



Becoming America's Best

HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Margaret Wilson
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“... and the best is History.”

Issue VII

March 2008

1st Annual Ye Olde Colonial Williamsburg Sampler

On Tuesday, March the 4th over one hundred teachers, principals, and distinguished guests stepped back in time to an informative look at Colonial America. With the background of authentic drum and fife music, teacher presenters dressed in their colonial attire offered commentary on their best classroom ideas through video presentations, lesson ideas, and student work. All teacher presenters were summer institute fellows from Colonial Williamsburg. 5th grade students from Dingman



provided us with a fashion show of proper colonial dress, and past students of Tierrasanta Elem. demonstrated a colonial print shop. The highlight of the evening was a presentation by Lady Dunmore, wife of the last royal governor of Virginia. During her appearance at the event, which was sponsored by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, she spoke in character of that time period and provided the audience with an in-depth view of the era. Nine vendors donated numerous raffle prizes, and Harcourt Publishing Company provided dinner. The 5th grade teachers that attended came away with numerous resources to help them shape their social studies curriculum. Special thanks to all teacher presenters: Kelly O'Brien (Jackson), Jillian LaSerna (La Jolla), Jackie Navarro (Chollas-Mead), Belinda Reyes (Horton), Tina Baer (Spreckles), Rochelle Schwartz (Dingman), Jeni Lench and Brad Murphy (Tierrasanta), Patricia Jeffery (Hickman), Gillian Ryan (Pepper Drive-Santee School District), Melissa Coram (St. Mary's Star of the Sea-Oceanside), and Susan Hewitt and Linda (Lindo Park-Lakeside School District).

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Coming Soon: 4th Grade History Workshop

Lucy Laudate and the History/Social Studies Department are planning a workshop for fourth grade teachers. The workshop, to be held on April 30 at the Old Town OCILE campus, will offer different lesson plans, websites, field trip venues, and project ideas presented by 4th grade teachers, district librarian Barbara Baron, and Lucy Laudate, history resource teacher. If you wish to present some of your ideas, or if you wish to attend, contact Lucy Ladaute: llaudate@sandi.net

Holocaust Education

Over 430 middle and high students from across San Diego Unified School District had the opportunity to participate in lessons about the Holocaust and then view the Academy Award winning documentary *One Survivor Remembers* at the Jewish Film Festival. The Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, which sponsored this event, provided training and curriculum for participating teachers as well as the screening of the documentary at the AMC Theater in La Jolla, and the History/Social Studies Department covered transportation costs. Students who attended were given the opportunity to discuss issues surrounding one of the most devastating events of modern history during a forum with the daughter of Holocaust survivors. Schools that participated included Bell Middle School, Farb Middle School, La Jolla High School, Madison High School, Patrick Henry High School, and The San Diego MET.

Up Coming Events

- **Distinguished Lecture:** Former California State Archivist John Burns will be presenting to SDUSD teachers on the topic of *Teaching About War: Vietnam and Iraq* from 3:30-5:00 on March 26 at Marston Middle School's Little Theater. Contact mhayes@sandi.net
- **Fascinating Facts About Our Presidents:** Clairemont High School's English Department is hosting a presentation by writer and former NPR radio personality (A Way With Words) Richard Lederer. Dr. Lederer will discuss his new book, *Presidential Trivia*, and will be available for a book signing. The event is open to the public, and donations to the CHS English Department will be accepted. The presentation will be held on Friday, March 28, from 7:00-8:30 PM in the Clairemont High School Auditorium.
- **Project Citizen:** The San Diego Center for Civic Education is conducting training on lessons and curriculum it creates on Thursday, April 17 and Saturday, April 19 at the San Diego County Office of Education. For more information, contact Janet Mulder, jmulder@sdcoe.net
- **Distinguished Lecture:** SDSU Professor Emeritus Ross Dunn and SCPA Advanced Placement World History Teacher, Roxanne Pompilio will be giving a presentation entitled *World History for Us All* on April 22. Time and location are to be determined. mhayes@sandi.net

Mission Statement

To provide the curriculum, tools, resources, and professional development for history-social science teachers and students to succeed in the classroom.