

# Fourth Grade Newsletter

## Katherine Delmar Burke School

January 2011



*The fourth grade students have started learning about the California Missions through interactive activities. Above is The Bandit crew.*

### Fourth Grade

Before the academic information, we need to relay some other important details about Valentine's Day. We will celebrate Valentine's Day on Monday, February 14th. The girls are responsible for making their own Valentine "mailbox" which will be due on Friday, February 11. The box will be assigned as homework on Friday, February 4th. Girls should bring Valentines for their entire homeroom, and if they'd like to, for the rest of 4th grade as well.

### Math/Science

- Solve multiplication problems with small 2-digit numbers by breaking the numbers apart, e.g.,  $18 \times 7 = (10 \times 7) + (8 \times 7) = 70 + 56 = 126$  and representing solutions with arrays.
- Solve and represent with manipulatives, if necessary, division problems with the help of known multiplication combinations (facts), in story contexts, including problems with remainders.
- The next several weeks of classroom science involve activities that support the study of the brain that took place in humanities and science, e.g., automatic reflex, optical illusion, etc.

### Humanities

- We have begun phase two of the California Missions Game.
- There is a lot of personal responsibility as well as teamwork involved in this phase. Each crew member must research 5 of the California missions and write a one-paragraph report on each mission.

- They have been learning and perfecting their understanding of the components of a paragraph: the topic sentence, at least three supporting sentences and a summary sentence.
- Reading has centered around pulling out important information from non-fiction resources regarding the California missions. We have also been studying how to determine the importance of ideas in text - a very important active reading skill. The girls work with this skill in their independent reading each week as well.
- The girls have just started commenting on each other's weekly reading response letter on PBworks. The comments are structured to celebrate each other's active reading skills and to help think of how to improve communicating about a reader's reflections.
- In class we have been in small reading groups focusing on character development, inference and connection.

### Thank You

Mrs. Trent  
Ms. Livermore  
Ms. Parlette  
Mr. Lengel



*On a chilly December morning, the 4th graders successfully launched their boats made primarily from recycled materials at Spreckels Lake. All captains were very excited to see that all the boats were seaworthy and made it back to school in one piece.*