

Theatrical Lions Guild - Read-a-Thon Edition

Our last cluster meeting was action packed! We started with our regular physical and vocal warm-ups, and then we jumped right into rehearsing our skit. We really focused on our vocal projection and enunciation, and by the end we sounded great! We also got a chance to rehearse one time in our costumes! We're looking forward to performing for the Read-a-Thon Assembly in January!

Engineers for Tomorrow

Children have designed, constructed and programmed robots using Lego Mindstorm NXT kits. Each of these robots performs a specific task or a job. For instance, one cleans up rooftops from the storm debris, another detects intruders, some demolish old buildings, some pick up trash dumpsters and more. During this cluster, they have been introduced to basic engineering concepts like designing and planning of a product, teamwork, problem solving, engineering construction, mechanical systems, gears, computer programming concepts, testing and fine tuning products.

Animal Home Builders Association

We now have a Chimney Swift tower in our wildlife preserve! The students of the Animal Home's enrichment cluster have finished building our new tower and have built a kiosk around the tower for educational information and a preserve map to be posted. Students have wrapped up their research and have written informational pieces about the Chimney Swifts. This information will be printed to metal signs and posted on our kiosk.

Our cluster was very busy from day one. The students had opportunities to develop their own ideas for animal homes. Because of this, our cluster has also built a rabbit burrow and a field mouse home that are both protected under a thick brush pile. We were able to collect numerous images of at least one rabbit and field mouse from our wildlife camera. The students worked cooperatively together both outdoors with the project and indoors with their research and writings. Information will be forthcoming about observation opportunities coming in March when the birds begin arriving in central Texas from their southern habitats in South America

From this point, the tower will rise to the suggested height of twelve feet over the holidays. Students in Mr. Earley's class will also frame a plexi-glass covering to each of the four sides of the kiosk. Finally, the Animal House cluster and Mr. Earley's class will complete one final piece to the tower project. We will begin the process of designing a floor pattern for the circular area the students have created surrounding the tower. This circle will serve as both a compass and a sundial. The students in Mr. Earley's enrichment cluster and his class will work over break to create a circular design/pattern on paper that would serve as a proper compass and sundial for people to use. Students will also work with their parents to provide a list of materials

that will be used to carry out the design surrounding the Chimney Swift tower.

Art from the Heart

The Art from the Heart cluster finished several projects for the community. Not only did we construct many Halloween bags for the residents of the Summit at Westlake, but we also finished three "Thank you" signs and painted flags for the troops in Iraq. Our final project was a banner that will be displayed at the LME Holiday Sing-Along. The students successfully created many art ideas that incorporated their artistic talents into projects that will brighten the lives of others. Our Enrichment Fair display board is full of pictures of our art in process. We are excited to share our art with others!

Fitness 101

Students from Fitness 101 explored fitness benefiting our hearts, bones, and muscles. They participated in Tae-Bo, learned about bones from physical therapist, Ms. Bev Carr, and practiced yoga with instructor, Ms. Krista Phillips. Students decided on making a workout video incorporating all they learned to help teach other Laurel Mountain students. Students wrote scripts on cue cards and "worked out" while another student filmed the video. The video will be shown on KPAW and distributed to Laurel Mountain teachers so they can incorporate them into their day when and if needed.

Kitchen Chemistry

In Kitchen Chemistry, we discussed the exciting time of selling our product during Marathon kids on Tuesday, December 9th. We weren't anticipating the high demand for our product, and ran out of supplies. During our last meeting, we worked on our presentation board. Each business unit gave a summary of how they planned and what activities they were involved in to bring Cub Ice to the public. Lastly, we made more ice-cream and enjoyed our product for ourselves.

All Star Ad Agency

The All Star Ad Agency has completed the advertising campaign for the 2009 LME Read-A-Thon. Team members wrote a script for KPAW and recorded the commercial in the studio on Friday. The commercial will air in January along with several radio ads that will be broadcast over the K-LME station (school wide intercom). Motivational posters will be displayed throughout the school encouraging students to participate in the Read-A-Thon benefiting Libraries of Love for Uganda.

Computer Connection

Students in the Computer Connection worked in pairs, teams, or individually to create websites for their peers that include games,

photos, blogs, and videos. Students took turns reviewing each other's sites for appropriate content, quality of games, usability, and appeal. Designs range from simple to complex and reflect the team's personality and approach to the sites. All of the websites are fun, interesting, and clearly show how hard each student worked on his/her designs

The Clay Creatorz

The Clay Creatorz began their cluster by watching videos that demonstrated Native American and Japanese artists using clay. Next, they observed a potter who demonstrated her skill on the potter's wheel. Then, they learned clay techniques that included coil, pinch pot, relief, and slab. Each week, two or three students took turns working on the potter's wheel while the other students made their creations using the techniques they had learned. Some students also made 3-D animal sculptures. Each piece was fired in the kiln and then students applied glaze. Seeing their completed "masterpieces" after they were fired was so exciting! The Clay Creatorz completed many projects during this cluster and their skill level improved tremendously. This was evident by comparing the first piece they completed to their last piece. We're excited to showcase the artwork from the Clay Creatorz this Friday!

Read-a-thon Assembly

In our last session, the LME Read-a-thon Assembly Cluster worked on producing bookmarks that will be passed out to 3rd - 5th graders at the end of the assembly. Stickers are already printed that will go to every Kinder - 2nd grader. Some students also completed posters that will be displayed around LME to advertise the assembly; while others wrote and printed invitation letters to local 'celebrities' that we hope can attend.

