

Jennifer Lee Brings Native-American Experience to a Corner of Hill



Sunrise on Monday, October 23rd revealed a wigwam set up in the yard at Jennie D. Blake School. This is the comfortable summer home of Jennifer Lee, filled with all the necessities of life in the 1750s... soon to be filled with students and staff.

Our first “task” was to assure that everyone found a place to sit on the blankets and animal skins covering the sweet-smelling balsam “rug”.



As we learn about the history of our town, it didn't BEGIN when English-speaking settlers came and founded New Chester... the Abeneki Indians had been here for centuries.

Jennifer Lee shared stories about finding out more about her own Native American heritage.

She explained the contents as she “unpacked” some of the many baskets that held clothes, tools, and crafts.





Jennifer has made all the bark baskets of all different sizes where almost everything is stored (even a leak-proof basket made one large piece of birch bark to hold water!)

Jennifer answered LOTS of questions about American-Indian life and history. She told stories relating some traditions and beliefs.

During the day, each class had the opportunity to experience wigwam life. Did you know that there are over 560 different tribes recognized in the United States?



It was a grand day... Jennifer was patient as she tried to convey the TRUE history of the Native-American peoples “post-contact” (that is, after making contact with the settlers who came and took over the lands).

Jennifer and the students shared a rousing song from the recent movie *Moana*.

