

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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H.O.P.E.'s Middle School Visits King Tut's Tomb

Heritage Oak Middle School students they had their first field of the year to Los Angeles to visit King Tut's tomb. This was a 2 hour self guided tour with audio available.

Our 7th grade Life Science students are mummifying chicken "kings" in keeping with what we've learned about the ancient Egyptian mummifying techniques used in King Tut's time, specifically: what conditions are necessary for decomposition and how to prevent it.

We began by weighing our chickens and recording their starting weight on our lab reports. We then made an incision in the lower left below the ribs to remove the internal organs to be salted (to dehydrate) and placed in canopic jars. The chicken was then drained and rinsed clean to be salted and bagged, beginning the mummification process. The chickens are opened, drained and re-salted once or twice a week. About halfway through the process, after a good deal of dehydration has occurred, the chicken mummies will be rubbed with an assortment of oils and spices, wrapped in gauze and decorated with "jewels".

Meanwhile, our 6th grade has been learning about Earth's natural resources, specifically rocks and soils, and how they have been used throughout time. We've focused on the use of clay soil for brick-making. We have been making all the bricks necessary for the pyramid tombs that will house the mummified remains of our chicken "kings".

Meghan Kennedy, our art teacher, will work with students to create a sarcophagus for each mummy.

Heritage Oak is a traditional school appealing to parents who are seeing a proven curriculum and a safe, nurturing environment. Community awareness, academic achievement, and family values are just part of a program that focuses on the development of the whole child.

The U.S. Department of Education bestowed its highest honor upon Heritage Oak when it awarded the school the 1998-1999 "Blue Ribbon" award. The "Blue Ribbon", our Nation's most prestigious education award, distinguishes Heritage Oak for its excellence in leadership, teaching, curriculum, student achievement, parent involvement, and community support.