

Dishing up a Great Education....

Apple Cider, Cheese, Perch, Pizza, Soup, Pasta, Corn Bread, Ice Cream. This list of foods could almost be a part of a school menu. In fact, all these foods were a part of a very special menu, but not of a school lunch, rather a menu of Learning. On Wednesday, the school had its Culminating Event surrounding this fall's Voyage theme, "Fall Harvest". Throughout the afternoon and after school, students served up a lot of the learning, (not to mention plenty of taste testing) that had taken place over the past three weeks. Our Harvest open house was a constant buzz of activity.

Experiential Learning is one of the cornerstones of our school's commitment to student learning. For those who were able to attend the Culminating Event, you likely noticed two things. First the students seemed to be truly enjoying themselves and having fun. The second thing is that students seem to be learning a lot. Both perceptions are correct, but I think it is also important to know about the amount of planning that our teachers do to make these voyages purposeful and memorable. I thought it might be meaningful to understand the process behind our school's successful Voyages.

It starts with the planning process in the late spring when staff considers topics for the next year's Voyage. There are a number of considerations we look at including, school calendar, possible fieldtrips destinations, community experts, state curriculum standards, student interests, topics of relevance and of course the ferry schedule. This provides an important starting point in the planning process where creative lessons are formulated, and timelines are developed. In the fall, teachers meet to coordinate and collaborate to maximize student engagement and learning experiences. Our school has been extremely fortunate with our community's willingness to be a rich resource for our students and staff. I would like to extend a personal thank you out to the many people who have given their time and expertise to our school. Also a special thank you needs to go out to our parents whose support is a big part of our voyage success.

Finally, our Culminating Events usually come in the form of an Interactive Open House or a Performance Presentation. On the school's Culminating Event day, students and staff are working hard to make sure everything is just perfect. Whether it is the final touches on a project display or a final run through of a performance, students take pride in their work and what they have learned. Buck's Pride comes in many forms, and this year you could literally taste it. I would like to thank students, and staff for a job well done!

Sincerely,

Mati Palm-Leis

Superintendent

