

Veterans Honored at Vine Street School

Got Milk? Lt. Col. Urban Feero would be a great role model for the milk industry. On November 9, 2005 at Vine Street Elementary School during a Veteran's Day celebration, Feero told students he celebrated his 19th, 20th and 21st birthdays at sea and, "... I never had milk for four years". After the war, arriving in San Francisco, he bought a quart, "I sat on the step and drank the whole thing. Nothing ever tasted so good," he said with a chuckle.

The elementary students had the opportunity to meet two veterans who served our country. Lt. Col. Feero served in WW II, Korean and Vietnam Wars. Sgt. Maj. Richard Gifford, of Brewer, spent 28 years in the Army infantry and served in the Korean and Vietnam War. Sgt. Maj. Gifford told the students, "If not for our free country, I wouldn't be able to stand here talking to you and you wouldn't be able to listen." Gifford's message focused on the men and women who have served our country so we can be free.

The Vine Street students enjoyed a variety of presentations to help understand the meaning of Veteran's Day. To begin the ceremony the Bangor Junior ROTC presented our national colors, commanded by Jeremy Kuhn. Max Silverstien, a third grader, played the Star Spangled Banner on his violin and Emily Reilly sang our national anthem a cappella. These two third grade students silenced the audience of approximately 300 with their outstanding performances. As the flags were retired Lt. Col. Thomas, from the Air National Guard, played taps for the students. This impressive opening set the stage and the importance for the Veteran's Day Assembly.

The objectives of the assembly were to honor our Veterans and for students to understand: who is a Veteran, the meaning of Veteran's Day, the significance of the veteran's seal and the five branches of the armed forces. Students participated in this



Lt. Col. Feero, Sgt. Maj. Gifford, Mrs. Marble all salute the flag as Lee Walsh holds the flag for the assembly.



Sam Kenny, Gabby Sekera, Emily Reilly, Alex Ross and Mattea Hamel pose for the camera after their play production for the Veteran's Day program.

assembly to help teach their classmates the objectives. Mrs. Campo's class presented the five branches of the armed forces, their purpose and presented the flag that represents each branch. Mrs. Johnson's class presented a play that taught "who" is a veteran and "why" we celebrate Veteran's Day. Mrs. McDougall, the art teacher, worked with two third graders to

present and explain the veteran's seal of honor. Throughout the program Mrs. Kilbride, the music teacher, lead the student body in the singing of patriotic songs and explained the origin and significance of each song.

To bring our ceremony to a conclusion, Lee Walsh, a second grader, held our American Flag while the audience sang the national

anthem. At the end of our program, students dressed in red, white and blue were treated to red fruit pops donated and distributed by the Vine Street PTO. One could see, as students participated they were very interested and excited about the Veteran's Day assembly. Prior to the assembly, teachers had been providing lessons and experiences to prepare students for this celebration. Children watched their classmates participate and they experienced a sense of patriotism and being proud to be an American.

Lt. Col. Feero stated at the end of his message to the students that he had lived in many countries, and he named them off, and then he said, "The United States is the best place to live!"



Max Silverstien plays a violin solo as the opening performer at Vine Street School Veteran's Day Assembly.

Kindergartners at Vine Street Exercise Their Right to Vote

The democratic process is alive and well at Vine Street School. The kindergartens held an election for governor of Letter Land on November 8, 2005. A fun and educational time was had by all. Literacy and math were

integrated into this great civics lesson which emphasized that voting is an integral part of the democratic process. The three kindergarten classes set up an election booth in the hallway and chose a clerk to check off each child's

name as he or she proceeded through the line. Each child picked up a ballot and went into the private voting booth. Once inside, he or she voted for their favorite letter person. In the afternoon, the three kindergarten classes met

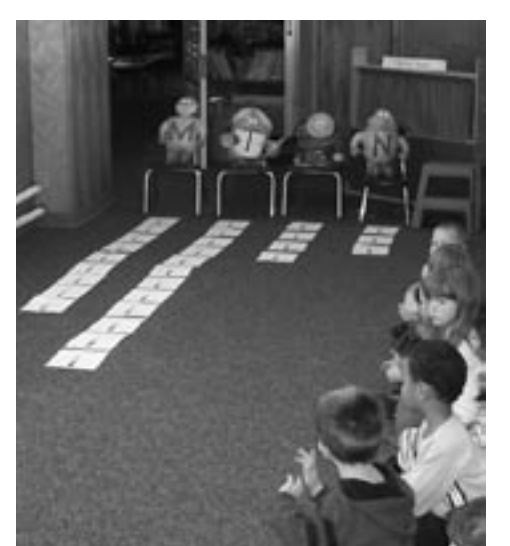
in the hallway to share the results. A giant graph was made with our ballots. After counting all the ballots, it was announced that the new governor of Letter Land was Mr. M!



Andrew Lopez proudly holds the flag while Clerk McKenna Baker checks off names. Sean McDonough eagerly waits for Meghan Petros to give him a ballot.



Brinley McLaughlin ensures the safety of the ballot box, which is positioned next to the voting booth.



The candidates anxiously await the final count. The suspense heightens while the graph grows.