



PEARLS OF WISDOM

FRAN ZUCCHETTO & VIKKI KREBS

Curriculum: Science/Character Education

Grade: 3

District: Ardsley UFSD

School: Concord Road Elementary School

Principal: Ms. Rochelle Cohen

Superintendent: Dr. Richard Maurer

Project Description

Pearls of Wisdom is a three month program whereby all third grade students applied the scientific method in conjunction with a hands-on approach to the study of the structure of oysters and the creation of pearls. Students graphed the size, color and shape of their pearls in addition to writing their observations and impressions in their science journals. Students then applied the concepts learned regarding the differences in their pearls to the unique qualities in people.

Project Comments

This project was a very successful, collaborative approach joining the concepts taught in science class to those taught in the study of another culture through the social studies curriculum and character education. As students studied the uniqueness of their pearls they applied the same concept to respecting unique qualities of people and other cultures. Tolerance of differences were discussed and written in journals.

Impact on Students

Through observation, journal entries and discussions it became evident that this project had a very positive impact on the students' ability to use the scientific method and then to apply their knowledge from one core curriculum to another. New vocabulary was utilized and journal entries were more developed and illustrated. The hands-on, differentiated approach to activities enabled all learners to understand the concepts taught. Science teams interacted, shared ideas and became more understanding of each other's learning styles. Students discussed tolerance and exhibited it as they worked in groups.