

Library

FOURTH GRADE
APRIL 2011



Think. Apply and Create. Share, Collaborate, and Act Ethically. Grow and Appreciate.

Fourth Graders continue to be enthusiastic and focused learners! We are almost finished reading aloud from the autobiography **Leon's Story** by Leon Tillage. The girls show remarkable empathy for him and understanding of his times--segregation and the Civil Rights Movement. For independent reading, the girls either read a mystery or an adventure, responding either in a class collage or by creating a poster. (The categories and the response activities were carefully chosen by each class.) As for research, each girl is now writing a persuasive five-paragraph argument to make a nomination to the California Hall of Fame. The girls began their research by reading biographies. Emphasis has

been on how to read for purpose, use multiple sources, take different kinds of notes for different purposes, prioritize notes, write cogent paragraphs, do peer reviews, and cite sources. The California Hall of Fame unit is integrated with work done in Library, Technology, and the classroom. (The use of the Wiki for writing and editing has made the process more fun and more instructive.) This unit is a culminating Library experience for Lower School. Fourth Graders are clearly demonstrating that they are growing by leaps and bounds in competence, confidence, and curiosity.

Questions:

How do I read for purpose?
How do I take notes for purpose?
What kind of books do I want to read for pleasure? How do I let people know what I like?
How do I research famous Californians?
How do I use my research to write a strong persuasive argument?
How do I make research-to-self connections?

Resources

LEON'S STORY by Leon Tillage
Various adventure books (fiction--4A)
Various mystery books (fiction--4B)
Various biographies of famous Californians

21st Century Learning

Process Information.

Use information to good purpose.

Appreciate social context of learning--sharing, collaboration and ethical behavior.

Pursue personal and aesthetic interests.

