



BPC Fourth Grade January News 2010

It's been a whirlwind finishing up this semester. We finished Island of the Blue Dolphins and then watched the movie. Unfortunately, we were forced to rate it at least three wedges of cheese on the "Cheesy Movie Scale." The film is a Disney production from 1964. They chose to use actual members of the Pomo Indian tribe as actors rather than professional actors, a noble gesture but one that did not enhance the dialogue at all. Curiously, the woman on whom the story is based was thought to be a member of a Chumash tribe. Also, the film suffered from having to leave out all of the best parts: no battle with the squid, no earthquake or tsunami. We agreed that it should be remade with better dialogue and increased use of CGI (Computer Generated Graphics).

In groups, we researched animals featured in the story or read books about different Native Californian tribes. We will be trading these assignments next week. The students are taking these reports into the computer lab, with Menna, to use as resources for a Power Point presentation. They are learning to use images from the Internet (properly licensed, of course) to enhance their information and slides.

We have written two stories this last month and had fun with the themes of survival and superheroes. After this we will be beginning our mission reports and projects.

In math we finished our unit on Algebra and are moving into multiplication to farther digits. I think that we will progress rapidly into two digit multiplication and division. Our algebra unit was a lot of fun and I think the students really enjoyed it. I think they will impress Mr. Ogburn and Vera with their ability to simplify equations. They also did very well with order of operations.

We are all very excited to welcome Ms. Mytko to class for science starting this week. She is going to come and observe our dry ice experiments, and then she will be coming in every Wednesday for science. She will be doing an electricity unit and then focus on the human body.

We look forward to our field trip next week and our assembly. We are trying something different for Black History Month. We hope you will enjoy it.

Ms. Fitzhugh