theme of apples.  All week long, they had  “Apple Week” with daily trivia for applesauce and apple juice prizes; an apple identification light board to work with in the library, and daily apple jokes during morning announcements.  The weekly school newsletter contained a pamphlet on healthy apple recipes as well as the apple cake recipe the kids tried.

Stations included:

1. From Fruit to Flower (observation of dissected apple blossoms and apples with magnifying lenses, and discussion of pollination)

2. Every Seed is Different (genetic variation among every single seed; talk about Johnny Appleseed and planting orchards by seed; observation hive of honey bees and discussion about pollinators; demonstration of honey extractor and honey tasting)

3. Grafting (discussion and 3D model of xylem/phloem/cambium/heartwood/bark; demonstration of grafting)

4. Care and keeping of apple trees (pruning, pest control, observation of mouse guards and sticky fake apples, seasonal changes, etc; observation of live trees

5.  Cider making and applesauce making (hands on demonstration and tasting)

6.  Fresh apple tasting (many varieties offered, along with a variety of cheeses; cooked caramelized gala apples with cheese/cracker)

7.  Apple Preservation and Healthy Living (discussion of health benefits of apples; how to store; display of canned applesauce, apple butter, dried apples, apple juice; tasting of apple cake)

8.  Apple “picking” and Apple Math (peck, 1/2 bushel, bushel); simulated apple tree for “picking” and sorting into varieties; use of apple light board for apple identification