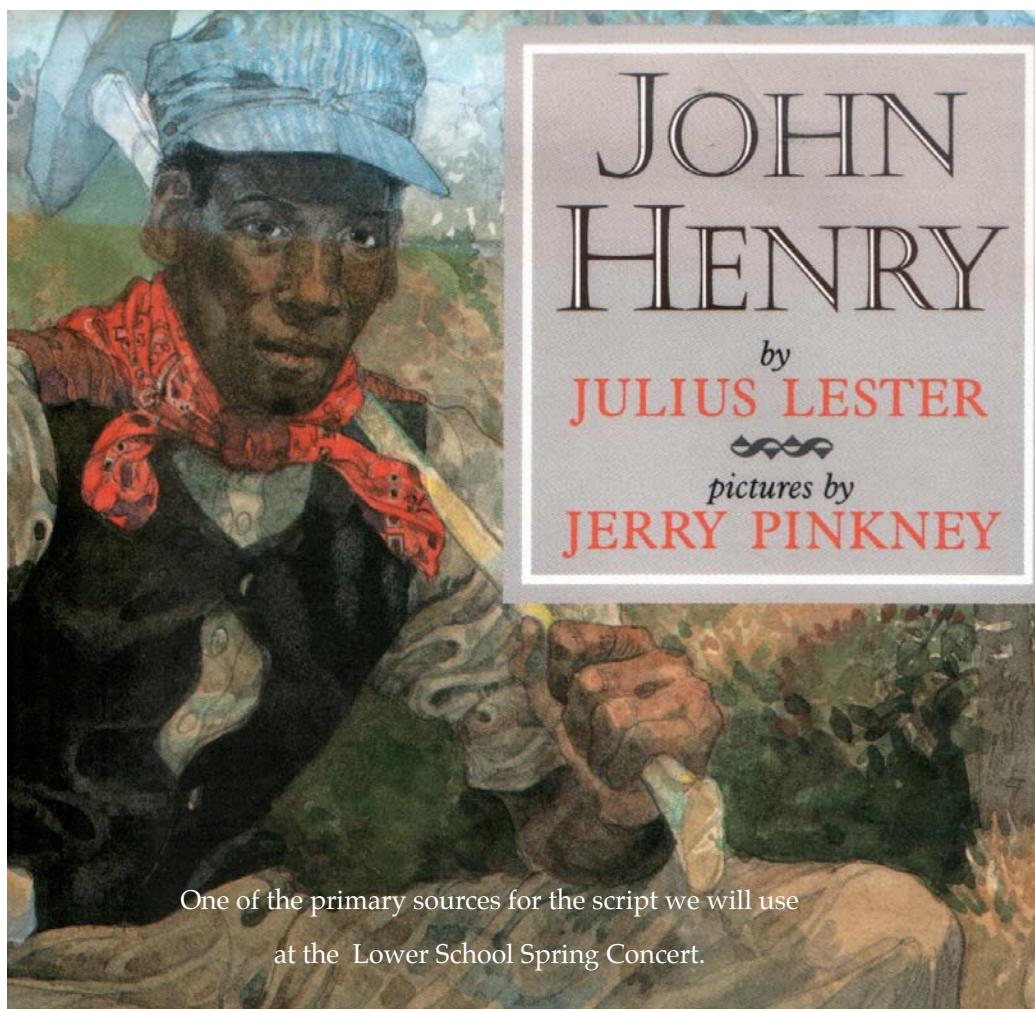


2011

As a reminder: Lower School students may have out up to 4 books at a time. Fourth graders may have a fifth book in order to fulfill an assignment. They may then borrow up to 2 books during each library class period plus an extra book for a specific assignment. A book is due 3 weeks from the borrowing date, but it may be returned any time before that. You are, of course, invited to use the Library as well. You have a card on file, and you may borrow as many books as you like. It's best to come before school or at the end of the school day on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 3:10 and 4:00. Should you have any questions or requests, please call me at 751-0177, ext. 311 or e-mail me at susan.f@kdb.org.

Music's

4TH - APRIL 2011



One of the primary sources for the script we will use at the Lower School Spring Concert.

Activities and Concepts:

a preview of what you might see at the concert

Opening Songs - On Track

On Track - a three part canon with a positive message, sung *a capella* with motions choreographed by the 2nd graders

John Henry - this is our first John Henry song, written by Woodie Guthrie, an American songwriting treasure; we hope you will join in singing the last phrase which is repeated at the end of each verse

4th Grade Features - John Henry and the Race with the Steam Drill

Four Car Train - the 3rd graders will build rhythm patterns by sitting in various configurations on four chairs; the 4th graders will read the rhythms with their recorders, practicing the rhythmic notation we have covered this year: quarter, half, whole, 8th and 16th notes

Mule on the Mount - a traditional *a capella* song from the time of the road gangs who built the roads and rails that cross the country, the rainbow lyric in the last verse is referred to in many other songs and stories about John Henry

John Henry (Wonderful, Marvelous) - our second John Henry song, adapted from the Disney animated short (released in 2000), features beginning jazz phrasing, talking blues style verses and pentatonic recorder improvisations

Railroad Workers vs. Steam Drill - rhythms and more, all invented by the girls!

Closing Songs - Honoring John Henry

The Saints - the 4th grade recorders lead the way with melody and harmony; followed by a trio of 'partner songs' which we hope you will join in singing

Stand Tall (Just Like John) - listen for the 4th graders' soaring vocal harmonies in the stirring refrain (also from the Disney video)

Bound for Glory!

LS Spring Concert

April 13, 8:45 a.m.

This edition reaches your in-box on the eve of the concert! We hope you are able to attend this event which features music, poetry and more; all related to the story of John Henry.

Wayne Harris!

Bay area storyteller and actor Wayne Harris visited Burke's to share stories about his life and the John Henry legacy. He challenged the girls to write their own original stories! Mr. Harris will be joining us as the narrator at the concert! He has created several one-man shows and performs at The Marsh and across the country.

Spring Concert Video!

A professionally shot video will be available when we return from break. Please contact Lisa.M if you are interested. There also will be copies in the Burke's Library.

Science

FOURTH GRADE
APRIL 2011



Third and fourth graders show off their inventions to the second grade students at the Invention Convention.

What We've Been Doing

Invention Convention:

- * Thank you for all your support of this project! The girls are rightfully proud of themselves.

Puberty

- * We asked: What makes us female? What makes females special? What changes happen during puberty?
- * We discussed the biology of puberty, the practical aspects, and the emotional side of growing up.

At Home...

We have had many thoughtful discussions about puberty in science, and I have tried to answer all questions. It's also important for girls to feel comfortable talking with family as they navigate the years ahead. The school puberty unit can be a good entry point for these conversations. Burke's also has a good selection of books about puberty and human reproduction, appropriate for a variety of ages.

Coloma

April 25-27 will find fourth graders at the Coloma Outdoor Discovery School...

