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Local 5th Graders Involved in Interesting Multicultural Project

by April Mann

For the past two years, Rye Elementary 5th graders have been involved in Pedal for the Planet, the first human powered circumnavigation of the globe. District 70 school board members shared in a presentation by the students at their February 3 meeting. Presenters included 5th grade students Stephanie Kauffman and Austin Peaker. Kalan Spencer and Molly Moreschini from Craver Middle School and Christina Wilson from the John Neumann School in Pueblo, were also present.

Board members were treated to a video tape, filmed and produced by Rye Elementary students. The video portrayed life at home and school, from a child's view of their world. A student-generated project, the video has been dubbed in Spanish, travelling with expedition members as the journey continues, throughout Mexico and Central America. Schools taking part in the multicultural program have formed a network, sharing the videos which promote

cultural awareness.

During the slide presentation, students explained the mission of the expedition. In addition to the video exchange program, they discussed the cultural sharing that has taken place through pen pal links to other countries.

Both Molly and Stephanie agree, "It's exciting to write to kids in Europe and Central America, sharing letters with kids in countries different than ours."

Austin adds, "It shows us how we're alike instead of different."

Kalan Spencer feels inspired by the desire of expedition team members to utilize mind and muscle to achieve their dreams. "We all have the ability to fulfill our dreams!"

Students are anxious to begin the edit work on video footage from Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras. These films will then be translated into various languages. Through programs like these, the world becomes one big neighborhood!



Stephanie Kauffman, Molly Moreschini, Kalan Spencer, and Austin Peaker have enjoyed circumnavigating the globe with human power. Not pictured is Christina Wilson. (Photo by V. Abert)