

# Gateway Gazette

## Experiencing the Gateway: *A child's perspective*

A group of three and four year-old students flocked from a MetroLink car onto the station platform at Laclede's Landing in downtown St. Louis. Through a stone arch entryway, several



Photo courtesy of The College School

students caught site of the Gateway Arch rising above the distant treeline.

"There it is," exclaimed one child. "Our Arch!"

Excited chatter rose in pitch. Students pressed together, craning their necks for a better view. Some pointed fingers, others took aim with disposable cameras used to document their trip. Led by teachers Jennifer Strange and Marty Bicknese of the College School of Webster Groves, the group's mission was to explore the Gateway Arch and what makes it special.

For many people, the Gateway Arch represents the city of St. Louis. As a National Park Service monument, the Arch memorializes the people and

events of America's westward expansion during the nineteenth century and St. Louis' role as gateway to the west. In preparing for their trip, Strange

and Bicknese led group discussions to help students explore their ideas about the Arch and how it fits into their developing sense of place.

"We all have ideas about what makes the Arch significant or unique," Strange said. "As a community, we share the common experience of it as a landmark."

While the Gateway Arch does represent specific historical and cultural themes, many individuals experience it in a way that is personal, and sometimes emotional.

After their visit, Strange and Bicknese encouraged students to reflect on their experience. Their comments revealed the wonder many people feel

upon first seeing the monument. One student summed it up aptly.

"The first time I saw the Arch, I thought it was going to fall over," he said.

The teachers then helped students to convey their thoughts and ideas into several art projects. Students worked together to create a paper collage of the Arch and a three-dimensional clay sculpture of the riverfront. While students worked, Strange and Harris documented the process.

"They had to have just the right color to reflect the deep blue of the sky; and, of course, shiny paper for the Arch itself," Strange said. But the real significance of the project, she said, was that students were able to design a piece of work that reflected their experience and the impact it had on them.

"It would interesting to know how the Arch has inspired other students to go on [with their careers, projects, or other endeavors]," Strange said.



Photo courtesy of The College School

### YOUNG ARTISTS INVITED TO SUBMIT WORK

In celebration of the Gateway Arch's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, JEFF and its partners Jefferson National Parks Association and Metro will host an art contest for children ages five to 18. *The Gateway As Memorial: A Child's Perspective* is open to young artists who live or go to school in Illinois or Missouri.

The contest begins April 1, 2005 and ends October 1, 2005.

First, second, and third-place winners will be chosen from three age groups. Winning artwork will be displayed as part of a traveling exhibit.

For more information or to apply, visit [www.nps.gov/jeff](http://www.nps.gov/jeff) after March 15, 2005.

## Education Notes

The year 2005 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Gateway Arch's construction. The JEFF Education Department will celebrate by adding a new trunk to its traveling trunk program. The ARCHitecture Trunk includes tools and materials relating to the design and construction of the Arch, as well as a copy of the *Monument to the Dream* video. Developed in collaboration with the St. Louis charter school, the Construction Career Center, ARCHitecture includes activities designed to meet science, math, language arts, and social studies curriculum guidelines. School groups visiting the Gateway Arch to watch the *Monument to the Dream* movie can also use a larger version of the trunk developed to accompany the movie. ARCHitecture is one of several education projects at JEFF funded by a National Park Service *Parks as Classroom* grants.

The year 2005 will also see JEFF continuing work with a new education partner, Older Adults Seeking Information and Service (OASIS). OASIS programs at JEFF feature special lectures and tours in connection with museum exhibits, such as Gary Lucy's *Inland Waterways* at the Old Courthouse. OASIS programs in Spring 2005 will revolve around artist Andrea Kalinowski's exhibit *Stories Untold: Jewish Pioneer Women* at the Old Courthouse.

Whether visiting with a group of students, friends, or family, the Education Department staff and National Park Service Rangers hope your visit to JEFF is a learning experience.

Best Wishes for the New Year,  
JEFF Education Department

[www.nps.gov/jeff](http://www.nps.gov/jeff)



# Teachers respond to MEPs

Teachers participating in JEFF Museum Education Programs (MEPs) are asked to complete Program Evaluations. Program evaluations give teachers a chance to respond to their experience and help us to evaluate program quality. Here are some comments from teachers attending programs during Fall 2004:

*We loved the trunk! Thank you.*

*We brought 2 groups of girl scouts and had a very nice trip in all.*

*I felt the Traveling Trunk put more meaning in my lesson. It uses a hands-on experience for the students. I felt like they were visiting a museum in a classroom setting. I think the students will always remember their second grade year as the year of the traveling trunk and the Lewis and Clark expedition.*

*The hands-on activities are always a favorite and the opportunity to go and do something the average visitor does not get to experience.*

*[We were] able to relate then to now to realize and appreciate what others had then compared to what they have now.*

*The website was very interesting to browse...for enjoyment as well as to learn/teach through the [Girl Scout] program. Thank you for a nice program.*

*Our ranger was fantastic! He was the best I've had in 24 y[ears]! I especially appreciated the Indian children games he had for the children to actually play.*

*Our presenter in the museum was outstanding!*

*Ranger M. was excellent. My class learned a lot, M. You kept their interest extremely well. Thank you!*



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## Chapters in American history

### The San Patricio Battalion

When westward expansion took America to the Mexican War for Texas, the U. S. Army found itself fighting one of its most stalwart foes, its own men.