- * ...hiking in the woods, observing & learning about native wildlife
- * ...living like '49ers as we learn about the history of many cultures that came together in the Gold Rush
- * ...having fun together!

More information is available at www.cods.org, or contact Ms. McDonald with any questions or concerns.

Open Science - Tuesdays from 3:25-4:00

Any girl checked into the Tree House may come to the science lab to help take care of the turtle and gecko, then explore and experiment with Ms. McDonald! (No extra fee or regular attendance needed.)

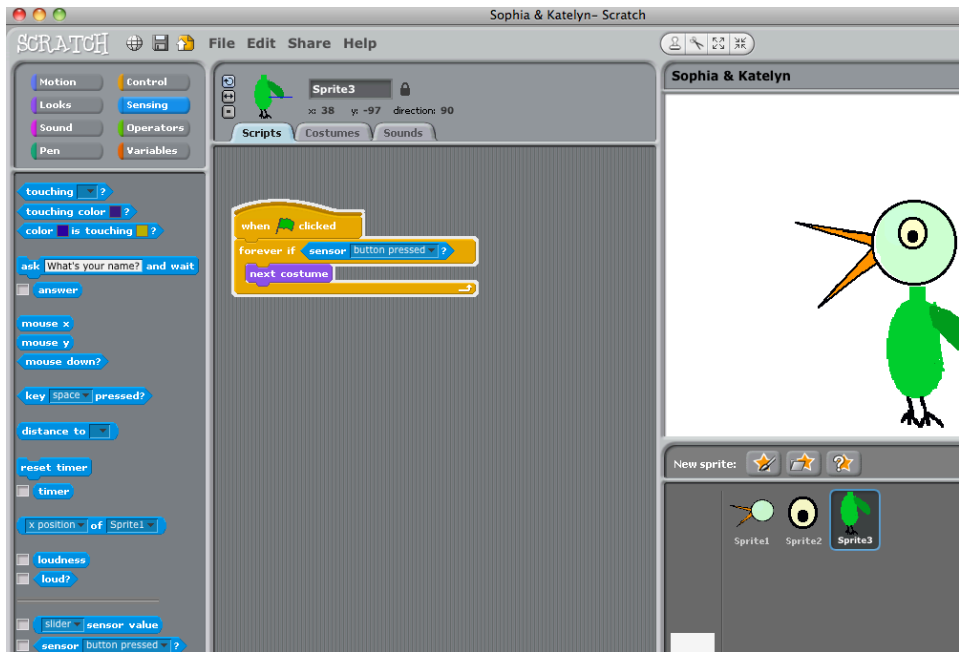
Check out the LS Science website at <http://www.kdbs.org/node/574/> for fun links!

Elizabeth McDonald
elizabeth.m@kdbs.org
751-0177 x273

April 2011

FOURTH GRADE

Tech



Using Picoboards with Scratch

Make it. Share it. Find it. Solve it. Protect it. Learn it.

The fourth grade has been working on a variety of applications to research, take notes and collect graphics for their reports on famous Californians. They learned to highlight a PDF document, to download and cite pictures and to use the wiki to write the 5 paragraph essay. They will record an audio ad for their book in Garageband. The final product will be an e-book created using the Pages application.

In math tech they reviewed a collection of math games and they are using Scratch with Picoboards to prepare for a unit building and programming Lego robots using the Mindstorms application.

1. Creativity and Innovation
2. Communication and Collaboration
3. Research and Information Fluency
4. Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, and Decision Making
5. Digital Citizenship
6. Technology Operations and Concepts

Links you might like to try:

Sketchup-3D modeling
<http://sketchup.google.com/intl/en/download/index.html>

Alice 3D- make your own 3-D activity
<http://www.alice.org/>

Design Blocks from MIT Lifelong Kindergarten
<http://www.designblocks.net/>

(No need to create an account, you can just play.)



2011

K

Kindergarteners finished their plaster bunnies and began a unit on **texture**, focusing on the famous children's book author and illustrator **Eric Carle**.

They had fun making their own papers by mixing together **tints** and **shades** of various colors with their hands and starching textures into the paint with tools.

The dried paper will be cut and glued as part of a giant collage and used for sets in the classroom play, as well as displayed during the **May 19th Arts Festival**.



1st

First grades launched into outer space with the creation of chalk pastel space scenes. The project's goal was to practice shading and color blending techniques.

