

Reptiles and Birds Presented at Ox Ridge School Assembly

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Ox Ridge students got up close and personal with some furry, slithery, and high-flying friends as part of a school-wide assembly this month.

Darien resident Chris Evers of *Animal Embassy* brought an assortment of animals to interact with staff and students. According to [Animal Embassy's website](#), their mission is to foster “an individual’s appreciation and respect for the natural world and the incredible diversity of life on Earth.”

For the Ox Ridge assembly, Evers brought along snakes, amphibians, chinchillas, and an owl — the Ox Ridge mascot. During the assembly, students were entertained and participated in hands-on opportunities.

—*from Darien Public Schools' News of the Week newsletter for Oct. 18*

Principal Luke Forshaw said that the experience generated important connections between animals in their habitats and our communities.

Forshaw also noted the emphasis on raising caring students.

“The focus of the assembly was in helping kids continue to develop capacities of kindness, acceptance and empathy,” said Forshaw. "We don't call the reptiles slimy or gross. We appreciate the differences."

The assembly was sponsored by the enrichment team of the Ox Ridge PTO.