

Last look: camp out 2009



Alison Day got to meet her pen pal in person during the Jefferson upper el camp out.

From Africa to Zilars

By Jean Hauge
Balboa Teacher

Leanne and Christopher Zilar recently went to Rwanda on a medical mission to assist with mothers giving birth. Upon their return, they gave a stunning presentation about the medical clinic and

village life to the lower elementary students at Balboa. Gorillas, jungle plants, houses, and the people were included in a PowerPoint for Mrs. Hauge's and Ms. Schmidt's classes. The Zilars spoke with our students about life in Rwanda and about the culture. The children were fascinated by the basket-hat, clothing, and other artifacts shared by the Zilars. Leanne cut squares of native cloth for all the children to make bags. What a treat to learn about the culture of Rwanda from the Zilars.

Hail to the New Chief: Wendy Peter

By Amalie Day
CoMP President

My term is almost over. (Less than a month to go, but who's counting?) I leave you in very capable hands. Wendy Peter, a Balboa parent, takes over as the CoMP President on July 1st. Wendy has already served two years on the CoMP Board and a year as the CoMP North Chair, so she is more than ready to take over.

Wendy is dedicated to the Montessori program, full of great ideas, and very creative. While we have the same goals for the Montessori program, you will find that Wendy's style is kinder and gentler than mine. Please join me in giving her your full support. Thank you Wendy for willingness to serve, your great attitude, and your commitment to the Montessori program.



Skit night is a big hit for Jefferson kids Madisen Hampton, Katelyn Brock and Zoe Van der Weide.

Skits, scat, fish, ticks and trails

By Karyn Woodard
CoMP South President

On May 20 through May 22 the Jefferson lower elementary classes trekked to Chewelah Peaks Learning Center for the 20th annual Montessori camp out. The weather was perfect as the classes headed out first to the Spokane Fish Hatchery where they learned about raising fish for local lakes. Then they arrived at Chewelah Peak just north of 49 Degrees North Ski Resort. This beautiful facility provided accommodations for 118 kids and adults. Groomed trails provided the perfect

venue for Paula Gibson-Smith's famous "each two teach two." Areas of study during the camp out included insects, plants and botany, water life study, wildlife, caterpillar walk and the popular survival skills training. Evening activities included singing by the campfire and on night two the kids performed skits. Adult performance highlights were Jody Gentemann's "Geoduck" song and Bill Lockwood's renditions of "Waltzing Matilda" and the Australian National Anthem. Popular kids

Continued on page 7;
More camp out coverage on 4 and 5.



Balboa sixth graders model their masks.

“Not for the faint hearted”

By Katrina Harland

Balboa Student

Just like camp out 6th grade masks are a tradition. Every year the 6th graders in Mrs. King's class make masks out of plaster of Paris. It's really fun. We dip the strips in warm water and put them on our partners' faces. The strips are cold by the time your partner covers your face.

Making these masks is not for the faint hearted. First you have to sit still while someone puts plaster on your face. Next you have to wait 15 minutes for the plaster to dry. Finally you have to endure the painful process of the plaster pulling your hair when you take the mask off. Of course the masks are so cool that the whole torturous process is worth it.

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Pen pals in person

By Peg Troske

Balboa Teacher

Each Spring our class matches up with Japanese students who, among other subjects, are studying conversational English and American culture. We write introductory pen pal letters back and forth. Often we get the opportunity to meet at each other's schools.

This year we went to Mukogawa and enjoyed meeting our pen pals in person. We toured the Japanese Cultural Center, spent time talking and sharing with our pen pals, and played a "Red Rover" game in Japanese. Rather than break through the other team as is our custom, the people chosen did "Rock, Paper, Scissors" and the winner got to take a person from the other team back with him/her.

In May, our pen pals came to Balboa and toured our school. They played on the playground, experiencing the "Big Toy," shooting baskets, jumping rope and playing soccer or tetherball. We shared family pictures and ate lunch in our classroom. It was difficult to say good bye to each other. What an invaluable experience!

