

QUILT IS BORN in 2009

During the Iditarod Summer Teacher's Conference, the handkerchief squares were passed out to all the teachers and you could tell they were excited to share special thoughts, pictures, lessons and ideas with classrooms around the nation. Out came the markers, stencils, photo transfers, appliques and the squares began to take shape. Quilt's squares are very colorful and mean something special to their creator. Next it was time to assemble the squares into the quilt cover, attach to a backing and tie the corners of each square. The next thing you know, Quilt is born and ready to travel to all the classrooms of the contributing teachers.

When Quilt gets to your classroom, it can be used in many ways. Here are a few ideas.

- 1) Choose a square and discuss or defend why it has the best or most important message.
- 2) Write a descriptive paragraph about a square on Quilt for readers to identify which description goes with which square.
- 3) Design your own square or create your own quilt around any subject matter.
- 4) Write stories or poetry to go with squares on Quilt.

During this school year, Quilt will travel around the nation visiting schools in Minnesota, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Florida, Colorado and California. Wow, this is a geography lesson in itself - landforms, climate, landmarks, etc of all the places Quilt will see. By sending an essay and digital pictures to Diane Johnson at djohnson@iditarod.com, everyone will be able to follow this quilt's journey on line. The documents you send will later be turned into a hardcopy scrapbook.

Special thanks to all the teachers for designing, creating and contributing squares for the quilt. BluJeans, Sammmmmmy, and KoKo (my cats) were a great help in assembling the quilt. Cats can make a game out of anything and always pick the best places to sleep. The sled dogs at Just Guts Kennel, including Sanka, have seen Quilt and have given hearty barks of approval. They love (WOOF & WAG) the dog bones on the backing.

It was great fun to get to know Quilt during the assembly process. I hope Quilt brings exciting learning adventures to your school!

Terrie Hanke
2006 Teacher on the Trail
Eau Claire, WI



SaMMMMMy inspects a Square Knot.



BluJeans wants to know where Pompano Beach is.



KoKo discovers the bones aren't real.