

Quincy Public Schools, *SWELL* Academy 2014

Quincy Public
Schools
SWELL Academy
2014

July 17, 2014

Page 1

Inside this issue:

Group D	2
Group H	2
Group C	2
Group G	3
Group A	4
Group B	4
Facilitators' Message	4

Special points of interest:

- ◆ Quincy Quarries
- ◆ The Charlestown Navy Yard
- ◆ Quincy City Hall
- ◆ Blue Hills Hiking
- ◆ Visit to the Veterans Cemetery
- ◆ Nickerson Beach
- ◆ Caddy Park
- ◆ Quincy Historical Sites
- ◆ Adams Houses
- ◆ Kids Dig It
- ◆

Group E, Social Studies with Mr. Barry and Mr. McAdams



The first week of the 2014 SWELL Academy has come to a successful conclusion for the Quincy Quarries Social Studies team of Mr. Joe Barry and Mr. Jim McAdams. This past week we supervised two groups of ELL students to the Quincy Quarries. Beginning at the foot of the Granite Rail Road, students identified vocabulary words such as granite, polished, rough, rail road, monument, and obelisk. As a precaution we all learned the simple song for identifying poison ivy. *"Leaves of three, let them be, poison ivy's, not for me!"*

Upon entering Granite Rail quarry, students orientated themselves to where the water was

prior to the filling of the quarry with dirt from the Big Dig and students were able to watch rock climbers climbing the quarry walls. From the top of one of the walls, students were able to practice describing the different heights using high, higher, and highest as well as low, lower, and lowest to compare three different points in the quarry. Various pieces of equipment left from when the quarry was operational were pointed out. Students took pictures of the equipment to compare with photos of the operational quarry in the classroom. As a means of reinforcing oral academic language students were asked frequently to describe the quarry as well as the process of extracting granite from the quarry. There was noticeable improvement from one word answers to complete sentences incorporating academic vocabulary. The students were good sports in trying to expand their oral production. For students and staff the quarries project was a swell time!

Group F, Science with Dr. Tongcharoensirikul and Ms. Dodge

The content of science was used to help English Language Learner (ELL) students gain proficiency in speaking and writing. The students went to various places in Quincy such as the Montero Park on Pond Street near Point Webster Middle School, Blue Hills hiking trails, Caddy Park-

Veteran Cemetery, Nickerson Beach, and Quincy Quarries. Students observed the environment, sampled artifacts and brought some back to school. Through the field trip experience, students wrote sentences and told stories. Students also learned science content using a Venn

diagram to compare and contrast. When we walked into our school's backyard, one of the students actually pointed out to the leaves on the trees and identified types of leaves.



Group D, Social Studies and Civics with Ms. McMillen and Ms. Lau

English Language Learners have been focusing on why rules are important for any society and how these rules have evolved into government today. We have focused on the U.S. Constitution and the processes put in place by our Founding Fathers: three branches of government, separation of power, checks and balances, federalism, etc. We are looking at government at the federal, state and

local levels. We have been treated to a special visit to Quincy's City Hall where Mayor Koch has invited us into his office and he has taken questions from every student!



"Students in Group H have been having a blast so far this summer!"

Group H, Science with Mr. Lenane and Ms. Vu

Students in Group H have been having a blast so far this summer! Many students are amazed at the diversity of life that we have in the ecosystems of Quincy. On Tuesday, July 8, students took a trip to Nickerson Beach where they enthusiastically col-

lected seashells that they later brought back to the classroom to measure, weigh, and plot on a graph. Students then presented their data orally to their peers. The experience and skills they are gaining in the process of collecting, analyzing, and

presenting data is definitely proving to be invaluable to these students.



Group C, Social Studies with Ms. Principi and Ms. McMahon

Students have been having fun learning about the history of Quincy this summer! During session 1, students have been studying a variety of topics about John Quincy Adams, his family, where he lived and the history of Quincy. We have visited The Josiah Quincy house, The Adams's mansion, and the Adams's birthplaces. Students have also learned what daily life was like for boys and girls during the 1800's, got to experience writing with quill pens, saw the library with 12,000 books that belonged to John Adams, and much more! Next week, students will start to work on their final projects and presentations for their Social Studies session!



Group G, Science with Mr. Imhoff and Ms. Dame

This session was fun for science group G. We took field trips to the Quincy Quarries, Nickerson Beach, Caddy Park, and the Blue Hills. Students used the science they learned to describe and write about the types of rocks, shells, and living things they discovered in these environments. The field trip to the Blue Hills was epic, as we navigated all three science groups through a three mile hike on the blue trail.



Group A, Social Studies with Ms. Galipeau and Ms. Dash

In the first week of SWELL, Group A has been investigating the history of Quincy. We visited the Quincy Historical Society to learn about the native inhabitants of Quincy, European colonists, the Adams family, and the city's

famous industries, like granite and shipbuilding. We also visited the National Parks' Kids Dig It program to try our hands at being archaeologists. Students dug and sifted dirt in order to identify hidden historical objects,

and then presented hypotheses about the people who left the items behind. Back at school, we practiced language skills by using descriptive and comparative language to talk about what we learned on our field trips.

“Students dug and sifted dirt in order to find hidden historical objects.”



Group B, Social Studies with Mr. Harris and Mrs. Haraska

Group B students have been investigating the importance of shipbuilding as part of Quincy's history through the analysis of primary sources, including written documents, photographs and artifacts. A field trip to the Charlestown Navy Yard, which included visits to the U.S.S. Constitution and the U.S.S. Cassin Young (a WWII era destroyer), gave the students an opportunity to view the final result in the shipbuilding process. In addition, students visited Squantum Point Park, and through an interactive scavenger hunt learned about Quincy's important role in aviation history.

QPS SWELL Academy 2014

Quincy Public Schools
Point Webster Middle School
60 Lancaster Street
Quincy, MA 02169
Phone: 617-984-6600

Christine Barrett, Principal and Site
Facilitator
Project Coordinators
Beth Hallett
Mary Fredrickson

A message from the facilitators, Thao Nguyen and Maura Shaughnessey

The SWELL Academy is a summer program designed to promote speaking and writing skills for middle school English Language Learners. Through the content of Science and Social Studies, students are exploring Quincy's influential history and the environments of the city. On a near daily basis, students participate in hands-on field experiences that enhance their learning in the classroom. Our goal is for the students to improve their ability to speak and write in the English language. The 100+ SWELL Academy students and their teachers have been working hard and will proudly present their final projects at the conclusion of the first session. Please join us on July 17 to support and witness their progress.

Thao Nguyen and Maura Shaughnessey, Facilitators

QPS SWELL ACADEMY IS FUNDED BY AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS ENRICHMENT ACADEMIES GRANT
PROVIDED BY THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF EDUCATION GATEWAY CITIES EDUCATION AGENDA



Pictures from our various field trips!