

# The Iditarod Traveling Quilt Project

## Meet Quilt 1 and Quilt 2!

### Quilt 1: Arrives in Colorado and heads to California!

The next stop for Quilt 1 was a visit with 2001 Wells Fargo Teacher on the Trail™ Diane Nye, Elizabeth Colorado. Diane shared the following information with us.

#### *Iditarod Quilt Visit – RCE, Elizabeth, Colorado 2006 With 2001 Wells Fargo Teacher on the Trail™ Diane Nye*

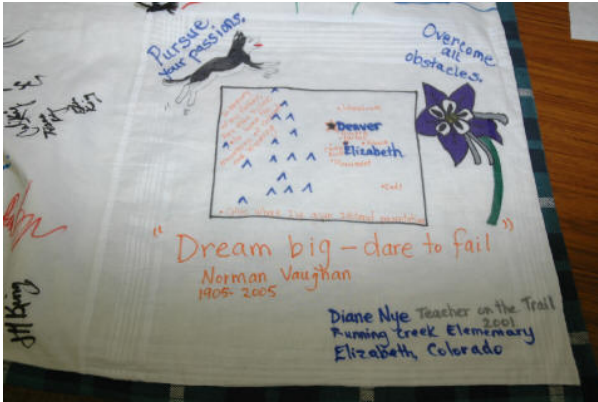
The traveling quilt arrived at Running Creek Elementary in mid October of 2006, bringing the first snow of the year with it. When the quilt was supposed to be mailed to the next teacher, a blizzard hit that closed school and the roads in our area. So the quilt had an extended stay in Elizabeth, Colorado.



Diane Nye and the Quilt!

I am the instructional coach for our school and don't have my own classroom. So during the quilt's time here, I read Alaska books and shared the quilt and my Iditarod experiences with the Running Creek Preschool students and nineteen classes at RCE. For the younger students I read Alaska ABC by Charlene Kreeger and Shannon Cartwright and for the older students I read L is for the Last Frontier: An Alaskan Alphabet by Carol Crane. Both of these books sparked a lot of discussion. Most of the current students were not at RCE when I served as the Teacher on the Trail in 2001 so I had a lot of fun sharing my experiences with them. We had fun discussing Gary Paulsen's quote, "Read like a wolf eats!" Can you find it on the quilt when it visits your school?

I decorated my room with Alaska memorabilia and photos. I brought in many of my stuffed animals, which also spurred on discussions. I shared my musher's drop bag and the students had fun thinking about what would be inside that bag for that checkpoint.



I added my square to the bottom of the quilt and told students what the different thoughts meant to me. The columbine is the Colorado state flower but also stands for Columbine High School, 50 miles from here, where one of the worst school shootings happened in 1999. It also is a place where much good has come from such a horrible event. The people of

Columbine showed how you can overcome terrible obstacles. I added the part about my father because one of his passions was mountain climbing and enjoying the mountains. Supporting his children and family was also important to him. He encouraged me to pursue my passion and try to become Teacher on the Trail. He and my mom came to Anchorage in 2001 and flew out on the trail, even though we were at different checkpoints. They were able to experience the trail too. He loved Alaska as much as I do. We enjoyed our last Iditarod together in 2006 when his favorite musher, Jeff King, won the Iditarod just two weeks before my dad passed away. I felt I had to honor him on the Iditarod quilt. I know he would have been pleased. I also added the cities where I can remember giving Iditarod presentations. I've done so many over the last eight or nine years that it is hard to remember them all. I love sharing about the race, the dogs, the mushers, the adventure, the dangers... I enjoy giving presentations to students.

I also had to share my love of the Iditarod with my new granddaughter who is only six weeks old. In the photo with the quilt wrapped around her, she actually seemed to see the huskies and she smiled. I know she's already developing a love of huskies and the Iditarod.



Diane's Granddaughter

Just last week a student asked me if the quilt was still here. I had to smile because it's been a month since the quilt was mailed on. But our time together obviously made an impression on that student.



