

East Hills 4-H

January Newsletter 2019



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An American Girl Christmas

For American Girl class we celebrated Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, St Lucia Day, and la Posada.

We had St. Lucia procession, knocked on neighbors doors, had a piñata, we made menorahs and we watched videos about Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, St Lucia day, a Slave plantation Christmas, and Mexican la Posada. We did the tradition of the 3 wisemen from the Josefina book and left small toys, hay and candy in the shoes of the children. The real old ancient St. Nicholas made wooden toys. The really old St Nicholas is Finnish.

St. Lucia Day is a holiday of a Swedish saint who wears a crown of candles on her head, has a tray with Swedish buns and candle and wakes up the whole family at 4 in the morning and invite them

To a feast breakfast with coffee and morning buns.

For Hanukkah we did the dreidel and lit the menorah. For Kwanzaa we ate sweet potato mush and ate apples.

Gill Tract Farm

At the November Gill Tract Farms project meeting, we were a small group because about half the group was sick. Because it had just rained, the ground was very wet and weeds were popping up all over, so that is what we were asked to work on by the man runs the farm. We spent the time digging out weeds and chatting, then some of us went and built fairy houses in the children's garden.

Gill Tract Farm is a farm that is in the middle of civilization. What is cool about it is, that even though, when you look up, you can see buildings and cars around, while you are there it is easy to forget you are on a busy corner with cars zipping by.

Gill Tract Farm is more like a giant garden than it is a farm. One of the things I like is that after it rains and volunteer plants, like arugula, for example, pop up, they are left to grow. That makes the farm more beautiful because there are more plants.

This project meeting was especially rewarding, because it was really nice to be outdoors, in the fresh air, working on the farm, after all those days of smoke and having to wear a mask!



Kindness Project Blessing Bags

We made blessings bags and cards for the homeless. So we put socks, toothpaste, toothbrush, toothbrush holders, granola bars, water, tissues and cards. We handed them out to two nice homeless ladies and a nice homeless guy and other people. They were thankful.

Nature Journaling

In Nature Journaling this month we met at the Sulphur Creek Nature Center in Hayward.

This time we focused on animals that have scales, like snakes, turtles, and even birds! We talked about paying attention to the teeny tiny details when drawing or observing from life, and looking as you draw instead of guessing and drawing from memory.

I drew a bird from a photograph inside the building, and I tried drawing a live snake inside one of the cages.

It was a lot of fun to try something new, and draw with my friends!