

COUNTING COYOTES

This week the Counting Coyotes are studying the letter O.

*We listened to opera music and practiced singing in our opera voices.

*We have a field trip planned to see an opera next month!

*We learned three new states—Ohio, Oklahoma, and Oregon—and some facts about each one.

*We learned a riddle: What is round at both ends and "hi" in the middle?
O-HI-O

*We learned about owls and sang an owl song.

*The octopus puppet sang in an opera voice with the Nightingale puppet.

*We had yummy, juicy oranges for snack from Bloom's trees!

*We played "Name That Tune!" Some of the tunes we hummed were "Hail to the Chief" and the Olympic song.

*We learned about our new president, Barack Obama.

*We learned about "opposites."

FUN WITH SHAKESPEARE

There is still time to join the Kids Shakespeare after school class at the elementary school, and it is offered at a reduced "recession rate." Students in grades 3-6 will meet for 17 Tuesdays from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. with working actors and children's acting teachers, Carlyle Williams and Sydney Walsh. (Students in grade 2 may join if they are strong readers.) The children will explore the wonders of Shakespeare through games, sword fighting, role-playing, sports, and performance. During this class, the child actors will work on Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, one of his most magical and accessible plays. Please see the flyer in today's packet for more information or contact Carlyle at carweb94@aol.com or 818.395.8875.

JOIN THE SPRING SPOTLIGHT

The Waverly High School is excited to invite interested elementary students in grades 3 to 6 to participate in their production, *Spring Spotlight 2009*. This show will be performed in Thorne Hall at Occidental College on Friday, March 6. Mandy Boesche, our middle and high school drama teacher, will be directing the show and staging the numbers. To register, pick up a form at the elementary school front desk, or download the copy included in this week's packet. On Monday, February 2, parents can pick up a CD and packet with lyrics and further instructions from Alison. Elementary students should come to the first rehearsal on Monday, February 9, with all the songs memorized, and ready to rehearse. Elementary school students will be performing with high school students in three to four numbers. Questions? E-mail Mandy Boesche at mandy@thewaverlyschool.org.

SILENT AUCTION MEETING THIS SUNDAY

We have started to work on the Silent Auction! There will be a meeting this Sunday, January 25, at 4:00 p.m., at Ann Cooke's house. Please come if you have signed up to work on the Auction, or if you are interested in helping. Contact Ann at chcooke@earthlink.net.

Save the Date

**M.S./H.S. Faculty Work Day; no school
Friday, January 30**

**Applications due for new students
Financial aid applications due from new &
returning families
Sunday, February 1**

**Upper School W.P.O. Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
Thursday, February 5**

**E.S. W.P.O. Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
Friday, February 6**

THE W A V E R L Y S C H O O L

GUERRILLA POETS

The middle school creative writing class took to the streets (the sidewalk in front of the middle school, really) to complete their last project for the semester: guerilla poetry. Similar to guerilla (or street) art, guerilla poetry is displayed in public places, and is a means for writers to have their words read by the public without having to go through a publishing house. The students used sidewalk chalk to compose their poems.



Seventh graders Paige Arevalo (above) and Casey Shatraw (below)



Fall semester middle school creative writing class

WINTER POEMS BY THE PURPLE PENGUINS

JAY

As I touch the snow it feels like soft velvet. I see beautiful trees that look like a puffy winter coat. When I jump in the snow it feels like I am bouncing on my bed on a pretty winter day. As I smell the air it smells like chocolate chip cookies just coming out of the oven. As I listen to the wind howling in circles, it sounds like graceful music. As I put some snow in my mouth it tastes like fresh watermelon from a farmer's market. When I lay in the snow I feel like I am floating at the surface of the water in a swimming pool. When I ski down the hill I turn back and forth like a dog chasing its tail. When I walk into the icy cave, it's as dark as a black horse. When I look at the branches on the trees they look like a pointed window sill. As I count the snow flakes that pound on my window they look like white sequins falling off a dress.

RUBY

The Mountains look like giant icicles standing on the ground. The breeze feels like the air is dancing with me. The trees blowing in the wind sound like happy music. The smoke in the fireplace smells like steamy vegetables. The snow tastes like frozen berries growing on a bush.

CAMILLE

I was walking along the bridge; it was as brown as a chocolate bar. I looked below the bridge and I saw the water fairies making waterfalls. The water was as blue as the sky during the morning. Then I saw a horse. She was as white as paper. Then I touched the snow; it felt like fleece. I saw the trees; they were covered with snow just like a white cloth. Then I took a big breath. It looked like a chimney with smoke coming out of it.

