



Elizabeth Farm.

In October 2009 students from Years 3&4 travelled back in time to colonial Sydney...

At Elizabeth Farm in Parramatta the children went back in time and role played being a convict in 1828. Some of them got to make scones in Elizabeth Macarthur's kitchen by hand. They were able to see that the kitchen had a slow combustion stove that needed a fire to be lit to cook anything. Some students got to work in the house setting the table for a dinner for Mr Macarthur as it would have been done in 1828. We also saw that within the house there was a stone floor and a drawing room with a piano for the ladies to relax and sew after dinner. The students were able to assist in stripping the grand bed that Mr Macarthur slept in. They learnt that it had three mattresses, one of straw, one of horsehair and one of feathers on the top. Some students rang the bells for the convicts to come and learnt first hand a little of what it may be like to have been transported to the colony of NSW as a convict for stealing a loaf of bread. The children were able to wash something using the scrubbing board and rinse in a bucket, learning that washing day was a backbreaking task. Thankfully we were blessed with good weather so it was great to be able to have lunch on the lawn under the trees and play on the lawn.

At Liverpool Museum students were able to research working in small groups to find out the history of Liverpool. They were able to learn from seeing the things people used in the late 1700's and 1800's such as a scythe, convict leg irons and a washing machine used in the early 1830's or 1840's. There were wall displays with information to help the children learn that life for early colonists was a struggle. We learnt about the clothes people wore by looking at the display there. Additionally we were able to learn that it was difficult being a child then and that there was a school for orphans in this area - *Mrs Nolan*.

Most pleasing were the comments from staff at the places the students visited, commending them on their excellent behaviour and manners, and the wonderful way they represented St Mark's College.



Contact the school for information on how to enrol: 9825-6768.

More news and information at www.stmarks.nsw.edu.au