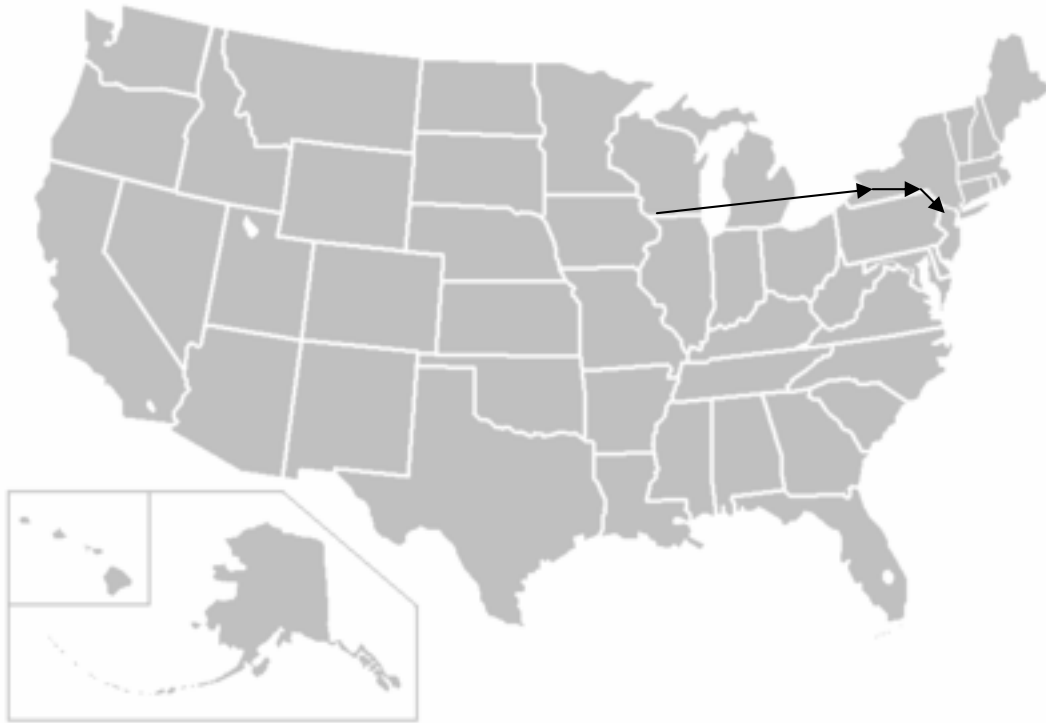
Thanks for sharing the quilt with us. I hope others have as much fun with it as we have at Running Creek!

Diane Nye



Following Quilt's visit with Diane Nye in Colorado, off it flew to California! We'll soon post information about visiting California!

## QUILT 2



### **Story of a Quilt Chapter 2 The Midwest to the East Coast**

Since late October, quilt #2 has traveled from Lancaster, Wisconsin to Ellicottville, New York to Waverly, New York to Phillipsburg, New Jersey and has been extremely busy.

Upon arriving in Ellicottville, the quilt was the main guest at the family reunion of high school teacher and quilt square contributor Ann Chamberlain. It was a big hit. For the remainder of its stay, the quilt was a guest in Ann's classroom. Ann used the quilt to introduce her students to the Iditarod and to do some interesting journal writing activities. One of those activities included sketching a dog team diagram, discussing the job of each dog position, and then analyzing what type of dog each student thinks he/she is and why. Ann also used the quilt to introduce a teamwork activity by harnessing stuffed dogs correctly and then discussing teamwork in getting a job done correctly and what role each student played on his/her team.

After approximately two weeks, the quilt traveled to Waverly, New York to the home of Valerie Orner, elementary teacher and another quilt square contributor. Valerie had the quilt hanging in her classroom during parent-teacher conferences. She had many positive comments on it from parents of her students. Valerie's students used the quilt to

write friendly letters. Each student picked a favorite quilt square, and then wrote a letter to the creator of the square. The quilt accompanied Valerie to a 6 + 1 Writing Traits Workshop that she attended, and the attendees used it to get some great writing ideas. The quilt has inspired Valerie to attempt a quilting project in her own classroom.

The quilt is now visiting Jean Pollock in Phillipsburg, New Jersey. Jean teaches high school students and also had a hand in creating a square for quilt #2. Stay tuned to see what creative ideas Jean comes up with for promoting the Iditarod and using the quilt in her classroom and her community. Until later!!

Carol

To read a news article relating to the quilt travel to the following link, [Click Here!](#) (This link is not maintained by Iditarod and not responsible for contents. Links change quickly on the Internet. Please supervise all student activity on the Internet.)



**If you have questions about the quilt or the project, please email us! Have your students created a quilt? We'd like to hear about it! If you are interested in being involved in future projects, please contact Diane Johnson at [djohnson@iditarod.com](mailto:djohnson@iditarod.com).**