

Report of the Ellis Middle School Principal

Much has been happening here at Ellis Middle School since I last wrote a Town Report in January of 2010. We have an extremely bright, caring, and energetic student body here at Ellis Middle School. For this year's report, I've decided to focus on some great accomplishments of our students.

Future City Program

During the 2009-2010 school year, a group of twelve 8th Graders chose to be part of an after-school enrichment program called Future City Program. Students worked with their teacher, Mrs. Irma MacEachern, and two engineers, Dan and Lori Shookus of Shookus Special Tools, Inc. of Raymond, NH. The program offered an engineering challenge that required students to write an essay which required extensive research, creation of a city with a computer simulation, and building of a scale 3-D model of a future city. The 3-D model had to be a future city that could "Provide an affordable green living space for people who have lost their homes due to disaster or a financial emergency".

After nine weeks of collaboration, the 8th Graders presented their 3-D model on Saturday, January 16, 2010, at Northeastern University in Boston. The students presented their unique future city to a panel of judges who critiqued them on illustrations of futuristic design, appearance, and futuristic technology, and how well the city provided an affordable living structure. They also judged students on their overall presentation.

Our Ellis students chose to meet the "green" standards by designing a city that can be built in a coal mine. Our students believe that two underground buildings can provide housing to people that just lost their homes due to a catastrophe and can be energy efficient. Their city embraced green technology such as wind turbine power and solar panels. Our Ellis School students placed 8th out of 50 schools.

Wizard of Oz

I think most people would agree that the movie of *The Wizard of Oz* is one of the best known American movie musicals. Almost everyone, no matter their age, knows it backwards and forwards; many of us remember it as both magical and meaningful. The students of Ellis School put on a fantastic stage production of *The Wizard of Oz* in April of 2010. There was a very large cast and it was well received by the community.

Service Learning

Care Packages for Soldiers

Sixth Grade students embarked on a service learning project focusing on sending supportive care packages to soldiers overseas. Students were actively engaged and involved in the complete process: addresses were diligently researched, fundraising posters craftily created, donations kindly collected, letters lovingly written, care packages decoratively wrapped, shipping labels fastidiously typed, boxes thoroughly packed and sealed, customs forms begrudgingly filed, and packages gleefully carted to the post office.

Here is one of the first responses received back from one of the troops.

Dear Ms. Robin and Class,

Wow! What a great package you sent to us. We are so grateful for the thought and love behind the gifts and letters. One soldier does not receive any packages, so we gave him the gift that had the gloves and he was so happy. I wish I could have taken a picture. It means a lot to us to know that you all are even thinking of us. We will continue to do our best. So thank you from the soldiers of the 135th Alabama National Guard.

Lt. Delarosa

Pennies for Peace

Students at Ellis School participated in a *Pennies for Peace* campaign from November 15th through December 17th, 2010.

Pennies for Peace is a program of Central Asia Institute (CAI), founded by Greg Mortenson – author of the #1 New York Times best seller, *Three Cups of Tea*. CAI is a registered 501(c) 3 non-profit organization that promotes and provides community-based education and literacy programs, especially for girls, in remote mountain regions of Central Asia. Founded in 1996, Central Asia Institute has built, to date, nearly 100 schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan, which serve more than 28,000 students – over 14,000 of whom are girls.

How can a penny bring peace? It doesn't buy much in our community. However, in the villages of Pakistan and Afghanistan, a penny can buy a pencil, start an education, and transform a life. In a region where terrorist organizations recruit uneducated, illiterate children, that pencil can empower a child to read, write, and learn. The *Pennies for Peace* program goal is to encourage our students, who are ultimately our future leaders, to learn the value of generosity by collecting pennies for global peace. Our students will join tens of thousands of students around the world who are participating in the *Pennies for Peace* program and who are working together to become members of a global family dedicated to peace. We were proud to announce that the Ellis School rose over \$400.00 for *Pennies for Peace*.

NHAMLE Scholar Awards

On June 3, 2010, two of our 8th Grade students were honored at the New Hampshire Association for Middle Level Education Awards Dinner in Manchester. Hannah Keane and Jonathan Brown were selected to receive the New Hampshire Middle Scholar Leader Award for 2010.

Underground Railroad

Fifth and sixth Grade students learned about the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade, Underground Railroad, and important historical figures of that time in their American History classes.

Students and parents took part on their own *Road to Freedom* by traveling a pseudo Underground Railroad on Monday, November 22, 2010. ***Passengers*** were chaperoned on their travels by ***Conductors*** who led them through real world **adversities** experienced by slaves on their clandestine quest for **freedom**.

Each stop on the Underground Railroad posed an **arduous ordeal**; Egregious slave catchers; Venomous, hungry dogs; Turbulent and challenging unchartered terrain; and Wild, inhibitive weather. Passengers confronted a plethora of challenging choices; Which road to take; Whom to trust; What house to stop at; and How far to travel. Take the wrong turn ~ get devoured by delirious dogs. Trust the wrong person ~ be shackled by a sinister slave trader. If thoughtful, brave, persistent, and cautious, passengers ended their journey to freedom by celebrating their emancipation.

Sanborn High School Graduating Class of 2010

Below is a list of colleges that Fremont students graduating this year from Sanborn High School will be attending. In addition we had students in our 8th grade 2010 graduating class be accepted at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Dover, and Phillips Exeter Academy.

Plymouth State University
New England College
Keene State College
University of New England
Lakes Region Community College
Manchester Community College
New Hampshire Technical Institute
Northern Essex Community College
Manchester Community College
Plymouth State University
University of New Hampshire
Continental Academy of Cosmetology
Great Bay Community College
Maine College of Art
Simmons College
Assumption College
John Abbott CEGEP
Plymouth State University
Rochester Institute of Technology
University of Rhode Island
Northern Essex Community College
Lincoln Culinary Institute
US Navy

Respectfully Submitted,

John Safina
Ellis Middle School Principal