

Dwyer Fourth Graders Show the Contents of Their Traveling Quilt Trunk Project



Pictured L-R are some of Mrs. Reeves' students who took part in the traveling quilt project: Sam Cutrona, Dina Cicchine, Emily Sinegra, Emily Vitale and Brianna Katz.

Fourth graders in Mrs. Nancy Reeves class recently had the opportunity to examine a "traveling quilt trunk" filled with quilts and picture books containing quilting themes. The traveling trunk is known as The School House Project and is provided free of charge as a community outreach effort by the State Quilt Guild of New Jersey. The goal of the project is to share the quilting experience with New Jersey school children while emphasizing the creative, mathematical, and historical significance of quilts and quilting. Mrs. Reeves said she first heard about the traveling quilt trunk in an advertisement in the NJEA magazine. After investigating it further, she decided to order the quilt trunk for her class. According to Mrs. Reeves, "Quilters from all over New Jersey put the trunk together. It travels from school to school for two week time periods. When I got the trunk, it was just wonderful. Not only was it filled with quilts, it also had 25 beautiful picture books with quilting themes, boards that illustrated quilt patterns and lesson plans to integrate quilting into all the disciplines." Mrs. Reeves went on to say that while the trunk was at the school the students took

advantage of its contents by reading many of the books, examining the quilts and completing many of the math projects included in the package. "As a culminating activity, we will be working on a class quilt based on New Jersey symbols," she added.

Fourth grade student Emily Sinegra said, "What made it really fun were the books, because the quilts had messages on them taken from the books." Dina Cicchine said she liked the fact that, "All the books had nice pictures and every book had a piece of quilt on it." Samantha Cutrona said she thought, "The quilts felt cool."

Mrs. Reeves indicated that the trunk contained "much more than I expected." Initially, she said she ordered the trunk anticipating a strong language arts connection, but once she received the materials she realized she could use it in math and social studies as well. After seeing all the benefits of the experience she added, "I would definitely do this again next year." For more information on this traveling quilt project go to www.njquilts.org.