

K.I.T.E. Newsletter

2010

Hello K.I.T.E. Families,

The curious minds of your talented children have the 'mountain huts' on the KITE campus exploding with ideas this week!! So many things have been going on that you would be 'blown of the peak'. Here are some of the stimulating happenings so far.

The **Fugi** group started the week studying its namesake, Mt. Fuji, and the locale of Japan. They made origami whales and created Haiku poems. Since Mt. Fuji is volcanic, they examined both lava and magna rocks including pumice, which brought lots of oohs and ahhs as they observed that the rock floats! Sue Gardner continued their exploration of rocks as they adopted an igneous or sedimentary pet rock which they weighed and measured for its 'adoption certificate'.

A focus of their mountain being located in Africa led the **Kilimanjaros** to the Great Pyramids of Giza in Egypt. They then researched the 7 Wonders of the Ancient World, and explored different ancient civilizations as they embarked on creating their final projects. Lauren King had the group use mountain math to compare the highest, lowest and deepest points on each continent. After finding ratios of Kilimanjaro compared to other mountains, they found objects on a Pike hike that matched these ratios.

Jaime Lane's **Mt. Rainier** group discussed outdoor survival skills along with national park etiquette. Duplicating Rainier National Park on the Pike grounds, they described the consequences of shrinking resources through game play. Their interesting posters show what they have learned about glaciers, predators, life zones and jokulaups (what?!?).

What is a massif? The Awesome **Alps** know that Mount Blanc and Matterhorn are the main mountains in their range. They researched the geography and habitats of their range and acquired knowledge to write stories about the changes in the earth that caused their mountains to form. Lori Hyland encourage them to provide travel brochures as a guide to the plants and wildlife in the fabulous posters.

The Deities have been watching over the **Olympus** group as they read and researched a variety of Greek myths learning that each myth illustrates 'universal' human traits in all of us. Sandra Blumenthal encouraged creative thinking to help them design an individual exhibit containing three dimensional structures. It will be fun to read original myths about their own heroes, gods or creatures.

The proportions of **Mt. Rushmore** came into focus as these explorers sketched a replica of the George Washington section of the carving, complete with the 11 foot span between his eyes! It didn't take them long to realize that the parking lot was not large enough to create the entire Rushmore image. They also had great fun as Patty Gaudet helped them fold towels to

simulate tectonic plates, which helped them to understand different ways that mountains are formed.

Melissa Maglio's **Rockies** learned the skill of accurate recording as they used their 'explorer journals' to document places they have already explored, such as the woods behind their homes, places they explored this week around the Pike campus, and places they would like to explore in the future. You might have to use the binoculars they made to observe their own mountain range designs.

After reading an interview with Edmund Hillary, the first climber to reach the summit of Mt. Everest, and discussing what he wanted to accomplish in his climb, the **Everests** became interviewers. Robin Harrold helped them write questions with a focus on the personal goals one might have for climbing a mountain. Using soil (clay) they planned the terrain and geography for their peak. With the trail map provided, it will be easy to see the specific details and characteristics.

After brainstorming and researching the meaning of Climb Every Mountain, the motivated **Washington** group recorded their varied thoughts and are creating a video news broadcast which they named "Washington Watch" including: Presidential Range, Cog Railway and The Famous Ones. **Colleen Dolan** provided the venue for these reporters to experience what it is like to be both behind the scenes and in front of the camera as they presented fascinating facts, and book and movie reviews.

Fascinating things have been happening in our Special Interest Groups on the K.I.T.E. campus as well! For example:

This week the engineers in **Engineering Design** used technology to help solve problems given to them by Lauren King. Following the 5 steps of the design process (ask, imagine, plan, create, and improve) they designed such things as a mouse trap and candy retriever. The greatest challenge, however, was to make a wallet stand using only index cards!

"Quiet on the set!", "Ready in five, four, three..." are sounds you hear when you enter the **Lights, Action, Camera** studio. These future stars have been learning how to use eye contact, volume and enthusiasm to connect with the viewing audience. With their official 'press badge' Colleen Dolan is providing skills for them to shine on and off the stage.

There was a lot of creating and destroying...all in the name of learning...in the **Science Summit** class. They built domino trains and gumdrop towers to explore the principles of architecture. They discovered interesting facts about gas reactions and hydrophobic molecules as they made soda rockets, bag bombs, and lava lamps. Jaime Lane's group found the most fun as they learned some principles of aerodynamics in making a 'contraption' to keep an egg safe during a 10 foot fall!!

In **Tech Trek** the technicians worked in pairs to create a power point presentation showcasing their research related to topics of the KITE theme Climb Every Mountain. Amy Pinciak guided the students in using animation, photos and transition to enhance their final project.

The artists in **A Peak at Art** explored various art material and techniques with Sue Gardner. Paint, clay, pipe cleaners and their own printing techniques were used as students investigated the use of line, color and texture. Their artistic creations are fabulous!!

Did you know America was known as the Land of the Golden Mountain? The children in **Paths to Puppets** celebrated the knowledge of this concept by making a puppet based on the book *A Dragon Puppet Parade*. Each day they glued, glittered and giggled as Lori Hyland helped them bring various children's books to life with their own puppet characters and settings.

As for the young mathematicians in **Math Challenge** with Patty Gaudet... They shared math tricks such as 9 Moebius strip and provided challenges to each other as they created their own arithmetic games. Their 'Shape Transformations' are something to be seen.

On a **Math Expedition**, tribe Math Geniuses and tribe Brainstormer competed in a game of Survivor. Each team had to complete various brain teasers, including Sudoku, logic puzzles and Kenden puzzles in an attempt to outwit their opponents. Melissa Maglio provided the worms (gummy) that the losing team had to eat, while the winning team feasted on a snack of their choice.

In **Science Rangers**, our young scientists categorized various objects into pulleys, levers, or wheels and axles. Robin Harrold encouraged them to design an invention that would make life easier using one of these simple machines. One another day, there were some pretty scary sea creatures that were created to test their predictions after learning about the characteristics that make an object float.

Wow!! What an amazing week everyone is having by learning, creating and smiling at **K.I.T.E. in the summer of 2010**. Thank you for being part of this week. See you next summer!

Janis Baron
Ethel Coltin

YAHOO GROUP FOR K.I.T.E. PARENT

Visit the KITE link at www.kaleidoscopekids.com on Friday, August 6 if you would like to join this group to network with other KITE parents.