

## Alliance Newsletter for October/November

Wow! Slavens has been busy with presenters and workshops all sponsored by the Alliance Project. Here is a recap of recent activities:

### Origami Art

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade art students enjoyed a workshop on origami presented by Ms. Betty from the Arvada Center. Students made origami dogs, cats, shirts, pants, and frogs. Many of the students in turn shared their experience with their friends and siblings, and now students in all grade levels are experimenting with origami during their art classes.

### Ben Franklin visits 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Benjamin Franklin, born in 1706, visited the 8<sup>th</sup> graders at Slavens on October 23. He shared with us his life accomplishments such as starting his own businesses, inventing the lightning rod, and designing a new musical instrument called the glass harmonica. He even led us in a game of baseball to celebrate the World Series using facts from his life that we had learned. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade class had a very good time discovering more about Ben Franklin from actor Mark Corrigan provided by the Aurora History Museum. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade class would like to see more of these activities.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Rocks!

Sixth graders had an awesome experience at the Colorado Mountain Club in Golden on November 8. They used courage, problem-solving and physical strength to rock climb; they learned to use a topographic map and relate it to surrounding landforms; and they participated in fun activities that challenged their knowledge of the rock cycle.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Graders Become Experts in Bug Forensics

Gut-eating bugs?!! Yuck! Not really, actually it was fascinating for the 5<sup>th</sup> graders to learn how to determine how long a person has been dead by studying the bugs found on the body. Did you know that a fly can smell something dead from 5 miles away? After studying fingerprints and solving a "Who Do It Robbery" the students were ready to become real criminalists!

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Chows Down During Cultural History

Chef Brian from Opera Colorado was in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes on November 9. He shared the origins of the ingredients used in some simple Italian foods. This was a culmination for my study of the geographic cultures of foods. The best part was, of course, the food. Smells of garlic, fresh herbs, and homemade pasta wafted down the hallway from room 205. Using just 3 hotplates and a few ingredients he

made tossed Italian salad with balsamic dressing, homemade gnocchi with fresh basil pesto, and linguini with sage butter sauce. Chef Brian was knowledgeable, funny and made quite enough food for hungry 8<sup>th</sup> graders and several visitors. It was a great afternoon!

Thank you Alliance Project!  
Students and Staff of Slavens