

**Barbara Parmly, Teacher**

The Common Core Learning Standards are what this state and country needed. However, the testing that was supposed to show whether a student had mastered the standards, did not do so. We have encouraged varied approaches to learning, including group discussions to clarify thinking and use of technology and other resources to focus student information and ideas. These were not part of the testing. My class used the expeditionary learning curriculum last year and the rich discussions, conclusions and shared information by students was so exciting to be a part of. But the test questions, that tried to evaluate what students had learned to do, were multiple choice or short answer. This did not mirror the work we had been doing in class and their scored did not reflect what they had learned or could do.