

# Fourth Grade Newsletter

## Katherine Delmar Burke School

May 2011



*Rich Bar visits the original site of Sutter's Mill in Coloma, California. "Rich Bar? We're eatin' tonight!"*

### Humanities

- Field Trip to Sacramento: We will be leaving for Sacramento on June 6. It will be an all-day trip, departing school at 8:45 and returning around 6:15. We will be visiting the California Museum, touring the State Capitol building, and finishing the day in Old Town. In preparation, we are exploring several resources to learn about the California government and students will be creating posters to demonstrate their knowledge in the next few weeks.
- Literature Groups: Half of the students read The Ballad of Lucy Whipple by Karen Cushman and the others read By the Great Horn Spoon by Sid Fleischman. The groups discussed memorable characters, with both good and bad traits, who change and develop over time as well as plot with deeper meanings applicable to important human problems and social issues. Both groups are working on a final activity where they will present a skit they've adapted from the book to the other half of the class.
- As the Lucy Whipple group finished sections of their book, small projects were assigned such as "Write a Ballad." The girls loved sharing this assignment and we loved hearing them!
- As the literature groups progressed through their novels, each student kept track independently of the Gold Rush history she learned while reading her historical fiction book. These written history logs, as well as letters to characters, character trait writings and journal entries will be sent home at the end of the school year.

- Poetry: The girls are about to explore different types of poetry (acrostic, haiku, cinquain, and more) and create a book containing their poems.
- Extra Credit Reports: There is still time until the week of June 6 for fourth graders to present a report on a topic of her own choice. The topics shared so far include cupcake decorating, cheetahs, geodes and jelly beans!

### Math

- Estimate products and practice strategies for solving double digit by double-digit multiplication.
- Develop strategies for solving division problems with one digit and small two digit divisors.
- Describe properties and attributes of geometric solids, identify two dimensional silhouettes of three dimensional solids and find the volume of rectangular prisms in cubic units.

### Science

- Having assigned the "Create an Animal" diorama, we are anxiously awaiting the fascinating outcomes of this project.

### Thank You! from the 4th Grade Teachers

Laurel Trent

LeaAnne Parlette

Whitney Livermore

Jim Lengel



*Salmon Falls hike the Sierra foothills. "Salmon Falls? Splash!"*