

Quilt 1: California and on to Texas!

Allen At Steinbeck Iditarod 'Quilt' Week: by Sue Charlesworth

We welcomed 'Quilt' to our 3rd grade class on a Friday morning after 'Quilt' had been delayed in Colorado by a fierce snowstorm. When I explained to my students that 'Quilt' was delayed by a snowstorm, my students asked why it wasn't being delivered by a Sled Dog Team!

We, as a class, opened the box and 'Quilt' was viewed by all my students. Everyone was very excited and interested in all the different quilt squares. We spent time looking at each square for its details, and its LIFESKILL. We then took 'Quilt' over to our Media Center where it was displayed for our school community. Prior to 'Quilts' arrival, our class read 'The Keeping Quilt' from our 'Traditions' unit in our HM Series Reader. We discussed traditions in our country, school, homes, and in our families. The students created quilt squares of pictures important to their families. After they were completed, the students wrote summaries on the back about their family traditions and many volunteered to share them with the class.



We watched the movie 'Extraordinary Dogs' which helped students understand that dogs are not just pets, but have great value to everyone as Working Dogs, Search and Rescue Dogs, Celebrity Dogs, War Dogs, and Therapy Dogs. The students also viewed materials from Canine Companions for Independence, a non-profit organization here in California that provides assistance dogs for children and adults with disabilities.

For students who knew nothing about the Iditarod, we read and viewed the video, Balto. On another day everyone had a chance to log onto the Iditarod Website, using our new Mobile Mac Laptop Lab, while I navigated them around the website using my InFocus projector. We also logged onto 'The Insider' using my classroom access with students choosing which video link they would like to view and learn about.

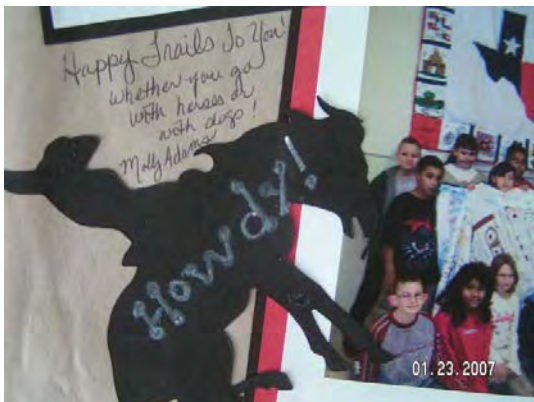
For Math and Social Studies standards we mapped out on a United States map where 'Quilt' had started and charted all its stops using our math skills to figure out the miles between destinations.

'Quilt's' visit to our school was a wonderful experience for my students. Thank you for including us in the journey. My students are really looking forward to learning more about the Iditarod in the upcoming months and moving their mushers along on the 'Iditarod Trail' wall in our Media Center.

*Happy Trails to All
Ms. Sue Charlesworth*



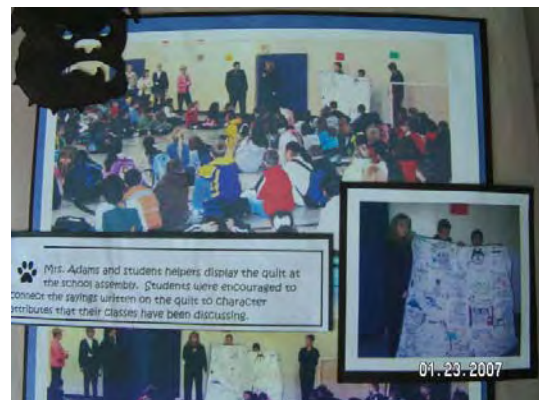
From California, Quilt went to Texas and a visit with Molly Adams, a past finalist for the Wells Fargo Teacher on the Trail™ program. Molly shared the following:



Deep in the heart of Texas, at Bens Branch Elementary, the importance of attitudes and values is an integral part of the school curriculum. Thus, the Iditarod Quilt was a great tool for reinforcement of the Cornerstone Character Education Curriculum utilized there. The quilt was introduced to the students at a school wide assembly. Molly Adams, Wells Fargo Teacher on the Trail™ finalist last year, spoke to the students about the attitudes and values that are important

for success in the Iditarod and in their lives. The quilt then 'traveled' around the campus, visiting classrooms. Teachers had the opportunity to display it and use it as part of their daily character education activities. Molly is teaching art this year and so students also had a great time doing snowy art projects as well.

Quilt then headed off to Wisconsin for a visit in another classroom.



Quilt #2 Continues to Travel

Well it's later, and quilt #2 brought out the whole history of Jean's interest in the Iditarod while visiting with Jean in New Jersey. Jean's school, the Warren Project TEACH/TEC, located in Port Murray, New Jersey, is actively involved in many Iditarod projects because of Jean. Jean and her students applied for the 2006 Iditarod Curriculum Challenge and won! They were one of eighteen educational submissions selected and are proud members on the Iditarod Educational Team. They also support a fellow New Jerseyan whose goal is to run the 2008 Iditarod. All of this brought Jean to the 2006 Summer Iditarod Conference and Quilt #2 to her school.



