



## Thar She Blows! Hands-on Science

Science class is an explosion of learning, especially when we learn about volcanoes. First, students created volcanoes out of paper mache. They made sure that their volcanoes contained a cone, base, crater and conduit. Next, students painted volcanoes gray, black white and red to represent rock, lava and ash. Then, 5<sup>th</sup> graders brought their volcanoes behind the school where they combined baking soda (an alkaline) and vinegar (an acid) in order to trigger a chemical reaction and make their volcanoes erupt.



Above, Whitney and Kay measure out vinegar and baking soda, which they will pour into the conduit of their volcanoes. Below, Christian, Timmy and Ryan wait for chemical reactions to happen.



The volcano lesson is hands-on learning, giving students the opportunity to apply what they have learned from texts and lectures. Mr. Regan's science classes provide many such learning opportunities, including dissecting owl pellets and squid, observing single-celled organisms under microscopes, classifying animals, observing weather and collecting data, working with melting points, experimenting with flight and propulsion, studying erosion and growing plants in a mini-greenhouse. Fifth graders are currently studying energy.



*Robert, Tom, Michael and Tim with volcanoes*

# Take a Hike . . . . . .to Squaw Rock



*Ali, Kelli and Jennifer move a rock to find crabs.*

The fifth grade, with Mr. Regan, Ms. Bloom and Mrs. Painter, spent a glorious afternoon hiking at Squaw Rock. During this hike, many Social Studies and Science connections were made. Mr. Regan taught students about the geographic features of the area. Students saw – and climbed - formations of conglomerate tillite and observed the sandbar leading to Thompson’s Island.



We explored tide pools full of tiny (and not so tiny) crabs, where students learned first-hand about the defense mechanisms of crabs. Fifth graders brought a wealth of knowledge about ocean life with them and shared this knowledge with classmates as they observed, predicted and explored.

Social Studies connections were made as well, as we hiked an area which was used as a hunting ground by Native Americas. Also, Miles Standish landed at Squaw Rock and John Adams hiked the very trails that fifth graders walked on during this afternoon.



*Danielle, Kay, Julia, Leilani, Kelsey, Aine & Isabella*