

## November News

### **Media News**

Author Elise Broach is visiting Friday and presenting to all grade levels. K, 1, 2, 3 are wearing green in honor of her book *When Dinosaurs Came With Everything*, 4 and 5 are wearing grey in honor of her new book *The Wolf Keepers*. Thanks for your support!

### **Fifth Grade Math**

This week, the fifth graders are working on division - dividing by tens, hundreds or thousands as well as dividing by 2 digit numbers. Next week, we will be working on solving real-world problems with multiplication and division; this will include solving problems by drawing bar models.

### **Fifth Grade LAL**

In fifth-grade LAL, we just finished publishing our personal narratives and will be having a celebration, sharing the stories among all three classes, on Thursday. The narratives will be sent home in writing folders soon, to share with parents. We are beginning our unit on narrative poetry this week. In reading, we are immersing ourselves in a study of different genres- the students are reading short stories, poems, plays, folktales, myths, and graphic novels.

### **Fourth Grade**

Grade 4 wrapped up their study of the early people of NJ with a wonderful, wild, and windy adventure at Waterloo Village! We are now in our first unit of science: Earth Science. We will be studying how the earth changes over time through weathering, erosion, and deposition. Fourth grade mathematicians have begun chapter 3 which covers multi-digit multiplication and long division. Students will learn various strategies which can be used to solve these problems. It is critical for students to continue studying their facts in order to improve their speed and accuracy. Our writers are celebrating their personal narratives and getting ready to dive into a new genre, personal essay. Also, in reading we completed our realistic fiction character studies and are currently focusing on important nonfiction skills and strategies. Additionally, fourth graders have been enjoying fun and exciting new Breakout EDU challenges, too!

### **Third Grade**

Third graders have been very active this past month.

Students published and celebrated personal narrative stories. This helped students get to know each other as they read about the adventures of others.

In math, students have been using bar models to help solve word problems. This allows students to create a pictorial representation of the information presented in word problems. Using bar models also helped third grade students identify the mathematical computation necessary to solve problems.

We have just started our first science unit which involves the study of weather around the world. Students chose a place in the world, and they are tracking the weather there each day. We are using this information to compare how weather conditions can vary in different climate zones.

We look forward to implementing a plan to raise money for The Seeing Eye organization soon. Fundraising ideas for this cause are welcome.

### **Second Grade**

Second graders are creating characters to write about for our next writing unit- realistic fiction! They are brainstorming realistic problems their character might have as well as a realistic solution to the problem. A "story mountain" is being used to help plan out the sequence of events in the story. As scientists, second graders are observing and comparing the properties of solids and liquids. They are learning some new vocabulary words to help with their descriptions. Second grade math students are learning how to regroup within addition and subtraction of three digit numbers. Finally, as readers, they are tracking characters on their journeys by identifying the main character and the big events in the story. This will lead us into learning some retelling strategies for the longer books we are reading.

### **First Grade**

First grade had an exciting October! Students began writing small moment stories using experiences from their lives. Their personalized writing folders, which were completed at home, helped give them inspiration for their stories so thank you! We worked on retelling our reading using our "Story Retelling Rope" and are focusing on thinking about our reading. In Math, students have enjoyed learning about subtraction and are currently working on making fact families, which will help them to learn their addition and subtraction facts. Students are also very excited to explore their new science unit of sound. Students have been observing sounds inside and outside of school, as well as exploring some of the many instruments found in Mr. Villeneuve's music room.

We enjoyed meeting with you during conferences and look forward to continuing to communicate with you throughout this year.

### **Kindergarten**

Kindergarten teachers enjoyed meeting with families for conferences and thank you for your continued support. Kindergarteners have been very busy working with letters and words in a variety of multisensory ways. The students are working on publishing their true story personal narratives and really understand what it means to write for readers. Some children are adding more to their pictures to tell a story, others are adding initial letters to words to tell their story and some students are engaging in writing complete sentences to match their story. In math, the students have spent a great deal of time learning about 0-10 and applied their knowledge in a variety of ways. They are now shifting to compare numbers using terms like more than, less than, the same or equal with various hands of learning activities! As scientists they have been enjoying their studies of weather and the various tools that scientists use to measure various types of weather and patterns. Soon we will be studying our families in social studies. In our art enrichment, we recently completed a project analyzing the shades of leaves and blended colors together. Our new focus will be on gratitude this month. Some highlights have been blocks, reading Star Books and enjoying time with friends.