

9-12 Class News

November 2006

Photography

The students in the 9-12 class have begun an extended unit on photography. The unit allows students to explore several aspects of photography and encourages them to look at themselves and the Bellingham community in different ways.

We have studied the elements of photography and the different techniques that go into taking a good photograph. Students have also worked together to build pinhole cameras. We have turned the class bathroom into a darkroom for the development of our pinhole photographs. Like any scientific process, we are still working to perfect our darkroom results.

Currently each student has their own camera and is responsible for creating a portfolio based around self-portraits, family, capturing a moment and self-designed themes. Everyone is excited to take on this project and for the chance to record the world through the lens of a camera. The project also provides us with great opportunities to integrate journalism and other forms of writing.

We will keep you all posted as to how this project evolves. We are aiming to turn our classroom into a gallery one evening to show the students work to the Bayside community. Thanks to Kate for supporting us in getting together all the equipment needed for this unit. Students present and future will enjoy the many possibilities that photography offers.

Peru

On Tuesday, we had a special guest. Fabiola Serra is a visiting veterinarian from Peru spending 6 months here in the United States. Thanks to the Koss-Waldos, we were able to spend part of the morning with Fabiola. In the process we learned a great deal about the geography, culture and camelids of Peru.

Learning first hand from people like Fabiola, who carry a love of their culture and an excitement to share with others, is always a great experience for the class. We hope to have Fabiola back for a luncheon and afternoon of Peruvian dancing.

Geology

Currently our science curriculum is centered on a study of geology. We have investigated the creation of the earth, looked into plate tectonics and our friend Alfred Wegener, and have now moved into a study of the types of rocks, the rock cycle and soon rock and mineral identification.

One of our next extensions will be a trip to Western Washington University for a tour of the geology of the campus (Do you know why Red Square is sinking?) and an investigation of the Geology Departments rock, mineral and fossil collection.