



Flag Mission Flown for Downeast School

Downeast School recently celebrated the gift of a United States Flag along with an authentic certificate from the United States Marine Corps. This flag is very special to the school because it was a gift from Master Sergeant Jeffrey Thurlow, who wanted to thank the Downeast School for the support shown to him and his family. Airman Thurlow was able to sponsor a flag mission in honor of those who support the troops, choosing Downeast School as his pledge. A flag was flown in a marine cobra mission over Iraq's An Abar Province in honor of Downeast School for their continuous support of the troops. The flag



The flag ceremony held at Downeast School on November 15th honored the school and its support of the service men and women serving our country and their families. Master Sergeant Jeffrey Thurlow and his wife Laurie, a teacher at Downeast School, have made the connection especially real.

ceremony included a gathering around the flagpole, singing of patriotic songs, presentation of colors by Bangor High School color guard, playing of taps and having Mrs. Thurlow present the encased flag and certificate. Mr. Thurlow also sent a special e-mail to the students at Downeast School expressing how he was working to make schools for all children and helping to provide books, clothing, and toys for the children in Iraq. He shared that it sure helps to have the love and support from those of us back home while he and his fellow troops are so far away.



Bangor High School JROTC Color Guard members take pride in presenting the colors: From left to right: Mike Astran, Jeremy Spreng, Mary Priesing, and Gyasi Davis.

Downeast Pre-K Greet Troops at the Bangor International Airport

by Christina Babin

Ms. A arrived in the classroom bringing many A items to explore. We had alligators, anteaters, apples, acorns, airplanes and much more. The airplanes were the biggest hit. Our class became the airport as we traveled to many far away places.

Ms. P, being our pilot, flew us to Florida, Honolulu and around our school. We experienced boarding, finding assigned seats, listening to instruction from the stewardess, messages from the pilot, take off and landing. The children used their imaginations while describing what they were feeling, seeing and hearing on our flights.

This drama center became real to the children as they asked if we could board an actual airplane at the airport. Thus, began our journey to the airport.

On Tuesday, November 29th, we arrived at the Bangor International Airport at 9:30 a.m. Many staff members who proceeded to give us a detailed tour greeted us. The children were able to explore and ask questions about ticket purchasing, security and baggage claim. Mr. B was waiting for us at the baggage claim area. He flew in to stay with us until June. The children could not wait to hear about

Mr. B's flight on the airplane.

As passengers do, we then proceeded up the escalator to see airplanes arriving and departing. Many passengers that wanted to talk and wave as they departed on their journeys to others parts of the United States greeted us.

At 10:45 a.m. our eyes were wide with amazement as the biggest airplane to land arrived. We listened to the announcement and knew that this was the flight we were waiting for. The plane with soldiers from Texas had arrived and we were ready. We stood together with our flags waving as they walked down the ramp. We chanted "WELCOME HOME" and "THANK YOU." Many soldiers hugged us and thanked us for greeting them. Our eyes were lit up in amazement in seeing the soldiers so happy with tears in their eyes.

Our journey with Ms. A to the airport helped to deepen the learning of our Letter Friends, but also expanded our learning in the area of feelings, emotions and experiences. My students will continue to talk about the airport trip with deep appreciation and meaning because we were able to greet the troops home and explore the airport first hand.

Pinwheels for Peace

by Wendy Libby

On September 21, 2005, Fruit Street School of Bangor, Maine took part in an international art and literacy project, Pinwheels for Peace. "Planting" pinwheels with messages of peace in the garden area in front of the school was the main objective of the project.

Pinwheels for Peace was an art installation project started by two art teachers of Coconut Creek, Florida, as a way for students to express their feelings about what is going on in the world and in their lives. Groups in over 1,000 locations throughout the world had committed to spinning pinwheels on September 21st. Locally, Bangor art teacher Wendy Libby coordinated the Pinwheels for Peace project at the Fruit Street School.

After discussing friendship/ caring/ peace/ tolerance/ respect and living in harmony with others, kindergarten through grade three students created three foot pinwheels. Colored tag board was designed

with different color markers using lines, shapes and patterns. Librarian Barbie Quinn read stories on peace and friendship to her classes and music teacher Ann Small taught the students a lively song about peace. On Wednesday, September 21st,



Fruit Street School students made and planted pinwheels in celebration of International Peace Day.

International Day of Peace, the students gathered around the garden, sang songs, heard stories of friendship and "planted" their pinwheels as a public statement and art exhibit/installation.

The spinning of the pinwheels in the wind will spread thoughts and feelings about peace throughout the country and the world!

At the end of the day students brought their pinwheels home to plant in their own gardens and parents commented on how nice it was to pass through the neighborhoods seeing pinwheels spinning in the wind.