

Students receive a unique history lesson

by Kiley Molinari, 2010 Custer Battlefield Museum Intern



History is very important for children to learn about at an early age. A history lesson for Montana students would not be complete without a study about one of the West's most important battles, the Battle of the Little Big Horn. It's one of the many reasons that Mrs. Amy Schleicher, a 4th grade teacher at Trinity Lutheran School in Billings, brought her students on location to the Custer Battlefield Museum in Garryowen.

The trip gave her students the unique opportunity to learn while actually having the chance

to look at the scenery and artifacts. "We loved looking at the artifacts from the Battle of the Little Big Horn," said Mrs. Schleicher. "This makes the kids' learning come alive."

Some of the children's favorite parts of the Museum were the displays of Native American artifacts, especially the large headdress which was a war bonnet belonging to Chief Little Wolf, a Northern Cheyenne War Chief.

"The children were able to gain knowledge of specific parts of Native American life in battle and the significance of clothing and items they actually used in 1876," said Chris Kortlander, Director of the Custer Battlefield Museum.

Kortlander believes history is brought to life for students, especially younger ones, when they are able to visit the geographical location where a significant historical event occurred. "There is a good chance that an experience like this will become a lifetime memory. I remember visiting the Battlefield when I was in the fifth grade," he said.

"Thank you so much for taking the time to speak with my class," said Mrs. Schleicher. "Your talk was so informative and very much geared towards the kids' age-level and attention span. I even had several parents comment on how much they learned. We had a great time and will be back again!"