

Beth Nelson
Lincoln Community School
Discovering Community
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Reflections on the Gift of a Weeklong Workshop

I am most grateful for this gift of the weeklong workshop with the Vermont Folklife Center on Discovering Community. As one who just completed her first year at school librarianship at the Lincoln Community School, it was perfect. It was well-timed as an overflowing source of inspiration for new ideas. Especially for someone who believes that Lincoln is a spot that embraces the concept of community so whole-heartedly.

It was a perfect workshop for a variety of reasons:

~ Greg Sharrow has to be one of the most positive, fun teachers ever. I knew that I liked him from his communications prior to taking the class. He was enthusiastic, worked hard to plan an information-filled week and was gracious about hosting these 21 teachers. No thought or question was silly. Everything was valuable!! I'm just worried that he has certainly raised the bar on workshop teachers! I can't imagine anyone doing an as fine a job as Greg did - with pulling people together to teach and learn, and just plain-old making learning fun..

~ The week was a space to learn, to think, to be inspired and to plan. What a luxury – to be given this opportunity to learn new things, to discuss concepts and to plan what really can happen in a school. I really enjoyed meeting other teachers from Addison Country. Everyone had something to share.

~ Three other teachers from the Lincoln Community School attended the workshop. This week gave us the opportunity to connect on something that was related to the school, but away from the school.

~ The experts that Greg had lined up to teach us were phenomenal- every single one. I learned from each one. When I think about what happened between Monday and Friday...ay yi yi, what a rich week.

~ I think that the day that I had the most fun was Day 3 (Wednesday), when we broke into our different groups. I chose video because that is where I have the most to learn. Our expert was Paul MacGowan. He was GREAT. He shared his knowledge and taught us the basics in a clear and enthusiastic way. What a blast – to go to the Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op and interview innocent shoppers. At age 51, it is refreshing and exciting to learn new things.

~ The process of making a movie out of our footage was a fun challenge. Devon and I were proud of our movie (titled: “*Are You Sure You Want to Shop Here?*”) –

But I didn't leave the experience feeling that I had a strong understanding of the process.

~ Thank you for not assigning homework!! I was exhausted each and every evening and all I could muster up to do was opening a cold beverage and watching the Red Sox battle on the diamonds!

~ We were given a binder, full of important and interesting articles relating to our class. I look forward to reading them - Thank you.

~ I also like the fact that Greg said that we could ask him to come up to our school and help with some parts of our projects. I plan to meet with the Kindergarten teacher and may book a date that we can ask him to come up (we have a great lunch program -added incentive!) - I think it would be most beneficial to have him come up (Lincoln is always "up.") when we are talking about interviewing with the kindergarteners. I can't wait to see Greg connecting with the students!

~ I was so impressed with all the projects that our class put together. I especially loved the audio recordings of the goat farm. I enjoy the act of just listening and I think that I pay attention better when I'm just listening and not looking. I really felt like I was there...I could almost smell the goats and taste their cheese.

~ So, thank you, thank you, ANESU and the Vermont Folk-Life Center for this gift. I know that it will provide me with the "supplies" to try some interesting projects at my school.

Beth