

Urbana School District 116

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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thomas Paine Fourth-Graders to go on Archeological Dig in Urbana *University of Illinois Development Subject of the Dig*

September is Archeology Awareness and the fourth-graders at Thomas Paine Elementary School will learn about local history and archeology thanks to a development project at the University of Illinois. The archeology field trip will take place Wednesday September 24, from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., at the University of Illinois site between Hazelwood Drive and Windsor Road.

All public lands undergoing redevelopment must undergo archeological investigations to make sure all artifacts are removed from the site before construction. Archeologists have found pre-civil war artifacts – including a partial house foundation – at the dig.

Thomas Paine students are ready to learn about local history and archeology during the field trip. Teacher Kay Grabow says, “As a part of the curriculum for fourth grade, we learn about the history of Illinois, and in particular, the history of our area. To prepare for this trip, we have been learning about how archaeologists do their work. We have been looking at pioneer artifacts on websites and looking at history books of Champaign County. We have tried to find this site--the Simon Percival site--on a map from the 1860's. The kids chose names to use for the day from lists of pioneer settlers of Champaign County.”

Members of the media planning to attend the archeology field trip should contact Thomas Paine Principal Sandy Cooper at 384-3605 and Judith Lateer from the University of Illinois Facilities and Services at 265-5585.

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