

Fourth Grade Newsletter

Katherine Delmar Burke School

December 2010



Fourth Grade

We enjoyed visiting with you and learning more about your daughters during parent-teacher conferences. It is always a valuable exercise for us to share our insights about your daughters and to hear yours. It has been wonderful to take part in the progress of each student and to watch them take on their role as leaders of the lower school.

As you could see on December 2, the girls worked very hard on the fabulous fourth grade plays. We thoroughly enjoyed all their efforts toward such successful performances. Thank you to Ms. Hamilton for hosting the cast party!

Humanities

- This week we began our study of the California Missions by participating in a simulation that focuses on this area of California's history. The girls are expected to work in cooperative, structured groups and will trade goods for cowhides. They will learn research skills, write reports, outline non-fiction essays and maintain a work folder.
- The girls will participate in discussions on the Native California way of life as well as its dramatic change once the missions were founded by the Spanish priests and the presidios were established.
- As soon as we get back from our Winter Vacation, we will begin new guided reading groups. Each student will participate in a small book discussion group and she will be expected to extend her active reading skills.
- Julie Rembrandt will co-teach our unit on *The Mind That's Mine* where each of us will explore how our mind works, what its strengths are, and what we can do to make it work even better.

Math/Science

- Recording, organizing and representing data and using the median as one way to describe and compare data sets.
- Create survey questions for data collection; organizing and analyzing data. Drawing conclusions based on evidence in different sets of data.
- Describe probability using impossible and certain. Conducting probability experiments and describing and comparing results.
- Group Presentations from Oceans of the World after weeks long collaboration during once a week in-class science time.

By the way, the girls ventured out into the Burke's world of adults (not teachers) to gather data for their graph posters. The adults on the Burke's staff were so pleased to help the 4th graders with their math project!

Thank You

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



On December 2, a docent from the Oakland Museum presented California Native Lifeways, a hands-on interactive discussion with fourth grade. She told folktales, discussed the use of natural resources in building shelters and weapons and discussed how they hunted and gathered food. She then gave the girls an opportunity to handle and explore native artifacts.