

GOOD NEWS

November 6, 2009

The official Newsletter for Third Grade

LONG ISLAND HISTORY

When England took over Long Island the people thought life would get better. Why did they think things would be better under English rule? What kind of things could go wrong? These were a few of the questions that were pondered recently in our class.

The students took on the role of Loyalists and Patriots debating which side was right. Many English colonists who lived on Eastern Long Island wanted freedom. They were the Patriots. There were those who did not want to break from England. They were the Loyalists. The debate brought about some true clear thoughts from the students.

The Loyalists felt that England had a strong army and they would always be protected.

The Patriots on the other hand felt that they came to Long Island for freedom and they would fight for it at any price.

As the story is beginning to unfold the students are learning that freedom comes with a price, and so begins Long Island's role in the American Revolution .On Friday, November 13th the students will be visiting Raynham Hall in Oyster Bay. The students will learn about the British occupation of Manhattan, Long Island, Oyster Bay and Raynham Hall, and about the crucial role played by the Townsend Family during the American Revolution.

SCIENCE

In Science, the students have been discussing the components of an aquatic habitat while developing an understanding of how humans and other animals depend upon habitats for survival. People and other animals share some basic needs. The habitat includes food, water, shelter and space big enough for survival. We discussed Oyster Bay Harbor and Long Island Sound and the fact that if any of the components were missing the area may no longer be suitable for survival. We tried an experiment to see how this might work. The children formed a circle, each student naming a component of the bay and sound. The components are food, water, shelter, and space. Next, they were to turn to their right and place their hands on the shoulders of the person in front of them. Then, the students were asked to sit on the knees of the person behind them (As they sat they were saying food, water, shelter and space in the people arrangement are needed for a suitable habitat.) The students observed that if one of them fell the component they were reciting may jeopardize the entire habitat. This experiment was modified a few times. However, the outcome at the end was exactly what we had hoped for the students discovered through the activity that saying food, water, shelter, and space in an appropriate arrangement, is a habitat. Loss of any of these will influence the animals living there. Our study of Long Island Estuaries continues as the students will begin to discuss how we can make a difference...

QUAKERS

As we continue travels through the History of Westbury, the children are beginning to piece together the great influence the Quakers had in the founding of Long Island. We have been reading a book entitled “Brother And Me”, by Professor Kate Velsor. The story takes place in Westbury during the 1950’s, when a young girl befriends an African American neighbor. Brother meets with Anna every Wednesday, sharing his great great grandfather’s memoirs. The story weaves together the Quakers and how they fought to abolish slavery. The children are learning the names and family history of many local Quakers. With the help of our school librarian Mrs. Martone, the students are researching and reporting on famous Quakers and how they have shown the world what Quakerism is truly about.