Students learned how a "**light source**", such as the sun, creates **highlights** and **shadows** on the surface of a planet.

They blended light to dark colors in gradation, and used smearing techniques to represent the movement of comets and shooting stars through space.

These drawings will be on display in the lunch line. Our next project will be the creation of extra-terrestrial life forms out of socks and other fabrics.

2nd

Second graders began a figure sculpture project representing the "Pioneer Women" researched in social studies class.

They sculpted proportional figures out of tinfoil and cotton balls. These "skeletons" were wrapped up with masking tape and primed with gesso.

Students will bring their character to life, by making clothing and accessories out of foil, fabrics and other found objects.

3rd

Third graders are finishing up their landmark hats by painting their sculptures in layers, beginning with the base-coat, middle shapes and details.

Students sculpted and attached additional accessories such as figures, trees and cars to complete the look.

Next, students will showcase their hats in a runway show at the **May 19th Arts Festival**.

4th

Students practiced painting in layers beginning with the **base coat**, or first layer, continuing with **medium areas**, and finishing up with **details** and **designs**.

The masks were decorated even further with glitter, fabric, paint, feathers, beads and other random objects.

After completion, students wrote artist statements about their masks. Each transformation, celebration mask reflects the unique personality and creativity of the student.



This month the Physical Education Departments of the Upper and Lower School collaborated in creating a jump rope day for the entire Burke's Community. Throughout the day the entire campus, including faculty and staff, jumped rope during all of the PE classes. We all completed 475,300 jumps together. Also this month, students from kindergarten through fourth grade are learning the basics of fitness, racquet sports, and jump rope and circus arts.

Manipulating and tracking skills with objects such as juggling help develop and improve dexterity, eye/hand, bi-lateral coordination and concentration. These skills transfer to academic, life and athletic skills. During the unicycle portion of our circus arts unit children learn how to spot, mount, dismount, fall off of and ride, a unicycle. These skills, particularly learning how to fall, begin in kindergarten. In school, students learn to check the environment to determine what a safe place looks like and how to set one up. Helmet safety is discussed. Students are told that, although it is legal to ride unicycles without helmets, we encourage them to wear a helmet if riding a unicycle outside of campus. Although it is not required, students who wish to wear helmets to class may.



K-1

Kindergarten students are learning to track, throw and catch an object. They practice cross-lateral movements and timing by tossing scarves. One of their favorite games that reinforces these skills and concepts with scarves is, "Clasy, Clasy, Tapsy, Tapsy, Rollie, Rollie". They are learning basic principles of balance using feathers and balancing on different body parts. Kindergartners are also learning somersaults, forward and backward rolls, and are developing core strength with the big balls.

First graders are learning to juggle scarves and balls in a one, two and trying a three scarf pattern. Balancing skills are learned and practiced by balancing on different body parts, stilts, rolla bolla, feathers, and beanbags.



2-3

Second graders are learning to juggle balls, clubs, rings, and diabolos and flower sticks. They are also introduced to static and dynamic balance including: stilt walking, unicycle, rolla bolla, feathers and different body parts. Spotting, mounting, riding and falling off the unicycle, stilts and rolla bolla begins in second grade. In gymnastics second graders practice somersaults, standing forward rolls, backward rolls, donkey, monkey jumps and cartwheels.

Third graders are learning and practicing juggling balls, clubs, rings, feathers, diabolos and flower sticks. In gymnastics they learn and practice pyramid building, forward and backward rolls, cartwheels and beginning handstands. Third graders also review and practice spotting, mounting, riding and falling off the unicycle, stilts and rolla bolla. Other kinds of balance involves feathers and different body parts.



4th

Fourth graders completed their annual demonstration in circus arts. This event is a culmination of skills and movement concepts they have been learning and developing since Kindergarten and are being applied in the medium of circus arts. The emphasis of this demonstration is not a show of perfection, but rather a sharing of what they are learning and willing to try. The Fourth Grade Circus Arts Demonstration takes place at the end of every school year and is a right of passage for the fourth graders. They are solely responsible for content of this demonstration. This sharing involves working as an individual and as a group, short term and long term goal setting, inclusion, collaboration, flexibility, concentration, gauged risk taking and decision making skills. The girls learn to organize themselves and support each other as a group. They also have to set-up and break down equipment safely and efficiently.