

YOU'VE GOT ME IN STITCHES!

Our cross-stitchers are making terrific progress on their needlework projects. Each girl is working on a piece that they've chosen and are using the basic stitches and learning to follow the patterns in the specific designs. Several are working on Christmas projects while others are creating items that they'll have framed.

THE QUILTING CLUB

We are very excited about our sewing skills to date. Our group has a good mix of experienced sewers and "new to sewing machine" students. Four of our members took this cluster when they were in 2nd grade. We are divided into 6 teams and we are working on a group project with each team. We have learned ironing board safety, how to pin fabric together in preparation for sewing and we are working on keeping our 1/4" seams to 1/4". Some of us have more practice needed, so our seams are even, but we are having fun. We also learned to sew SLOWLY because the sewing machine likes to race along. So, all the time we saved is used in ripping out our stitches and trying again to sew slowly and straight. Our blankets will be donated to the "Linus Connection". After three classes, we are already pinning together the blocks! Mrs. Schnier is a good sewer and Mrs. Marshall needs to practice measuring twice and cutting once. We all make mistakes. We are also learning that nothing is unfixable and that good quilters learn to change their plans when confronted with a problem. Plus, if a horse and rider are galloping along D-K Ranch Road, and they can't see our mistakes as they ride by, it's really OK! Mrs. Marshall likes the "Galloping Horse" rule!

KID'S KITCHEN

In 'Kid's Kitchen', students are cooking up a storm! So far, they have made Rice Crispy treats, Breakfast Tacos, French Toast, and Tasty (beef/bean) Tacos. Students read the recipes, follow the directions using the provided ingredients, and share in the preparation. The best part is getting to eat what they create! Bon appétit!!

KNITTING FOR THE CURE

In "Knitting for the Cure", formerly "The Friday Morning Knitting Club", students set their sights on knitting scarves for people who are in the hospital with cancer. The group also decided to find sponsors for their Knit-a-Thon to raise a little money to donate toward finding a cure. With our purpose set, students began to learn how to knit. Students shared their projects and helped each other with their craft. Students created donation boxes for yarn and plan to solicit knitters in the community to help out.

CLAYMATIONS

The "Claymations" enrichment cluster is on the way to some fabulous creations! Over the past few weeks, students divided into groups and began brainstorming some topics for their claymation presentations. We discussed how it would be preferable for their projects at school to be of the school-service nature, rather than for pure entertainment. They also had to think about their audience. After finishing their project overview, they had to decide on the scenes and materials needed for each scene and complete a storyboard. Next, most groups are working on or have completed their background scene for taking the "still shot" photos. The creation of the clay "characters" is also in the works. Students must also decide if their scenes include dialogue and what that might sound like.

Over the next few weeks, students will be taking their photo "still shots" and inserting them into the computer program for making their stop-motion claymation "film". We're looking forward to completing some exciting claymation presentations by the "Claymations" enrichment cluster!

LAURELMOUNTAIN'S GOT TALENT

The Talent Team has been hard at work. 4th and 5th graders have decided on performing a live talent show for Laurel Mountain's 1st -5th graders. They are planning on presenting the talent show complete with hosts, singing, dancing, instruments, tumbling, triking (3 wheeled vehicle), and string tricks. The planned date is December 16 from 8-9 in the LME cafeteria. Invitations, KPAW scripts, and posters will be made to advertise the show!

MOVIE MAGIC

M&M Productions is producing a mystery film called *Mystery of the Secret Cellar*. On the first day of filming, we have one successful scene. Over the next few weeks, we will film six more scenes, edit, and prepare our final copy for the public. This fabulous, student made movie will be released on December 18, 2009.

ART A LA CARTE

Members of the "Art a la Carte" enrichment cluster have been busy learning to paint like the masters! Local artist and LME parent, Monica Araoz, showed the students a technique called pointillism used by impressionist artist Georges Seurat. Following the presentation, they used small distinct dots of color to create a profile image of the artist himself. During the last two weeks, the students have been creating scenes using finely drawn lines, oil pastels, and watercolors. Their inspiration was the fantasy jungle scenes created by post-impressionist artist, Henri Rousseau.

