

PACT Newsletter, June 2007



From the Social Committee

Patricia Goates

What a year we've had!

From the informal park play dates during the summer of 2006 to the Ice Cream Social coming up on Thursday June 7th at 4 pm at Whisman park off of Middlefield. Bring your family and any friends that may be interested in seeing what PACT is all about. I hope you've enjoyed some or all the events that were presented, for you, this year. Trunk or Treat, after school playground play dates, Pumpkin Patch, Festival of Lights, Mom's night out, The Jungle, Rock Climbing, Ice Skating, Grandparents night, Game night, Kite flying, Bike riding, Ice Cream Social. WHOOO I m invigorated just writing it all down!

What does PACT Social Committee do? We help build strong, stronger, and the strongest of bonds of community though events geared for the students, their families and friends. We hope, you've made friends, had fun, introduced your friends to your PACT family and grow in your knowledge and good feelings of PACT.

Let's thank the fine people of your PACT social committee for all these events this year. Vicki Kestler, Debbie Sato, April Croce, Elise Politzer, Paula Dispoto, Robin Yurash, Kimberly Scott, Efrat Berman, Sripriya Vijayaraghavan, Jessica Riblett and Ken Jones, Rommy Kushner, Erin Barnes, Eka Moore, Kristina Chavez, Kismont Coons and Patricia Goates. Thank you for getting involved, coming to the events and bringing a sense of community to our special group of students.

Room 5 (K/1st)

Patricia Goates

The kids of room 5 say: THANKS MRS. JENSEN FOR BEING OUR TEACHER!

Sol says, "I LOVE Science"!

Michael has loved playing basket ball at recess, science and the S.F. Symphony.

Lucas just plain loves falling down the playground stairs.

Laurel would like you to know, she really liked making a book with Tate.

Kevin loved the paper airplane making in Science and Deer Hollow Farm.

Alex was amazed with the balloon rockets in Science and Marie Institute of Science.

Tanya really enjoyed Free Choice in the classroom, the fish in the room and S.F. Symphony.

Leela has really liked playing outside on the playground with David and going to Deer Hollow Farm.

Nichol says that the best thing about school this year is doing a lot of work in the classroom and going to Bob's pumpkin patch.

Madison has really gotten into her Arts Focus classes this year.

Sam liked all the field trips, Market day and the classroom money games they played. Plus circle time because "I could just sit and didn't have to do anything."

Ryan, if truth be told, enjoyed his time playing on the playground and Bob's pumpkin patch.

Fiona's favorite trip was to Bob's pumpkin patch because she liked the pumpkins so much. Her favorite part of being in Mrs. Jensen's class is "the friends I've made".

Savannah thinks like this; "I like that I get two years with Mrs. Jensen as my teacher, I like that we have a bunch of room pets, all the field trips were good but for sure Bob's pumpkin patch is tops.

Rebecca thought; "I like to write books in the classroom. Mrs. Jensen always has balls and jump ropes for us to play with at recess. I like solving math problems with QDPA-check. My favorite field trips were Deer Hollow Farm and the San Francisco Symphony."

Tate remembers "the pumpkin patch field trip from last October. and I really love book writing in our class".

Owen loved going to Half Moon Bay and "observing the silk worms is great fun!".

Room 13 (2nd/3rd)

Patricia Goates

Room 13 Students all agree, "Mr. A is silly and plays jokes and reads us good books". Here's what they think are the highlights of the year for them.

Stephanie - "Bob's Pumpkin Patch and reading"

Steven - "Field trips and building the Tulle hut".

Brett - "All the field trips, building the tulle hut".

Teagan - "Hidden Villa, trout releasing and making sugar skulls for Day of the Dead."

Paola - "P.E., math games, writing and making sugar skulls."

Tanya - "Hidden Villa and all of Arts Focus."

Rachael - "Hidden Villa, cleaning the room and doing science".

Alisa - Trout releasing, card games, making crafts for Cinco de Mayo and hiking at Hidden Villa.

Chente - "Hidden Villa because we were in nature, taking hikes, card game and seeing the animals.

Glen - "Seeing all the Elephant seals at Ano Nuevo, trout releasing and taking a hike at Hidden Villa.

Sammy - "Taking a hike and staying over night at Hidden Villa and the trout releasing".

Christina - "The games at Hidden Villa, trout releasing and fish prints".

Devon - "Being outdoors with the farm animals at Hidden Villa. Plus the sugar skulls and the trout releasing".

Chris - "The farm animals at Hidden Villa and doing math".

Veronica - "Arts Focus, the lizards at Hidden Villa and making bunnies out of clay".

Rachel - "I liked the Hidden Villa field trip best because it had animals and a garden."

Zipporah - "My favorite field was the Hidden Villa and doing the chores there".

Hannah - "Staying overnight at Hidden Villa and doing the farm chores".

Nick - "Reading Mr. Potter stories and writing. Having pets in the classroom like; steel head trout eggs and "Wormie" (a caterpillar found at recess), and the African drumming at Stanford".