Leadership Lions

The Leadership Lions are ready to head up this year's Read-a-thon to benefit the Libraries of Love. The kids have spent the last few weeks putting the finishing touches on the in-class presentations that will get all LME students excited about the Read-a-thon, finalizing the in-class Bingo game that will be used to encourage reading, and proofing all the paperwork that will go home to the parents. They've found out that there are a lot of details involved in organizing a school-wide project and fundraiser like this, but they are definitely up to the challenge. This is shaping up to be the best Read-a-thon yet.

Puppet Mania

The Puppet Mania puppeteers had an excellent time producing and performing puppet shows. Each group took a favorite book and creatively turned it into a puppet show. After writing their puppet show, each group typed and printed their puppet show, to use when they are performing. The groups plan on performing for various classes.

COOL KPAW Colleagues

Working in their 5 groups doing different activities, students finalized their projects. One group even wants to continue their project past this cluster deadline!

The group that is working on cultural awareness had previously created a survey and sent it out to 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students requesting them to tell the group about their culture. Sample questions include telling: *Something special about your culture, location, special holidays you celebrate, special cultural foods you eat, and traditional clothing.* This group interviewed some third grade students to find out more information about their culture. They plan to put the questions and answers into a format that can be aired on KPAW News. This group plans to meet additionally in January and perhaps even past that date.

Another cluster group requested students to be interviewed about owning a pet. After interviewing the students, this group made a brochure to share with others about the care of pets. They gave a copy of the brochure to give to each of the cluster students and the ones being interviewed.

The third group worked on writing skits for Thanksgiving and other up-coming events and holidays. This group realized that deadlines are hard to meet and had to scrap and rewrite features several times in trying to beat an event's deadline.

The fourth group created a survey for 4th and 5th grade students to find out what topics students would like to see on KPAW. They created the survey, distributed it to classrooms, and analyzed the data. Once they saw the results, they began to write a script feature based on that information. (Sports!!)

The final group worked weekly on writing script for KPAW. They worked hard to make the scripts "fresh" with new lines and incorporating features from other students into their script. They were successful at writing at least 3 week's of usable scripts.

Lion's Pride Quilters

Our last meeting was a beehive of activity. Students were busy finishing up the information board for the Cluster fair next Friday; students were finishing up quilts and starting new projects to take home with them; and students were helping students. You could almost hear a pin drop; students were working so quietly and were in deep concentration. We put on some holiday music and I reflected back to those first few meetings. They were noisy and confusing and students were unsure of taking the next few steps without checking with Mrs. Castro or Mrs. Marshall. Today we have a group of young, self-assured sewers who know the next several steps and are not afraid to lend a helping hand. I am proud of this cluster of learners because they are thoughtful and interested in what each person is doing. We will be donating 15 quilts to the "Linus Connection" after the winter break, and several students are working on presents to give to family members. What a great time we have had!

The Dancing Lions 11

The Dancing Lions 11 have come a long way! All the young women worked very hard at putting together their various concepts and coming up with a production and a small display about the group. I don't know if they realize this, but what they have achieved in 8 hours is very impressive, considering that this was the first attempt at creating a performing arts piece for most and even attempting to perform one for some! Professionals spend a lot more time and concentrated effort for less! Choosing music with which to dance, creating and then teaching moves to one another, coordinating their mini-group choreographies—which included some theatrical imagination, and finally practicing as much as the time allowed to get ready for the showcase has been quite a riveting journey for them as well as us, facilitators. The members of Dancing Lions 11 have dabbled in Thematic Development, Choreography, Production aspects--such as costumes and props, Marketing/Audience Identification, as well as getting a taste of the discipline of Time Management when a deadline is looming!!! We hope you enjoy what is a synthesis of 11 very different ideas and personalities that will hopefully continue to find venues for presentation, so that they can see their piece perfected and their goal of sharing artistic enthusiasm within their community come to fruition.

Where is Zeek this Week?

Zeek the Cooking Beagle, did a lot of traveling during our clusters! He visited: Mexico, Italy, Thailand, Belgium, Japan, and Tajikistan! Zeek was very generous when he communicated with us. When the students came to class they were introduced to the music that Zeek sent us from the country he was visiting. Then we read his email where he talked about the country. Zeek always sent a recipe for us to try out. Zeek didn't always add all of the details to the recipe, so we had to make some decisions of our own. Everyone had fun cooking and trying out new foods from different countries! On the last day of our class Zeek came to school! It was an exciting time to meet the actual Zeek ... the Cooking Beagle!

Solar Ferrari Juniors

The Solar Ferrari Juniors learned how solar energy provides power to make cars run. The boys made their cars and found that by placing the solar panels in the correct position, their cars could travel a long way. The boys then decided to have a race to raise money for the Dell Children's Hospital. On Friday, December 12th, a race was held. There were speed races and longest distance races. At the end of the race the boys had collected \$74.00 to contribute to the Children's Hospital.

The Scene Scene

The Scene Scene cluster gave students an opportunity to do something they love—write! Specifically, write scripts. We used our laptop computers to learn the correct format for scripts—how to indent for dialog, when to write names in all capital letters, how to give descriptions of action for the characters to do, etc.—by looking at a model script on the computer. We used the laptops to write and edit our

scripts. We also looked at a real movie script while looking at a clip from the movie—it was interesting to see how much the creativity of the director and cinematographer is involved in making the words and descriptions on the page come to life. Each student in the cluster was involved in creating a script for students to perform that will teach something, from how to sound out a word to how to behave in the cafeteria. Those scripts will be available for teachers to use. It was so much fun to be involved in *The Scene Scene* cluster, watching kids enjoy creating scripts out of ideas.