

Fourth Grade Newsletter

Katherine Delmar Burke School

April 2011



On a surprisingly sunny day, the 4th graders boarded the Balclutha ship at Hyde Pier. They served as a seaworthy crew. Here, crew members line up in formation and await orders from our captain.

Humanities

- Gold! Gold! Gold! We have begun our study of the California Gold Rush.
- We have two class literature groups currently meeting. The titles are *By the Great Horn Spoon* and *The Ballad of Lucy Whipple*. As the girls read and discuss characters, plot, figurative language, connections and predictions, they also list historical facts that are taken right from the text.
- Our trip to the Balclutha was filled with sailor language, cooperation and true teamwork. Each 'lad' was assigned to a crew where 'he' learned knot-tying skills, how to give and receive orders and how to work together. As a team, they used these skills to accomplish many tasks. At the end of our long day, Tall Sailor Livermore was hoisted up on the Bosun's chair until she would agree to a cookie party to take place in 2011. We celebrated with many cookies on Friday, April 8.
- Again highlighting teamwork, listening and supporting one another, each crew in our California Missions simulation has successfully reached Monterey. Here they are trading their cargo that they loaded in Boston with the California missions. They must negotiate, strategize and LISTEN to one another. The students usually yell, "Yeah!" when we announce, "It is time for the mission game!"

Math

- The fourth grade is practicing linear measurement using the U. S. standard and metric units; investigating attributes of polygons; identifying, constructing and measuring angles of varying degrees; measuring area of polygons.
- We are reviewing place value concepts to 1,000 and 10,000 and developing different addition and subtraction strategies.
- We are also comparing fractions, finding combinations of fractions that equal 1 and adding fractions with like and unlike denominators (without finding common denominators).

Science

- In class the girls will be studying animal behavior and adaptation. This study will culminate in their creation of a diorama - details and assignment will come later.

Thank You

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



The Bosun crew prepares the Bosun's chair to go aloft.