

The News From Room 209

Barton Open School

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BUILDING BRIDGES

Our study of geometry has led us into a series of engineering activities that will center around bridges. The ideas of **form**, **function**, and **variation** were the basis for some very interesting collections and got us thinking about different types of bridges.



We've started reading books about bridges, and a few questions have come up -

- Are all bridges the same?
- How are they built?
- What is the longest bridge?
- How does that bridge stand up?

Last week ended with a challenge to create the sturdiest bridge using only 1 index card. What **form** would support the greatest **load** of pennies?

DETECTIVE UNIVERSITY



Every one loves a good mystery, and that includes 3rd and 4th graders, all of whom enrolled in Detective U.

Reading skills and comprehension strategies were taught in Mystery Book Clubs. As the various novels were read, each student kept track of evidence and suspects, made predictions (inferred) and tried not to get off track by red herrings.

DICTIONARIES

All of Barton's 3rd and 4th graders were presented with a student dictionary last week by the Minneapolis Rotary. The back section of the book has an extensive reference section.

One of this week's homework assignments will require the use of this dictionary!

HELEN KELLER

We have been reading a biography of Helen Keller and last week Historical Perspectives presented a play about her life. Everyone was amazed by the actor's convincing performance.



WEB PAGE

Check out the Room 209 web page. There are photos from the Barton Astronomical Society's evening event, as well as, some that show the experts at work! Thanks to Alison Demir for maintaining that page!

CALENDAR

Tuesday, Feb. 15 Ordway Theater

Friday, Feb. 25 Goldilocks and
Little Red Riding Hood
Ritz Theater /Ballet of the Dolls
Field Trip

Swimming has been rescheduled.
We will go March 8 - 11.