More than 200 U.S. soldiers, many of them Irish-Catholic, joined Santa Anna's army for a number of reasons, including religious discrimination, land offers, and the desire to protect Roman-Catholic Mexico. Called the San Patricio Battalion, they fought against the U.S. many times, but most notably in a battle at Churubusco.

At Churubusco, Mexican forces tried three times to surrender, but the members of the San Patricio Battalion refused to raise the white flag. The U. S. eventually overpowered them, taking more than 1,000 prisoners. Captain George T. Davis of the U.S. Army commented that the capture of the San Patricio Battalion "...proved a greater

source of gratification to our entire army than any other single event of that memorable day's victories."

Found guilty of desertion, seventy members of the San Patricio Battalion were executed by the U.S. Army.

Despite their crime, the members of the San Patricio Battalion displayed a distinct American quality, the willingness to make sacrifices for a belief. Their story is one of many in the history of America's westward expansion.



*Michael De Wit is a senior at Parkway Central High School. His interest in history led him to a volunteer internship with the National Park Service, which he hopes will help him determine which field of study he would like to pursue next year in college.*

The Jefferson National Expansion Memorial commemorates the people, places, and events involved in America's Westward Expansion during the nineteenth century. The Gateway Arch and Old Courthouse symbolize St. Louis' role as "Gateway to the West" during the 1800s.

**Jefferson National Expansion Memorial**  
11 North Fourth Street  
St. Louis, MO 63102

**Phone**  
(314) 655-1600

**Website**  
[www.nps.gov/jeff](http://www.nps.gov/jeff)

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

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Education programs and resources at JEFF are supported by Jefferson National Parks Association (JNPA), a federally recognized NPS cooperating association. Through the sales of educational products, JNPA helps to conserve, develop, and interpret areas of historical significance for the benefit of the public and posterity. As a tax-exempt, non-profit organization identified under section 501(c)(3) of the federal tax code, all JNPA proceeds fund its educational mission.

# Programs and events at JEFF

For more information about programs and events at JEFF, call (314) 655-1600. All programs to take place at either the Old Courthouse (OCH) or Museum of Westward Expansion (MWE).

## African American Heritage Series 2005

February 3, 4, & 5	Buffalo Soldiers (MWE)
February 10	The Adventures of Jim Beckwourth (MWE)
February 11	York with Lewis and Clark (MWE)
February 12	York & Jim Beckwourth (MWE)
February 17, 18, & 19	Attorney Roswell Field and the Dred Scott Case (OCH)
February 19	Jazz Duo Concert, followed by a tour of the Field House
February 24	The Lucy Delaney Story: Struggles for Freedom (OCH)
February 25 & 26	Kentucky Slavery, Migration, and Settlement at Nicodemus (OCH)
March 5, 6, & 7	147 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dred Scott Trial (OCH)
April 14, 15, & 16	Literature: The Voice of the People (OCH)
April 16	Normandy High School Band, followed by a genealogy workshop

## Discovery Saturday Series: Lewis & Clark

February 12	Opening the West: Exploration and the fur trade
March 12	Stories Untold: Women and the West
April 9	Journals and writings: Documenting the expedition
May 14	The Great Plains trade network: Trading on the Great Plains
June 11	Music on the expedition
July 9	Flora and fauna along the trail
August 13	Expedition Members and their descendants
September 10	Public lands along the Lewis & Clark Trail

## Flag Day Ceremonies

June 13	Garrison Flag Raising Program (OCH)
June 14	Naturalization Ceremony (OCH)

## Girl Scout Badge Workshops

March 28	Shore to Sea: Cadette Scouts (reservations required)
June 8	Museum Discovery: Cadette Scouts (reservations required)
June 9	Law and Order: Cadette Scouts (reservations required)

## National Library Week

April 10 - 16	Missouri Read MOre: <i>Betsy Brown</i> by Ntazake Shange
April 11	Significance of Brown vs Board of Education National Historic Site
April 12	Next Steps with the Struggle for Equal Education in St. Louis
April 13	Significance of Central High School National Historic Site

**River City Music Days Concert Series** Call (314) 982-3048 for more information.  
April 7 & 8, April 21 & 22, April 28 & 29, May 12 & 13, May 19, May 26 & 27

**Spring 2005 Teacher Workshop** Call (314) 655-1637 for reservations.  
June 15 The 1960s: A St. Louis perspective

## 2005 St. Louis Storytelling Festival

Call (314) 516-5948 or e-mail [dianar@umsl.edu](mailto:dianar@umsl.edu) for reservations.  
May 5, 6, & 7 Sparks by the River: Keepers of the Dream

## Women's History

March 19 Untold Stories: Jewish Pioneer Women