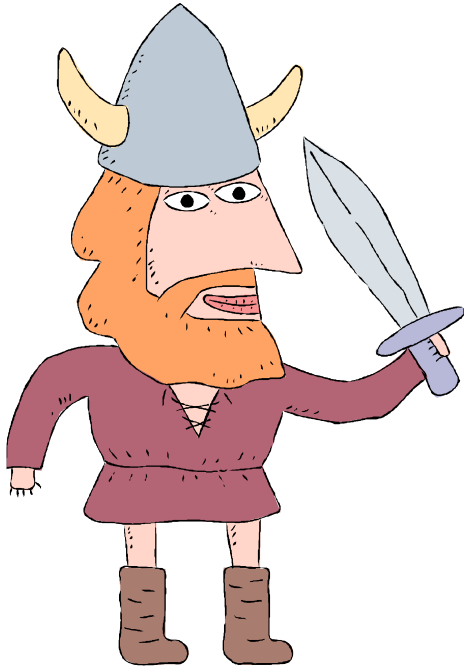


Around Dawson

With Assistant Principal Barbara Diamond

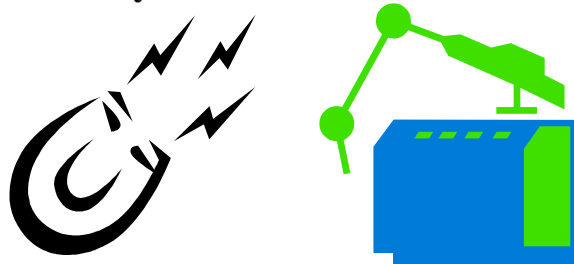
February 2010

Viking Speaker Visits Fifth Grade



The Grade 5 unit on Viking Studies was brought to life by Mr. William Johansen, a retired college professor. Mr. Johansen presented a detailed and colorful slide show that covered Viking exploration, home life, written language, trading and belief in pagan gods. Students learned that Vikings made their way to Russia, England and France and conquered New Foundland, Iceland, Greenland and North America. They heard about the saga of the Vikings, written at the end of the Viking era which told of feuds, kings and travel to North America. Students enjoyed seeing the detailed slides and had opportunity to ask questions.

Discovery Museum Visits Grades Four and Three



Students were once again delighted with hands on science presentations from the Discovery Museum. In grade three students made a magnetic field viewing box out of a clear plastic container, mineral oil and iron filings. Activities helped the third graders to learn that magnetic force has both direction and shape. Students learned of the many uses of magnets in everyday life. Fourth grade focused on lasers and light, learning the differences between them and why lasers can be used to produce precision work. Students created their own laser light show under the guidance of the Discovery Museum presenter.

Author Emily Chetkowski Visits Dawson with Mabel, the Dog Featured in her Book *Mabel Takes the Ferry*



Emily Chetkowski spoke with all the grade levels, explaining how she gets her story ideas from experiences in her life. As she watched Mabel enjoy new experiences, she found herself drawn to telling those stories. Mrs. Chetkowski shared that she was told by her 8th grade teacher that she had a talent for writing. She was unconvinced but he persisted until she wrote stories and poetry for class but she never saw herself as an author. While in training to become a nurse, she began to realize that writing is an important skill. If she didn't properly record information, it could prevent a patient from getting proper treatment. The author also explained to students how much rewriting can be involved in writing a book as she considers suggestions from her editor and also friends. Students of all ages enjoyed watching the now famous Mabel, do tricks.

Until next time, Barbara Diamond