Skits, scat, fish, ticks: continued from page 1

performances included the "Bluebird's Baseball Skit," the "Three Little Deer and the Big Bad Wolf," and "Predators versus Prey." Montessori teaches kids to ask the BIG questions in life like "Who am I?" Lily and Kate reflected these questions during their skit "Help the Blind, Be the Blind and Lose your Memory." Skit night ended with a moment of silence to give healing thoughts to AnnMarie Bibb's little brother Gregory who is in Seattle to treat his leukemia.

Campers had many favorite moments from the

three day excursion. Alec Erb said, "I like figuring out what animal made the tracks." Katelyn Brock said, "I loved studying how much oxygen was in the pond." On the caterpillar walk Claire Woodard said, "I can feel the breeze on my face and hear the birds singing." Ben Comes said, "The moose tracks were awesome!" Sophia Cicarelli said, "The hike was fun!" Aurelia Vanderwilde said, "I am a dancing deer as quiet as a mouse." AnnMarie Bibb said, "I loved it when Aurelia sneaked up behind and scared everyone." Trish McGann's highlight of the camp out was the abundance of ticks. "I was a tick magnet!" she said.

In response to the question, "What was your favorite part of the camp out?" answers were varied. "Survival skills. But they didn't tell us how to kill animals. And the butterfly getting stuck on Cooper's shirt and it wouldn't come off. I named him STICKY!" said Sam Morehouse. "Catching insects for the insect study," said Ethan Derby Madisen Hampton liked "Washing dishes!" Claire Woodard said, "Learning about animals and plants. When we got to play the animal card game, I was a beaver." Schade Maghan liked, "The big hike. The caterpillar hike. When I was blindfolded I heard the wind blowing and birds singing and I felt the warmth of the sun." "My favorite memory was the skits and the fish hatchery," said Maya Bybee. "The skits were really fun and the fish hatchery. I liked seeing all the types of fish and feeding the Rainbow Trout," said Lily Marshall. "The skits were awesome. The campfire was kind of small, but finding bugs there was fun," said Matthew Chadduck. Cooper Lach said, "There were too many things to choose one!"

Finally, there was this exchange among The Diving Bald Eagles (Cooper Lach, Matthew Chadduck and Sam Morehouse):

"If I meet a bear on the trail: no problem. I can take him out with my BARE hands."

"He met a bear on the trail and he said 'this way lunch, that way I'm lunch.'"

Winning words for new writer

By Gayle Waner
Jefferson Teacher

Erin Chaves, a member of Jefferson's lower elementary community, arrived with the news that she wanted to be a writer. Everyday in the classroom she practices that skill and is eager to learn anything she can to become even more accomplished in her chosen field.

Her hard work is paying off. On Sunday, May 17th, Erin was awarded third place in the 6 to 8-year-olds fiction category in Coeur d'Alene Public Library's 21st Annual Writers Competition. Her piece, "Mushy, Brown Banana!!" was one of 175 stories entered in the contest. Each piece of prose of 2000 words or less was judged by professional writers, editors, and educators. Congratulations Erin. Your dream is coming true!



Third grader Erin Chaves loves to write.

Empowering, Inc. visit teaches volunteerism

By Rachel Keinath
Empowering Inc. Program Assistant

Kids helping families was the name of the game on April 17th, when Jefferson Elementary students in the Montessori program visited Empowering, Inc. Services, a local agency serving families at risk. In light of April being Child Abuse Prevention Month, Empowering, Inc. Services hosted about 60 upper elementary students to teach them about child abuse prevention and the role of the agency in the community. Because the agency is all about experiential learning, the activities were hands-on.

