


March 2011

HMS 6TH GRADE

Mrs. Barnes

carolyn.barnes
@nsbsd.org

Hopson Middle
School
Barrow, AK



We are on an
adventure of learning!

BARTERING/TRADING/SURVIVING...INUPIAT TRADITIONS, JOURNEYS, THE GIRL WHO OWNED A CITY, AND SEAFOOD HARVESTING

Recently, we read and discussed the graphic novel, Adventures in Trading. This novel in the base for our Inupiat Unit. This integrated unit is based on the Nigliq trade fair, with traditional bartering and trading. We discussed the changes that have occurred in our area since the days of the Nigliq trade fair. We also looked at, discussed, and wrote about old black and white photos taken of the Inupiat people, here on the North Slope.

Next, the students made 'storyboards' depicting a journey of either a character from one of their own stories, or a personal journey taken.

Along the theme of survival and acquiring goods needed for survival, I began reading from the novel! The Girl Who Owned a City. This is purely fictional, but intriguing, nonetheless. Your child may have mentioned it at home. It is about our world, but without adults. In this story,

everyone over the age of 12 died of a disease. Thus, the children must learn how to survive, get food, and teach themselves what they need to know.

Another 'journey' we are currently discussing is that of the 2011 Iditarod. This week, the students are following the race and learning about the individual mushers. Many of the students were sure that Lance Mackey would win, however, we are now discovering that this race may be full of surprises!

Finally, the students are formulating questions to ask an Alaskan Seafood Harvester. My husband, Mark Barnes, dives for a living in southeast Alaska. He dives for sea cucumbers, sea urchins, and geoducks. He will be our guest speaker on Friday, March 11th. I am sure he will have some great stories to tell the students!



Alaska State Spelling Bee

Janessa Vinas won our HMS Spelling Bee. She then traveled to Anchorage for the State Bee, where she tied for 5th place!