STEWARDS OF THE PRESERVE

After receiving a take home assignment to develop an outdoor display case on graph paper, students presented their works and we held a whole group discussion about each graph that was brought in during the October 22nd

meeting. After some discussion, it was decided that we would use a design created by a student rather than our own teacher made design. This was exciting news and a sure confirmation of the real purpose of our enrichment cluster. After a brief discussion about the sample blue prints, students then went and tried to develop their own blue print, to scale, on the design we had chosen as a class. The students all made fantastic blue prints and were presented at the end of class. Next week we will have the materials at school for students to begin measuring. The October 30th meeting focused on having the students measure the wood for our display cases. Students worked with various tools to create accurate measurements for when we cut wood. We were able to have all of our wood for our two display cases measured and ready for cutting. On November 6th, Mr. Earley finished cutting the wood while Mr. Johnston worked with the students on assembling our display cases. Though students were not able to cut the wood, they were shown how to use the saw and how the saw was used to make perfect cuts. Mr. Johnston worked with the students on using a drill to set the screws into our display case frame. Next week we will continue assembling our cases.

THE CLAY CREATORZ

The "Clay Creatorz" enrichment cluster has been learning clay techniques that include coil, pinch pot, relief, and slab. Each week, four to five students take turns working on the potter's wheel while the other students make their creations using one of the techniques. To begin our cluster we watched videos that demonstrated Native American and Japanese artists using clay. This helped us understand the history of clay and the philosophy and beliefs of the people who use clay to create pieces of art. All 30 students in this cluster love working with clay!

FITNESS FUN

Fitness Fun has decided to hold Laurel Mountain's First Annual Dodge Ball Tournament. We are putting together the where, when and who specifics of the game and deciding what the rules will be. In preparation for our games, we are practicing our running, throwing and strength to help teach our fellow Lions how to improve their health by exercising! Please stay tuned for how you can sign up to participate in this fun event!

WHO CAN? WE CAN USE A WEBCAM!

The "Who Can? We Can Use a Webcam" enrichment cluster spent two meetings familiarizing themselves with webcams by using them on computers. They used Skype on a webcam with our Ugandan friend, Wilberforce Okumu. Next, they watched commercials on the computer. Finally, the student started to write commercials for events at Laurel Mountain. The commercials included jingles that will be easy to remember.

LOTS OF KNOTS AND FRIENDS

Look everyone, we changed our name. We are now the **Lots of Knots and Friends** enrichment cluster! We were brainstorming names for our cluster and came up with this catchy name...get it...Lots of Knots and Friends? This cluster started with learning about basic knot techniques and now we are making friendship bracelets and macramé hanging baskets. With only four classes to go there are several projects to complete. First we decided as a community to make bracelets for the children at the Dell Children's Hospital. The bracelets will be delivered to the hospital along with a warm wishes card. Secondly, we are making individual macramé hanging baskets. That's ten yards of jute rope and lots of knots. The baskets are looks like works of art. Special thanks to Mrs. Ann Webster for donating her time, talent, and treasure to the enrichment cluster. Every student is excited to see their project.

BEYOND deSCRIPTION

In "Beyond DeSCRIPTION", we are about ready to film our documentaries! Students have selected topics, written scripts, and revised them. Next week, we will start recording them on video. There are many interesting, informative topics. We're very excited!

PICTURE THIS

The students are having a lot of fun with their cameras! They have been all over the building taking shots as they learn different ways to use the camera. They are also building a portfolio. We will compile our pictures at the end of our cluster for you to see their best shots!

TIME WARP

The Time Warp cluster decided to make a model of the Battle at Antietam. The children researched and discussed the battle. Using the information they found, they began designing the model of the battle.