

Tuesday Bulletin February 28, 2012 Edition

One of the things I miss by not having my own classroom is working directly with students so I have been very excited to go into my colleagues' classrooms and share in the arts integration (AI) strategies being used. Ms. Baker's Pre K class and I learned more about how to use the *Actor's Toolbox* as Ms. Diesner had already introduced it to them. Then we used the *Concentration Challenge* to help learn how to stay focused. Ms. Howard invited me to join her first graders as they used *Tin Can Poetry* to create rhythmic poetry, dances, and artwork to demonstrate their knowledge of the Rain Forest. Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Hallstrom's fourth graders and I read *Portraits as Biography* as we looked at key figures of Jamestown in order to infer and make predictions about them. They learned to interpret the characteristics of a portrait and write *Six Word Memoirs* about the historic figures. These will be used in art with Ms. McLaughlin to create prints that represent the historical impact these figures made. This is a continuation of them learning to "read" early American portraiture in art, which included a trip to the National Portrait Gallery.

Also this month, first graders attended *P. Nokio*, a hip-hop version of *Pinocchio* at Imagination Stage. Second graders became historic figures at their Heroes Wax Museum. Amazing the things you learn by pushing a button on a wax figure. Fourth graders attended a performance of the Alvin Ailey Dance Company at the Kennedy Center. Fifth grade saw *The Wings of Ikarus Jackson*, also at the Kennedy Center.

Ms. Jensen and Ms. Yedwab's third graders continue to use the *Human Slide Show* in preparation for their DC Theater Café.

Fourth and fifth graders learned about Tinikling, an indigenous dance of the Philippines. The dance is inspired and named after the tikling (heron) bird and imitates the bird dodging the bamboo traps set by farmers. They adapted it, to make it more rigorous, by using jumping bands instead of bamboo poles. It addresses, among others, the PE standard for motor skills and movement patterns needed to perform a variety of physical activity. The students choreographed their own versions of the dance in teams and performed it for each other.

We are preparing for our site visit by the CETA Program Director, March 16. Once a year she visits to observe AI lessons in classrooms, talk to teachers and administration, and to receive and give feedback on our progress as a CETA school.

Finally, be on the lookout for an Evite to our first AI Open House on the mornings of Monday, May 7 and Monday, May 8. All teachers will be demonstrating AI lessons and this will be your chance to see for yourself some of the great ways our teachers are using AI strategies and more importantly, how our students are learning with them.

~Jackie Snowden, AI Coordinator