

KIDS IN PRINT

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Local kids learn math through quilting

By T. Lee Brown • Photos by J. Sharp



Rope demonstrates a beautiful quilt block.

"The quilt project made me feel calm. I've never made a quilt like that before."
—Dessa, 4th grade

"It was really fun. It was fun to find out what size our square should be."
—Addison, 5th grade

"I think the quilt we made is pretty and it has a lot of color."
—Hanna, 5th grade

"We measured the size and figured out how big to make each square."
—Ace, 5th grade

"I helped make the quilt. It felt double good!"
—Eden, Kindergarten

"It was very fun and I expressed myself. I've never sewed something in my life. Niki and Ms. Steele were great partners. I loved it!"
—Paisley, 3rd grade

Throughout the school year, math teacher Shawn Steele used problem-solving prompts to help kids see how math works in real-life situations. Usually, the prompts came printed on sheets of paper. Then came spring term, when Ms. Steele led students on an impressive problem-solving mission: to make a real quilt, from start to finish.

At Black Butte School in Camp Sherman, students in kindergarten through 7th grade each made their own quilt block. Then older kids sewed the blocks together, then sewed the strips.

"There were a few problems that came up during the project," said Ms. Steele. "We had to change the size of the quilt from a 5 by 7 foot to a 6 by 6 foot, to fit a pattern the kids wanted."

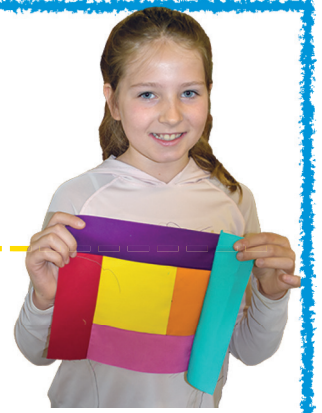
Students had to determine the amount of fabric needed for all nine colors in the quilt. "Then they had to problem-solve when some of the blocks ended up being 12 inches

and other blocks ended up being 11 inches, due to a seam allowance problem," she said.

They had only eight weeks to make the whole quilt. People from all over Sisters Country helped out. Ms. Steele really liked the connection between the kids and the community.

"Many volunteers came to the school with their sewing machines. Stitchin' Post donated the fabric and employees there helped me with questions as they came up," she said.

Ms. Steele thanked the many volunteers and professionals who helped students make the quilt. They included Karen Sheldahl, Annette Caldwell, Valori Wells, Kim Addison, Anya Race, Kirstin Anglea, Jennie Sharp, Nicki Pistacchio, Jennie Mitschke, Shirley Miller, Kathy Bourdage, Rachel Gonzalez, and Holly Foster.



Maddie shows her colorful sewing work.

"It was fun, but hard. We had to concentrate a lot. It was fun to do with all our friends. Some parts were confusing, but we got through and it turned out great."
—Mia, 3rd grade

"It was fun finding out how many inches each color was and how big each square was."
—Maddie, 4th grade

"We measured the seam allowance and how much of the quilt we had to sew together."
—Jojo, 5th grade

"It was interesting finding the dimensions and figuring out how to make the quilt."
—Emily, 7th grade

"It was very hard, but we did it because we are Black Butte School and we never give up."
—Zion, 3rd grade

"We figured out how much fabric we needed using math. We multiplied the measurement of each fabric square by 36 to get how much fabric we needed in each color."
—Lily, 5th grade



Math teacher and project leader Shawn Steele stands with the finished quilt.



Dessa and Anya work with quilting tools.



Emily and Audrie work with volunteer Nicki Pistacchio.



Hanna sews on a machine loaned to the school by a community member.



Jennie Mitschke keeps an expert eye on Daniel's progress.

Kids in Print Mission: Kids are the readers, writers, and leaders of tomorrow. We're passionate about getting them involved with print media — as both creators and readers. Expressing themselves in their local newspaper empowers children and teens, and connects them with their community. Through educational events with our sponsor, Kid Made Camp, the youth of Sisters Country learn hands-on artistic, literary, and critical-thinking skills.

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Bring your original illustrations, paintings, stories and poems to The Nugget Newspaper!

442 E. Main Ave.; 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday. Include child's name, grade level, and school or homeschool. You can use a full name or first name with last initial. Submissions can be emailed to kidsinprint@nuggetnews.com.

Due to space limitations, publication of submissions is not guaranteed. We seek to showcase a wide range of ages, styles, and abilities that represent the diverse talents of the youth of our greater Sisters community.

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