Room 14 (3rd/4th)

Marjoleine de Waal Malefijt

Overnight Fieldtrip to Sacramento

It was quite an adventure Mrs. Hygate's 3rd and 4th Graders were embarking on last week. With plenty chaperones and their teacher Room 14 went to Sacramento. The trip was by train and took 3 hours. Everyone slept at a hostel in Sacramento. Among the places visited was the Train Museum, Sutter's Fort, the Museum of Women in the Arts and the State Capitol. A very tired group returned on Thursday. **Marjoleine de Waal Malefijt**

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I liked the Sacramento trip because I learned the names of the three government branches; Executive, Judicial, Legislative. Also in Sutter's fort I learned about the Donner Party. They were pioneers that traveled over the Sierra's. In the Donner party people were covered in 9 feet of snow. At the Railroad Museum I learned about how the golden spike was the last spike in the railroad tracks. What I saw in Sacramento was the state capital in side the state capital were three floors, on the first floor their was a statue of Christopher Columbus and Queen Elizabeth **Patrick de Waal Malefijt**

The children were excited each morning to be going to a new and different place to learn about the history of California. I think most of the children had fun at the Train Museum. Kylie is definitely looking forward to doing this trip again with Mr. A's class. **Kimberly Scott**

How Sacramento became the capital and about Sutters Fort and history. **Megan Halbig**

Greatly enjoyed the museum of Women in the Arts - wish we had more time there. **Candy Halbig**

I learn about the state government and the capital. I learn about the three branches of the government. **Katy Yurash**

Room 34 (K)

Heather Hadlock

As our gardening leaders John and Stephanie remarked a couple of weeks ago, "These kids are switched ON!"

It has been a year of incredible transformations. Miss Bonnie's kinders are reading, writing, making patterns, working with numbers, speaking and understanding new languages. They've changed the world around them: made things grow in the garden, persuaded the city to add a crosswalk near Castro School, collected scarves, hats, and socks for homeless people in Mountain View. They've heard the San Francisco Symphony in Davies Hall, and next week they're on their way to the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

In May, Miss Bonnie was honored by Prudential Realty Association as a California "Teacher of the Year." William's mom Aiko and Dennis' mom Edith worked hard to gather comments and praise from many Room 34 parents, and write it up in a nomination essay. We are all so happy and proud! Miss Bonnie has helped our children grow as thinkers, learners, artists, and citizens. She has taught them to express their ideas and emotions, to work together, and to respect and care for each other.

The award is a terrific ending for a terrific year in Room 34.

Room 35 (K/1st)

Rommy Kushner

It is springtime at Room 35. Mrs. Katrina has been teaching the kids about changes. In the classroom the kids are learning about metamorphosis. There are silkworms in preparer containers and tadpoles in an aquarium where they been growing with special care and feeding from the teacher and the students. The kids have witnessed how small silkworms grow up, make cocoons and later transform into moths and then lay their eggs. Kindergarteners and first graders are writing and drawing in a silkworm journal their observations. They have been reading books about silkworms too. The tadpoles were tiny amphibians when they arrived at the classroom and looked like fish with big heads. Now they have grown legs and in a few more weeks their transformation will be complete.

Also the kids are learning how things have changed over the time. The kids learned that before cars people used to travel on horse cart and trains. The students are going to Niles Canyon Railway for a trip on train as a part of their experience about things of the past.

Room 36 (K/1st)

Tanya Bishop/Ms McCleary

Back in March, Room 36 led a showcase of the Dream Community they built. We started by learning what a community is using the social studies curriculum as a resource. A month long unit plan was formed that taught students about maps, locations, neighborhoods, goods, services, workers, products, jobs, and more. Using guided reading groups, whole class discussion, interactive readers, big books, brainstorm charts, videos, and songs, students learned the components and special qualities of a community. After this preteaching, students used a concept web to brainstorm what they wanted in their Dream Community. As the class collaborated, they simultaneously visited places in their community like the Acme Bread Company, a tour of a fire station and various members of our community (a nurse, a software engineer, etc..) visiting the classroom. The K/1 students then were given a choice of how they wanted to create their own communities through building a 3D model, creating a drama, drawing a map, creating a book or creating a poster of pictures from magazines. They also created a picture of their dream community at the computer lab.

The 1st graders created ad posters with the 5 W's (Who, What, Where, When, Why, How) and put them up around campus advertising the showcase. Also they created a letter to send out to parents inviting them to come participate.

Classrooms from all throughout the Castro School campus signed up to walk through, observe, and ask questions about their Dream Community. The students described their process, the parts, and talked about what is important in a community. After school, they sold goods that they manufactured (using buttons that they sorted, priced, and purchased using an introduction to money concepts).

They made \$45 selling their goods! They held a discussion on where the money should go, did some independent writing in their journals, and then voted on one place in our community. Since they had been learning about animals in science and how to take care of them/respect them, the students decided to donate to "Animal Rescuers". Ms. McCleary got connected with a place called Pets in Need, which is "the first No-Kill Adoption Shelter serving the Peninsula and Greater Silicon Valley."

The first graders drafted a letter to the shelter explaining their donation, including how they made the money and why they wanted to donate it to the shelter.

The community theme continued until the end of the year as a way to work together, prepare for safety drills, and develop their academic and social skills. "Room 36 is a GREAT COMMUNITY!!!!!!!" (MS. MCCLEARY).

Thanks for a great year. Look for exciting changes in the PACT Newsletter next year! Have a great summer.
Tanya Bishop, PACT NL Editor