Community Service Corner

The Rose Bowl in Pasadena hosts Autism Speaks' 7th annual autism awareness event, Walk Now for Autism on April 25, 2009. www.walknowforautism.org/losangeles

Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center's Showcase House raises money for music programs throughout our schools. Volunteer Saturday, April 11 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or Monday, April 13 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Contact Stacy Miller stacywm5@yahoo.com

Join the Bruins and hundreds of volunteers at the Northeast Los Angeles Mayor's Day of service, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Rio de Los Angeles Park: 1900 San Fernando Road, 90065.

MATTHEW

I went outside in the snow. The snow was cold as a strong winter breeze. My breath looked like steamy wind. I saw a cloud as soft as a dove's feather. I heard the wind, it sounded like people whispering. I saw snowy mountains that looked like sharp knives. The sky was as blue as the planet Neptune. The bare trees looked like my ribcage. The snow looked like a fingerprint.

ELI

The snow feels like a cloud floating in the sky. The trees look like white angels standing still. The snow covers the ground in a sugary fog. The bare trees look like ghosts rising in the wind. The roads look like water flowing down a stream. The wind blows through the trees fast as a wolf runs through snow. The children play in snow like a lion's cub plays with his father. The icicles look like columns holding a building up. The mountains look like snow covered diamonds when I ski, and it sounds like a ship running aground.

HIGH SCHOOLER IS L.A. OPERA ESSAY CONTEST FINALIST

Waverly High School sophomore Nico Walsh received the honor of being one of a handful of students to win an essay contest through the Los Angeles Opera Company. The program, called L.A. Opera 90012, was made possible by an anonymous donor, the prize of which is free tickets to all major productions put on by L.A. Opera. The contest asked interested students what got them interested in opera and the program. Congratulations, Nico!

FEBRUARY 6TH ELEMENTARY W.P.O. MEETING WILL BE AT 9:30A.M.

The next monthly elementary W.P.O. meeting will be on Friday, February 6 at 9:30 a.m. This meeting will focus on the topic of Room Parents. With Heidi and Terri, we are drawing up guidelines and descriptions so parents can have an idea what the job entails. We need your input! If you are currently a room parent, have been a room parent, think you want to be a room parent, or just have some good ideas and comments, please plan to attend. If you can't make it but have comments, please e-mail Ann Cooke at chcooke@earthlink.net.

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE: EVE KIKAWA

Name: Eve Kikawa

Position: Chair

Grade(s) of child(ren): 8th

Years as a Waverly Parent: 10

Day Job: After receiving her M.A. in choreography from UCLA, Eve began



teaching dance in universities, colleges and community colleges. She has choreographed for dance companies, colleges, festivals and produced her own concerts for 30 years. Eve is chair of the dance department at

Santa Ana College. She has served on committees to reform the standards for college level general education, and on curriculum and education innovation committees. Eve has certificates in creative problem solving facilitation from CPSI, teaching techniques from On Course and recently became a parent to parent teacher for CHADD.

Influential Books: *Ready or Not, Here Life Comes* by Mel Levine, and *A Whole New Mind* by Daniel Pink.

Reasons for Serving on Board:

1) Progressive education has been proven to be the best way to teach students (see "M.I.T. Large Lectures are going the Way of the Blackboard," January 13, 2009, *New York Times*).
2) Waverly is a dynamic, well-run, emerging school where one's involvement can really impact the future of education in the San Gabriel Valley.

Favorite Board moment: Signing the papers for the purchase of the high school.

Message for fellow parents: I have found ways to be involved in my child's education and contribute to his school. It has been extremely rewarding and has ultimately made me a better parent.

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES FAIR

We encourage all Waverly parents interested in summer programs for their children to attend the Summer Opportunities Fair to be held at Westridge School (324 Madeline Drive in Pasadena) on Saturday, February 7, 2009 between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. This annual event provides parents and students a wonderful way to explore many exciting summer opportunities that are available to school age children and teenagers, 5 to 18. The Summer Opportunities Fair features programs that accommodate all budgets and areas of interest. Information on many of the programs registered can be found on the Westridge School website: www.westridge.org/sof.html. There is also a flyer in today's packet. The Waverly School no longer offers an elementary summer program; information about Waverly's summer classes for middle and high school students will be shared in the next few weeks.

RECYCLABLES FOR ART

Hypatia, the elementary art teacher, is looking for donations of CLEAN recyclables, such as, but not limited to: cereal/cracker boxes, oatmeal containers, toilet paper/paper towel rolls, shoe boxes and milk/juice cartons (the waxy cardboard kind—not plastic).