Agency staff members engaged kids in games and activities like Zip Bong and Bumpity Bump Bump

Bump. Participants learned about the importance of volunteering in our community, how to connect to prevent abuse and how to report abuse. The field trippers finished the day by making paper flowers and May Day baskets to be distributed to shelters housing families, women and children who are homeless in Spokane. The baskets were decorated with messages of hope such as "we support you" and "be happy." On May 1st, agency employees delivered the baskets with poems written by the students.

To learn more about Empowering, Inc. Services, visit our website at: www.empoweringincservices.com.

"When can they come back?"

By Sandra Bancroft-Billings
Jefferson Parent

Students from Gonzaga University's English Language Center visited Paula Gibson-Smith's lower el class at Jefferson on April 9th. The GU students, all learning English as a second language, set up learning stations to teach something about their home cultures.

Children learned how to write their names in Arabic, use chopsticks, make origami, make foil crowns, say tongue twisters in Spanish and animal names in Russian, and that guys from Korea are a lot of fun.

After the learning stations, the GU students stayed to walk the track with Paula's class, as the class does everyday before lunch, and then to experience an American public school hot lunch and recess.

GU instructor Heidi Doolittle enjoys having her students visit classrooms because she often sees her shy students become quite engaged when communicating with children.

The two groups have exchanged letters and the Jefferson kids have repeatedly asked, "When can they come back?" (We'll invite them back next year; OK guys?)



Nate Kim gives Jacob Sepinuck a bear hug.

Magical views
Pulling you in
To the plummet below

by Kenneth Day

Kenneth Day at Puffer Butte.



Balboa campers, above, from one upper and one lower el classroom, hike at N-Sid-Sen.

Camp out memories

Montessori campers write about their adventures

The Wonderful Place

By Corbin Breithaupt
Balboa Student

N-Sid-Sen was probably the best place you could ever go for a camp out. They had a lot of nice big cabins. The place where we ate, the lodge, could have been compared to a 5-star restaurant. The man who manages to manage the whole camp

is Randy Crowe. He is a very nice guy. N-Sid-Sen had an awesome view right on the lakeside. They had a basketball court and a volleyball court right by the lake too. There was also a giant field and play toy where our classes liked to play. There was a large hiking hill called "Inspiration Point." If you ask me, I say N-Sid-Sen is a very wonderful place!

When We Met Our Nez Perce Pen Pals

By Alison Day
Jefferson Student

When Mrs. Bowman's and Mrs. Bradley's classes got off the buses at the park we all yawned and stretched our arms. We were going to meet our Nez Perce pen pals for the first time. We had been writing to them for several months. Our pen pals were in a class when we arrived, so most of us looked at the graves in the cemetery next to the park. After about a half hour our pen pals showed up and got off their bus. It was hard to find my pen pal, **See photo on page 8.**

but after a small time we found each other. We ate lunch together. Then we all played some games, like flies up, football, baseball, and this game where you wear these bib-like things with strings at the end that you would pull when a koosh ball would be tossed at you causing the ball to fly up in the air. The children on Jefferson's Bus A had to leave early because they had to go see some horses. But those of us on Bus B stayed and played tug-of-war with our pen pals. Our pen pals were much stronger than us.

The Show

By Mac Boeuy
Balboa Student

A tradition has been continued this year on camp out. The talent show is a tradition that has been put on for many years. The show includes many talents: hula-hooping, singing, and jokes.

This year I would have rated it one of the greatest shows of my 5 years of watching. I was the M.C. with 4 of my other colleagues. It was amazing. Being the M.C. was more fun because I got to make announcements and watch from the side. It was way better than being in the audience.

Dance Party

By Katrina Harland
Balboa Student

This year, at camp out Mrs. King's class had a party in the lodge. We had popcorn, games and of course fun. Chandler J., a sixth grader, and her mom Wendy take dance. They decided to teach us a dance to the song "White and Nerdy" by Weird Al.

We stayed up until 12:10 learning how to dance, eating popcorn and playing Connect Four. We also were trying our hardest to look and act nerdy. It was so fun! We might just have to do this next year.