

Students make history come alive at Victoria Elementary

By Yazmin Alvarez, Inland Empire Community News

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History came alive Tuesday when Victoria Elementary School fifth graders made the story of the American Revolution unfold.

With an array of flags surrounding the Liberty Bell and students dressed in American revolutionary period clothing, Redcoats, White Tories and Blue Rebels all gathered in one room to play out the timeline as part of the history program, “Walk Through the American Revolution.”

Earning points for outstanding performances, memorizing key points and demonstrating the events that led to the birth of the nation, the travel through time program lead presented by California Weekly Explorer, is as engaging as it is educational, said Marlaena Slocum, Victoria’s fifth-grade teacher who spearheaded the activity.

“This is something they’ll remember for the rest of their life,” she said. “This is an experience for them.”

And for students like Juan Ojeda, making character was top priority. Julio took on the role of George Washington, complete with white wig, blue coat and hat.

“After the war I will become the very first elected president of the United States of America. First in battle, first in peace and first in the heart of my countrymen,” he said, acting as Washington before his classmates.

Students prepared about a month beforehand, becoming experts on the American revolution, making their own costumes and props, and learning the historical document for their role.

“This is an experience for them,” said Slocum.

Since the presentation is costly, students raised \$2,000 to help pay for the activity, which included two other presentations to accommodate for the nearly 100 fifth graders at Victoria.