Jean's community has been very supportive of Jean and her interest in the Iditarod. Some community businesses that had a chance to view the quilt included: the Warren County Library, Oakwood Lanes Bowling Alley, and The Cocoon Coffee Shop. Of course the quilt spent much time at school with Jean and her students who just enjoyed the quilt. It was a perfect time for Jean to explain to her students what the summer conference was all about, the people who attended, and how the Iditarod works.

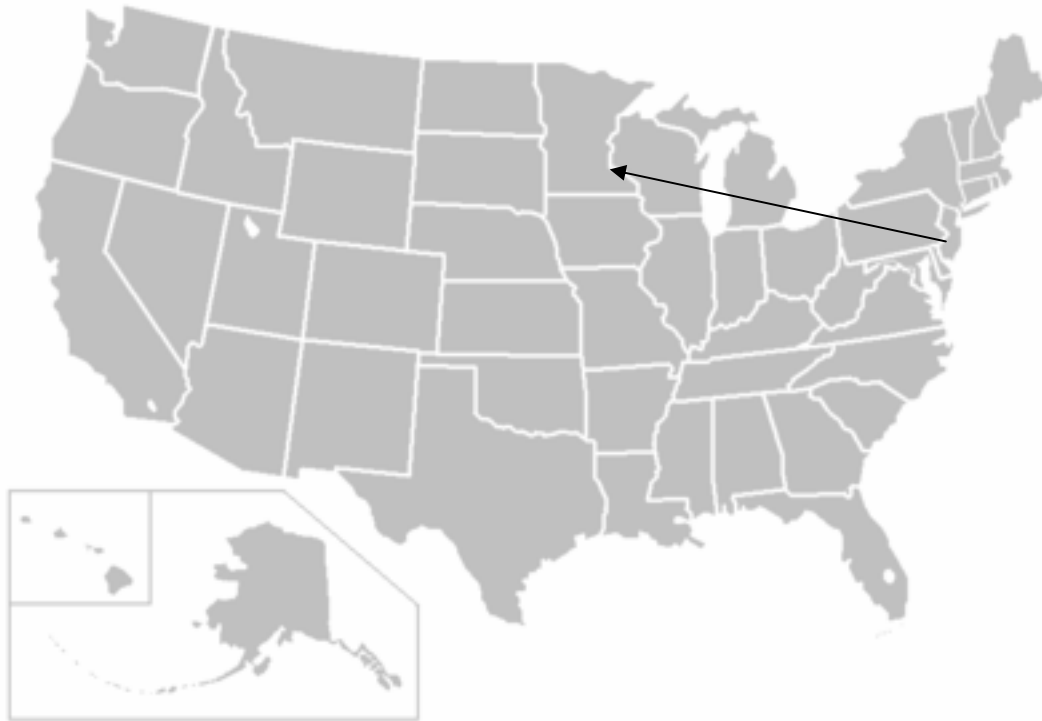


Quilt visited Oakwood Lanes

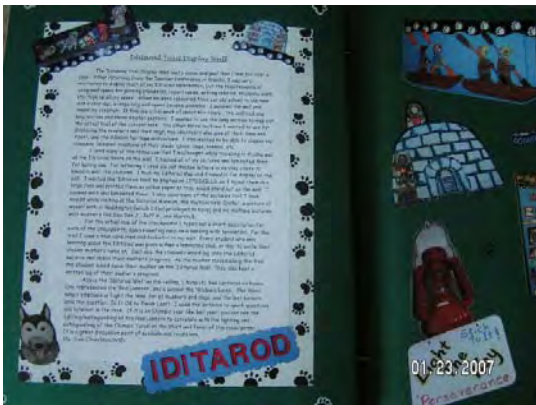


Jean took Quilt to visit New Jersey educator Kathy Kent

Before the hectic holidays, quilt 2 headed back to the Midwest. Its new destination was Eden Prairie, Minnesota. This is the home of teachers Mark Brown and John Clay. Mark and John are known for never being without their cameras or video recorders. I wouldn't doubt that there will be some great shots of the quilt and Mark and John's students doing some wonderful Iditarod activities along with the quilt. I look forward to sharing the goings-on that quilt # 2 caused in Eden Prairie!
Carol



Quilt Information:



One of the responsibilities the host school has is to add information to the scrapbook that travels with the quilt. The scrapbook serves as a historical record of the visit and the journey that each quilt makes.

An activity to connect what you are doing in your own classroom is to talk about other kinds of journals that serve as documentation of a visit or a journey. Find examples in your library.

Students can create their own scrapbooks of words and pictures to tell of a personal journey.

To connect the lessons to the Iditarod, students can follow the race and create a 'fictional' scrapbook of words and sketches that tell of a 'musher's journey' from Anchorage to Nome.

