

# Learning to Do

## Hands-on Science!

As part of the Hero's Journey Drama experience the students have been participating in, every Tuesday afternoon, students receive a new challenge. They have time to work on the challenge on their own, then they have a lesson and discussion on the scientific principles behind the challenge, some of the heroes and history of those scientific principles, and callings that apply those principles. After this lesson, students have more time to work on their challenge and apply any newly-acquired knowledge.

So far, students have built a bridge out of straws and pins that spanned a distance of 1 foot and held a cup of 150 pennies...



...built paper airplanes and used the Scientific Method to determine what model paper airplane could fly the furthest distance...



...and attempted to create containers out of popsicle sticks, straws, and tape to keep an egg from breaking during a 10-foot drop.



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## Making Sandwiches for Caritas



Acton students took a field trip to the grocery store to figure out how much money it would take to make one sandwich. They compared the price per sandwich if they chose to use ingredients bought at Whole Foods versus if they chose to use ingredients bought at Costco. They saved

money for their "sandwich fund" by walking back to school rather than taking the bus after a field trip to the Paramount Theatre. They also gave up their morning free time before school to be trained to make sandwiches using an assembly line process. Finally, they hand-delivered the sandwiches to Caritas on December 11.



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## Christmas Caroling



Acton students spent the three weeks between Thanksgiving break and Christmas break practicing three songs: Deck the Halls, Joy to the World, and Feliz Navidad. On the Friday before Christmas break, we went caroling to our neighbors, delivering homemade cookies decorated by the students. We ended at Mr. Murray's studio, where he joined us on the guitar and the drums.

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## Experiencing History - Colonial Period



Over a period of three days (from November 16-18, 2009), Acton Academy students imagined that our school was a colony of King George. Students followed royal proclamations that come from King George via "Royal Governor Anna." During the process, they learned about taxes and probability. At the end of the experience, students voted to write their own declaration of independence and have a revolution – the outcome for which was based on the roll of a die.

11-16-09  
This has gone to far. We  
are people not animals. We  
are not british. We are not  
part of the crown. We are  
free we are not slaves. We  
do not approve of the  
king and his ways. We are  
the independent people of Acton  
Academy.  
Charlene  
Cash  
Alex  
Bodhi Ellie  
Saskia

## Run for the Water



On November 8, 2009, Acton Academy students participated in the Run for the Water Kid's K race to raise money to bring clean water to people in Burundi. Students trained for the race during PE class, and they also learned about Burundi, the importance of water, and the distribution of water around the world.

On the morning of the race, students walked in front of the racers carrying water jugs on their heads to symbolize the children in Burundi who have to walk two miles to get water every day. Students got to experience how tired their arms got by holding the jugs over their heads for about ten minutes. This provoked them to think about how much harder it would be if the jugs had been full.



## Ellie's Baking Projects

Ellie, one of our students, loves to bake - and we love getting to taste her creations! She also enjoys taking notes and critiquing the recipes.

