



Service Learning News

3.3.08

by Judy Brookhart



By the end of last Saturday morning, more than 400 people had passed through our Old Trail School dining room, happily full of pancakes, sausages, muffins, fruit and drinks.

As well as reflecting the preparations and hard work of many staff and parents, this first annual Blue Heron Day was a success thanks to many fourth grade volunteers (and one third grader), who served breakfasts, bussed tables, and were so filled with good cheer that everyone wanted to return their eager smiles.

Their commitment started when almost 50 percent of the grade responded to the call for help. They listened quietly as Bonnie Childs and Beth Watson explained their duties. Anthony B. asked afterwards whether he could make menus. The following morning he arrived at school with a pile of them which he had created on the computer, complete with illustrations, the choices carefully spelled out.

On Saturday morning, the students arrived early for their shifts, eager to work. The job was not romantic. As we were almost overwhelmed with sheer numbers and the cooks in the kitchen labored to keep up with the demand for their delicious homemade pancakes, the fourth graders never flagged. In fact, their smiles and contagious enthusiasm surely kept every customer relaxed and happy. They took orders, waited patiently for the platters of pancakes and sausages, offered muffins and fruit, got cold drinks, cleared tables, sorted soiled utensils, scrubbed away syrup, reset placemats, forks and spoons, and showed visitors where to sit.

What a wonderful model to show the outside world what Old Trail is all about, and what kind of children come to us from great homes! Early last week someone asked me whether fourth graders were too young for such a job. You can see from the paragraphs above what the resounding answer to that question is!

Serving together,

Judy Brookhart

Judy