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Kindergarten has a Powwow!

By: Cara Grant

Oklahoma has set aside the month of November as native American heritage month, and Sweetwater's Kindergarten teacher Mrs. Woodard prepared some fun for her students! The kids got to start the week off studying different Native American tribes and artwork. They were then able to bring history to life by recreating classic Indian art. Chaydn Keathley told me, "My favorite part was the eagle part. We drew a picture of an eagle with colored pencils."

After creating their art, the students got to use a leather stamp to create their own leather keychain. They also made teepees and got to experience their own powwow. On Wednesday, November 28, 2018, Mrs. Woodard wore a tear dress modeled after the authentic dress adopted by Cherokee women after they crossed the Trail of Tears. Mrs. Woodard explained to me that the dress was named a tear dress after the loved ones they lost on the trail.

All of these festivities was for the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of the Washita just outside of Cheyenne. This is just a little bit of the activities Mrs. Woodard has done for her students since moving from second grade to Kindergarten. Thanks to Mrs. Woodard for bringing our local history to the classroom!

Lyric Theatre!

By: Cara Grant

On Monday, November 26, 2018, Lyric Theatre of the Thelma Gaylord Academy presented a rendition of *Oklahoma* for our students. The Lyric Theatre travels all over Oklahoma, from the panhandle to the far southeast corner of our state. They perform in schools throughout the year, and this year they only spent two weeks preparing for the chosen production!

The theatre troupe arrived with four actors and a stage manager to control their music and sound effects. They presented Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein's classic play *Oklahoma*. Throughout the play they paused to explain historical details, introduce new characters, and even interact with the crowd! Once the actors joined the audience to square dance with a few select students, and later in the show they invited Zoey Seymour onstage to play a minor role. They taught the kids about the original play and some unique facts about our statehood. One of the unique facts involved basket sales and square dances!

I spoke with Tess Braddock about the production, and she said, "I learned a lot about *Oklahoma*, and I didn't know that they had high-class carriage wagons back then." Thank you to Mrs. Gracey for arranging this event, and thank you to the Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma for providing a bit of lively history on stage throughout the state!

The bracket for the 5 County Basketball Conference in Reydon, OK, is on the back page of Pawprints