

## A Milestone Event

*by Joan Mish*

Frank Lloyd Wright is quite the famous architect who lived in the middle of the 20th century near the town of Dodgeville, Wisconsin, where I recently came from. The Milestone Event was when the science teacher and I developed a unit to teach our students about Taliesin, which is one of his famous architectures and is close to this town of Dodgeville. It was a milestone because of how successful this unit became. After helping the students to research this topic in my school library we took the students on an adventure to visit this architecture, Taliesin. This was the first time to my knowledge that our school district had ever studied Frank Lloyd Wright.

There were quite a few negative stories about the time he spent in Dodgeville. The most interesting one was how he would drive up to a gas station and then drive away without paying.

His architecture is unique in that it was always in harmony with the environment. His design philosophy is called 'organic architecture.' His design elements were often based on plant forms and they were repeated in windows, carpets and other items in the house. His windows allowed for viewing the outdoors. I actually had one of his more modest homes right down the street from the house I grew up in and I knew the girl that lived there. In fact, when I took my science teacher friend there for a tour years later, I looked at the bathtub and realized I had taken a bath in it! Perhaps that was the milestone, actually.

Working closely with teachers on various research projects is the best way to teach students how to use the library. And even though lots of research can be done on the computers, it is still vital to understand the methods in which knowledge is organized.