

Marrama Messenger

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ Student Council food drive helps the needy
- ◆ Scholastic Book Fair adds fresh titles to library collection
- ◆ Field trips enrich classroom curriculum
- ◆ Denver Museum of Nature & Science partnership
- ◆ Technology enhances student instruction

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Creativity Runs Wild	1
Food Drive	2
Book Fair	2
Colorado History Trip	2
Science Programs	3
Technology	4

Creating a piece of modern art to represent an entire school is not an easy task. But that's what the Evie Davis Enrollment Center asked each school in the Far Northeast Region to do. The creations would then be on display at their location. Visual arts teacher Mrs. McKenna-Collum decided to represent the Marrama mascot using a collection of materials found on campus. The huge oak trees outside the school provided the perfect structure for the mustang. Students used wire, string, and pipe cleaners to shape the sculpture. The result was so good that Mrs. Fraguada, principal at Marrama, could not part with it and students had to create a second piece. Plans are to display the sculpture after a suitable display case is available.

P.R.I.D.E.

The Evie Davis Campus is the center of enrollment for area schools in the NE. They asked area schools to contribute one piece of art to represent their school. The Marrama Art Club created a representation of the core values Marrama stands for and the many interests and ideals students stand behind. The art piece will be on display beginning in January 2013.

Creativity Runs Wild!



Members of the Art Club include: Jaida Cortez, Aaliyah Cooks, Amaris Rodriguez, Leila Castillo, Jessica Jurado, Denise Chavez, Nasjae Thompson, and Keziah Hodge



Food Drive Helps Area Pantry



Small acts of kindness can make a huge difference. Marrama students prove this by donating food. Every year the Marrama student council holds a fall food drive to help local food pantries feed the many needy families in the area. The goal this year was to

collect 1,000 cans and we smashed the goal by collecting 1949 cans! The classrooms have a competition to see which primary classroom and which intermediate grade classroom can collect the most cans. This year the competition was fierce. The winning primary classroom collected 186 cans while the winning intermediate classroom assembled 197 cans.

“Reading is a very personal experience. We have the book fair during parent-teacher conferences so parents can share the experience with their kids.”

Book Fair Adds New Titles

Scholastic Book Fairs and Marrama team up several times each year to bring new books to Marrama students. Every year the book fairs coincide with parent teacher conferences in the fall and spring as well as a BO-GO (buy-one-get-one) fair in May. The purpose

of the book fairs is to raise money to expand the library collection and replace worn out books. There were many books to choose from. There were picture books for kids that haven't learned to read yet, popular chapter book series, Star Wars books, poetry,

Guinness world record books, graphic novels, and many, many more. There were posters, games, craft projects, holiday books, gift items, as well as pencils, erasers, bookmarks, markers, and video games. The fall book fair raised \$1,539 for new books.

Colorado History Makes a Comeback



With the grand opening of the History Colorado Center, the third-fifth grade teachers have included another destination to their list of field trip sites. The new museum allows students the opportunity to see what life was like over the last 100 years. Students can learn about silver mining from the 1890s, do

chores on a 1920 homestead, put up a Plains Indian tipi, get inside a Ford Model T, explore a giant floor map of Colorado, learn about trading posts, and read about the events that made Colorado the state it is today.

Science Programs Excite Students & Teachers



Expanding an elementary science program would not be possible without a partnership with The Denver Museum of Nature and Science. The outreach programs they offer directly support the Harcourt Science curriculum Marrama adopted as our school wide program. On December 19, the museum educators pre-

sented three programs to our Kindergarten, first, and second grade students. The kinder classes learned about their senses in Sense-Abilities. They got to feel a braille book, see a model and actual bones from a human ear, and experiment with the different tastes of sweet, salty, bitter, and savory that our tongues can detect.

The first grade program entitled Can you Dig it? taught students what paleontology was all about. They made fossil casts, brushed away rocks to uncover fossil remains and identify them, read books, put together puzzles, and acted out how scientists uncover fossils. The Colorado Wildlife Adven-

tures program took second grade students to different habitats found in our state, which included wetlands, alpine, forests, and plains. They looked at plants and animals that live there and were able to touch real fur and horns from a bighorn sheep as well as skulls from a coyote, eagle, deer and a bear. They saw how animals such a badger and eagle used their claws. Our partnership with the museum entitles us to special program pricing. These programs were paid for through snack shack funds raised since the beginning of the school year.

The museum also provided part of

“The program was wonderful! The students understood what they were looking at because we have been learning about the same concepts in our classrooms.”



Where do you taste sour and sweet?



Look! It's a real coyote pelt!



the programs for science night in November. Each year for the past four years, Marrama has taken part in the P2H or Passport to Health Program sponsored by the museum. Their goal is to educate students on the importance of exercise and proper nutrition for good health. For science fair the museum brought two programs, Family Fit Fest, consisting of fitness stations and The Inside Story, an interactive human body display. Both of these programs are funded by museum grants.

Expanded Technology for Students & Staff

Like everything else, the educational environment is becoming more and more dependent on technology. To meet these demands Marrama Elementary now has two computer labs, one for primary students and another for intermediate students. Two labs allow simultaneous instruction as well as simultaneous assessments to occur. DPS is transitioning to computer-based assessments which will require more laptop computers so that less instructional time will be compromised.



Two labs allow kindergarten through second grade students to use their lab for computer instruction as well as extensive intervention sessions for students learning English and students who are lagging behind their peers in reading. The intermediate lab is avail-

ble for research, keyboarding, reading intervention programs, and additional assessments. These assessments provide immediate results that allow teachers to adjust their instruction to meet student needs.

Marrama teachers received laptops this year as part of the DPS Teacher Laptop Project. This initiative allows teachers more flexibility in and outside the classroom. Teachers are now able to use their laptops in their classroom to enhance instruction as well as for instructional purposes at home.



Teachers mix modern technology of laptops, interactive white boards, and document cameras, student collaboration and hands-on discovery into their everyday classroom practice.

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