

DEFRANCISCO'S DECLARATIONS

OCTOBER NEWS

We continue to have a successful month of Conscientious behavior. We are beginning to be able to say conscientious as well as understand what the word means. Teachers are using this vocabulary in their classrooms and as I listened while I was at Science Camp with the fifth graders, I heard the fifth graders using the word and showing its matching behaviors too! This is exciting for me because

of many reasons. One, we look to the fifth graders and older children in the school to be models of our social and academic climate. In addition, fifth graders were able to carry our school values outside of the Hardy walls and recognize its importance in another setting. As I moved around from group to group, I pointed out the conscientious behavior that I was seeing at dinner, in cabins, during

field groups and during rec time. I am very proud of the fifth grade as they showed Alton Jones what a caring and conscientious community we have at Hardy School. Way to go. Please enjoy reading about Hardy and have a great weekend.

Kristin DeFrancisco

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UP COMING DATES

- ☺ Monday, October 14th
Columbus Day No School
- ☺ Dr. Michael Thompson comes to Hardy to speak with students, parents and teachers. See section on page three.



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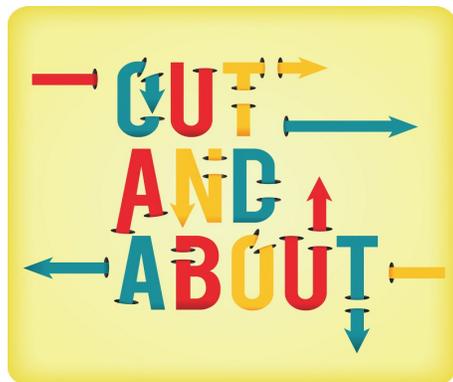
This week I got to be Out and About at both Hardy School and at W. Alton Jones Camp Ground. I saw many new things in both places. This week,

OUT AND ABOUT

"Kindergarteners" are now working with the fairy tale "Little Red Riding Hood." This is their last fairy tale. After working with the characters in this tale, they will begin their adventures with

Jack and Annie as their Magic Tree House takes them to many places. The first journey will involve knights and castles! I was also able to see some great Kindergarten music work. Ms. Forrest was

OUT AND ABOUT Continued



working with children on different kinds of voices. They focused on the differences between their talking voice and their singing voice. They used both "The Little Red Caboose" and a "Pumpkin Soup" song to practice using their singing voices. TOOT, TOOT! Ask your Kindergarten teacher to sing for you.

First Graders continue to work on making combinations. A dice game helped them this week as they use the dice to come up with two numbers in an addition equation. They also played a game that involved different unifex cube towers. After reading from Mathterpieces, by Greg Tang, the children used their unifex cube towers to snap together numbers. They could not change their original towers, but they could combine towers to reach a target number. What a great visual way for first graders to start down the road of automaticity of these high

frequency addition facts.

In Second Grade I stumbled upon writers! These writers were looking at a very important part of story telling. They were looking at "Excellent Endings." I watched second graders think about what makes an ending so excellent. What makes an author decide to include something in an ending? Why do we like certain ending and not others? By using mentor texts, second grade teachers are modeling what excellent endings look like and then students are trying to add some of the same elements into their own endings. In addition, second graders are thinking about making sure all of the details in their brainstorming belong in their small moments.

In Third Grade, I got to watch a wonderful lesson on making 100. while I was in the classroom, students were using coin amounts to equal one dollar or 100 pennies. Lots of important skills were involved in this lesson. Students needed to be able to identify coin amounts, add those coins and then add to separate coin amount totals to equal one dollar. Students worked in pairs and in game format. Coin group cards were used and partners helped each other identify two groups that would add together to equal one dollar. They recorded

all of the possibilities they discovered.

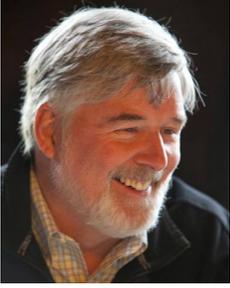
Fourth Graders were very busy! My first stop was science, where I found children busy organizing their notebooks. These notebooks were full of information about the water cycle, states of matter and layers of the atmosphere. They are well on their way to becoming weather experts! My second stop involved a math lesson focusing on rounding. The number at hand was 1,917,643. Students were working to round this number several times to the tenths, hundredths, thousandths and ten thousandths. Finally, in social studies, students were compiling a use of helpful map vocabulary terms and using a graphic organizer that allowed them to create "flip" flashcards. These cards included the word, the definition, and a place to draw a picture representation to help them remember what each word means.

