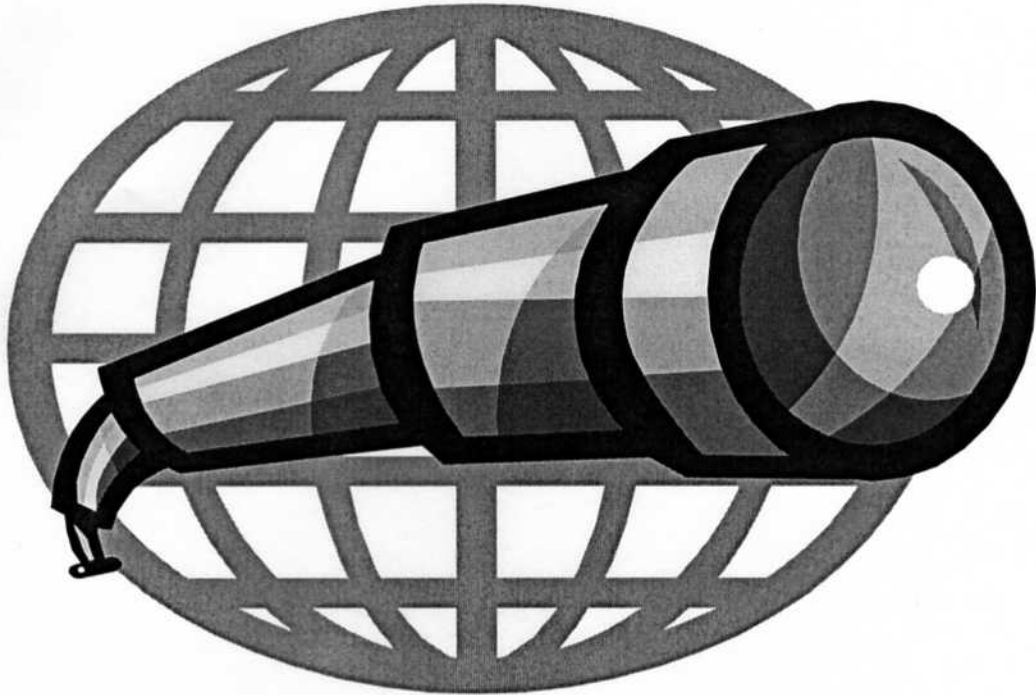


Where in the world is...



this school?

Patricia Dorsey at Padgett Elementary School

And

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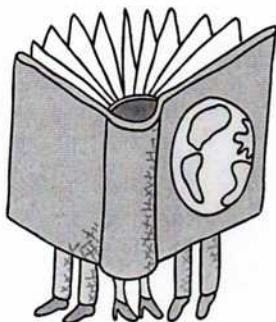
Email: patricia.dorsey@polk-fl.net

For information concerning the Teacher to Teacher Connection, please contact Susan Copeland at the Polk Education Foundation at 864-534-0434, or at susana.copeland@polk-fl.net. To apply for a grant to curtail the cost of implementing this program, please complete the Adapter application found in the Idea Catalog of Excellence which was sent to your school or visit www.polk-fl.net/pef.

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Overview



Title of Program

“Where in the World is...this school?”

About the program:

This program was developed as a cooperative effort between two 3rd grade teachers – one in Suffield, CT and one at Lakeland, FL. We both had a desire to teach research skills along with higher level skills of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Planning centered around acceptable types of clues, level of parental involvement, resource availability, motivational tools, methods of analysis, etc.

The introductory lesson included a summary of the project activities and preview of the letter sent home to families that asked for their involvement. Over the next two week period, the families were asked to find five current or historical facts about our town.

At the end of this period, a list was developed of all submitted clues. The total of 33 suggestions was “pruned” down to 22 by a class vote. The only criteria at that point was that the facts would be “too hard” or “too easy” for another 3rd grader to solve.

The classes then decided by teams of 3-4 members how to “present” the clues to our secret school. Various media were designed or drawn by class members. For example, a soda bottle became a “tornado,” pictures from Internet sites were printed and glued onto 4 x 6 index cards, clues were written or typed onto the cards, and a plastic “orange” was included as a clue.

Clues were proofread and laminated, placed in “clue bags,” and then sent off to the “mystery school.”

Upon receipt, both classes opened the clue bags and discussed each clue. All clues and possible answers were recorded onto chart paper and displayed for review. The resulting display was analyzed over the next few days. Analysis continued until we “discovered” the identify of the town. For example, after determining the name of the town, Suffield, one of the teams searched the Internet and found that there are two Suffields – one in Ohio and one in Connecticut. They then had to review all the clues to determine the correct Suffield.

