



VJHS Express

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Traveling Buddies

Tina Lengas

During the school year students in all grades are busy doing assignments, projects, and homework. What many people haven't noticed however, is how busy the first grade has been with their project, the Traveling Buddies. Traveling Buddies involve a stuffed animal passed on from state to state, classroom to classroom, across the United States. As with every project certain things are learned, old skills are used and new skills are learned. A very important part of the project, also is whether the students enjoy participation in it.

While participating in the Traveling Buddies project, the young students are able to learn about different environments outside and inside. When the students at Voluntown Elementary School received Ollie, the Collie from Virginia, a Virginia state book was sent along him. Using the book, students learned about the state of Virginia in general. Meaning it would include the history of the state, climate, past presidents and another mixture of facts. In turn a Connecticut state book will be sent along with a stuffed animal to the next state, Warwick, Rhode Island. The young students in first grade also learned about the classroom and school environment from which Ollie had just come from. It is of the

essence for students to learn about diverse areas and school environments, so that they have common knowledge about different places.

When involved in a project, students should enjoy doing it. So the question is, do students enjoy the Traveling Buddies project? "They really enjoy him and treated Ollie like he was a real person," said Ms. Seuferling, the first grade teacher. Unfortunately, when Ollie finally arrived at Voluntown Elementary School, the adolescent students were going on a fieldtrip. The first graders did not want to leave him at school by himself, so they came to the conclusion of taking Ollie along with them. The students took him along on their forty-five minute bus ride and field trip to the apple orchard where Ollie and the students "bonded." The students are also fervent to know when and where Ollie is and where he will be going next. The eagerness and enthusiasm that they show is important because without it they wouldn't enjoy the project they have been participating in.

Specific skills that the students had already been taught were used in this project. The first graders enhanced their computer skills by using them to look at the Virginia school classroom's website.

They also used their geography skills to locate on the map of the United States, where Ollie was coming from, where he had been, and where he would be going next. The students used their reading skills as well, to read and scrupulously understand the Virginia state book. Their teacher hands out worksheets involving different aspects of the project in which the students must also complete.

In summary, the students of Voluntown Elementary School enjoy the project, Traveling Buddies, while using skills they have already learned and learning new things. The goal for Ollie is to go to each of the fifty states by the end of the school year, he has already been to Georgia, Mississippi, Ohio, Connecticut, Alabama, Virginia, and Florida. Good luck Ollie!



The Inner Workings of Drama

Sam Dillon

Once a year Voluntown Elementary School's Drama Club puts on a play. This play consists of: production day, actors and technical positions, and an entire drama club trip. These are the most important parts of drama.

Actor's positions for drama are decided through many days worth of tryouts. Students are asked to stay after school for one day. During this time all of the upcoming actors stay inside a room next door to the audition room. Each person is given a packet that has a scene on it they are asked to play a role in the scene with two other high school actors. Then they are asked to sing a song such as "Tomorrow". Although many other compositions have been sung. After the tryouts are over the student director and the drama coaches spend hours figuring out who should get what part in the play based on their abilities. There are also the technical positions that are decided by the attendance of the students and responsibility and commitment to the drama production. Positions vary from curtain, lights, set movers and props master. The curtain puller has a very important job because they have to control and memorize when all 3 of the curtains have to be pulled open. The light workers also have a chief job. 3-4 people occupy this job. They control all of the lights including the spotlight. A single person out in the back of the seating area runs the spotlight. Then there are the set changers. These people are required to learn by heart all of the sets for each scene. The props master is the person who makes sure every thing is where it's supposed to be and does all of the double-checking. This job is said to be one of the most essential because they are needed to make sure that every one is where they are supposed to

be and doing what they are supposed to be doing. The Directors and Producers are the people who set up the tickets and set ideas. They are in charge of all of the extra slips that need to be giving to the cast and crew and they are also in charge of attendance.

The drama club also goes on an exceptional trip to go see a play sometime during the drama season. This year the drama club went to Providence to see "Wicked". They also went to see the Rhode Island State House. Last year they went to see "Dr. Dolittle". They also went to Dave and Busters at the Providence Place Mall. Every year when the drama cast and crew go on their trip they always have fun.

Production day is always the busiest day for the cast and crew because of all of the preparation that is needed. The entire cast leaves class early to get into costume and makeup. The props master, director, producers, and the crew that helps with the costume changes, all head down to the drama room with the actors. Each year the drama club pulls off 3 productions, this year they will be spanned over 3 days. One will be during school, the second will be on a Saturday for the public and the third will be on a Sunday for the public.

Overall drama is all about the play positions, actor or technical, and the reward of our cast and crew, drama trip.

Pink Tuesday

Mikayla Punsalan

At our school we wear pink every Tuesday. In the morning on Pink Tuesday, you may donate money to breast cancer research. Pink Tuesday preceded about a month ago and we all hope that we can proceed this for a really long time. Wearing pink began a few years ago when Mrs. Miner was working in Mrs. Okrasinski's 2nd grade class. Two girls, Kassie Gager and Breanna Salter, were each wearing pink including Mrs. Miner on a Tuesday. Mrs. Miner remembers them saying, "We are all wearing pink let's wear pink every Tuesday." So Mrs. Miner and the two girls wore stylishly pink things every Tuesday. However it wasn't until this year that the two girls asked their teacher Mr. Duncan, if the whole school could wear pink on a Tuesday. They also asked if people could donate money to breast cancer research if they would like to.

On Pink Tuesday now, they give out a supple pink panda bear, to the person who wears the most outstanding pink. Pupils and teachers both participate in this part of pink Tuesday. Some pupils and teachers will spray their hair pink to get into the school spirit. Last week Mr. Woronik won the Pink Tuesday bear. He sprayed his hair pink and wore a pink shirt.

In my opinion, this is a astonishing idea it benefits our school and breast cancer research. We all have a pleasurable time dressing up in pink; even the boys have a good reason now. The bear is also a extraordinary idea because the students want to win the bear and dress in more pink and give donations as well.

In conclusion, it's quite a spectacular plan to have Pink Tuesday. This is fun for teachers and students to participate in.