For the **Fifth Grade** portion of Out and about, please see the section on fifth grade camp on the next page.

I am very pleased with all of the hard work I am seeing when I am Out and About!



DR. MICHAEL THOMPSON COMES TO HARDY SCHOOL



Please mark your calendars! We are very lucky to have Michael Thompson coming to

Hardy School

on Tuesday, October 22nd. Michael is a bestselling author and international speaker. He will visit the 4th and 5th graders to talk about the topic "Best Friends/Worst Enemies." Dr.

Thompson is a consultant, author and psychologist specializing in children and families. With co-authors Catherine O'Neill Grace and Larry Cohen, Ph.D., he wrote Best Friends/Worst Enemies: Understanding the Social Worlds of Children (Ballantine, 2001) and Mom, They're Teasing Me: Helping Your Child Solve Social Problems. He is also the co-author of the popular book Raising Cain. Parents you can join Dr. Thompson from 8:30 to

10:00 in the Hardy cafeteria where he will talk about how to raise responsible children. We feel lucky to have Dr. Thompson in our midst and also look forward to a question and answer period for small groups of teachers. Please join us on the morning of October 22nd and don't miss out on this resource! Dr. Thompson's website is: <http://www.michaelthompson-phd.com/>

ALTON JONES WAS AMAZING!

Fifth grade camp was a SUCCESS....to put it lightly. As I met the children off the bus today, many of them said they did not want to come home! In Rhode Island I was able to attend several field groups. I watched students team build with games like communication break down and the mysterious thing. How fast can you get a hula hoop around a circle of people that are holding hands? Ask your fifth grader how it is done. I went on a night hike with many students. This involves no flashlights because flashlights with white light ruin your night vision. Children learned about how rods and cones in the eye work and that it takes the eye a while to store up the ability to see at night. This walk also helped children to see and understand bioluminescence and triboluminescence. Ask your fifth grader the differ-

ence between the two and the examples he or she saw of each one. Ponding was a great experience where children could think about the life they would find at several of the ponds at Alton Jones. Then, they got to go and find it! The waters were teeming with frogs, newts and boatmen. Ask your fifth grader how this wetland life adapts to its surroundings and what it needs to survive. They may even share the creature they created based on its environment. Camp would not be camp without a campfire! On the last night at camp, the field group leaders put on a show for the campers. It included skits and songs. Finally, before leaving camp and saying a fond farewell to new Stratton friends, campers played a game of predator/prey. Ask your fifth grader if he or she was at the bottom or top of the

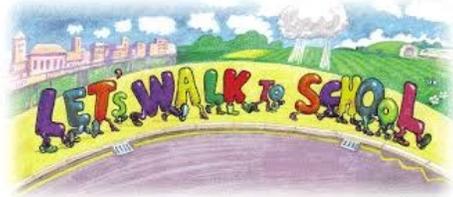
food chain for this game and how it felt! Thank you to all of the chaperones who made this trip possible. Please pass on what a wonderful experience this is to parents of younger Hardy students. A special thanks to afterschool directors Todd Morse and Stephanie Ho for joining us for two nights at camp and working with students. Another big thank you to fifth grade teachers Laura Morello and Laurie Johnstone who make it their personal mission that every fifth grader goes to camp and has great experience! It is not to be missed and I am thrilled that this year's fifth graders all went and had so much fun!



Walk and Bike to School Day at Hardy

It may have been a bit foggy and soggy on Monday, but that did not stop the students at Hardy from walking and biking to school! We are happy to report that Alex Bilsky, with the help of fifth grade leaders, was able to give out every single mood pencil. Even the few extra he left for us in the office found

homes with a walker or a biker. I am proud of the commitment these Hardy students made to the day. We look forward to more of these events that encourage walking and biking in the spring.



PROMISE PRINTS and Cafeteria Information

I hope you got a chance to see our promise prints in the cafeteria! Cafeteria behavior is a work in progress, but I am happy to say that we are getting there. Reinforcing our rules at home is helpful and reminding students about table manners is too! I wanted to give you the website to sign up for a my school bucks account. This is where parents can pre-load money into an account so that students do not need to bring money in

to purchase lunch. They simply put in their pin number when purchasing lunch, and the cost is deducted from the account. The website where you can sign up for this service is:

www.myschoolbucks.com.

Once on the website, you can sign up for an account and follow the step by step directions to add money to the account.

If you do not remember your child's pin number, or

have any food service concerns, please reach out to the food service department by contacting Denise Hunt Boucher at 781-316-3643 or e-mail:

schoollunch@arlington.k12.ma.us

