

LEADING the NATION (Global Awareness)

Today we are celebrating hands-on learning at South Elementary School! Fifth grade students receive the name of a province in Canada or a country in Central/Latin America/Caribbean as a year-long study project. They do four tasks while researching their adopted western hemisphere neighbor. The first one involves quite a bit of research about the country's geography, history, special sights, and culture. The result of that is a journal write where the students pretend that they have actually traveled to see their place for themselves. They accompany this with a tri-board to enhance the visual learning when they present their "trip" to the other students in the class. Tasks two and three are a more in-depth study of culture and life-styles as the students actually dress a large paper doll cut-out in traditional dress, and then they build a typical house that reflects how the majority of citizens live in this country or province. The final research is about the foods of the culture. As an exit project, all four tasks are put together as a museum display and families are invited to **Booth Day!** (see pictures below). Since students present many times about their place, they get experience with public speaking and their classmates learn about *all* of the places. Emphasizing and celebrating these other cultures in our hemisphere also teaches empathy and tolerance as well as perspective taking.

