

March News

Kindergarten

Kindergarteners have had a wonderful start to the month of March by celebrating Read Across America Week last week. We hope families can sign up to be a mystery reader in our class after having some special celebrity teacher/staff mystery reader sightings. The readathon was a huge hit and we greatly appreciate the generous contributions made to The Seeing Eye Organization. In reading, they are enjoying small group reading instruction and growing in so many ways. They are working on blending sounds together and are learning the last short vowel over the course of the next 2 weeks. In math, students have been exploring 2d and 3d shapes. They will soon be transitioning into creating addition stories. As writers, they are doing a nice job teaching readers about something they know how to do. Some stories have been about making pizza, riding scooters, getting ready for school, and taking care of a pet to name a few! In science, students are wrapping up their studies on force and motion in our physical science unit. We will soon transition to learning about our school community!

First Grade

In reading, we are reading non fiction and learning about main ideas and supporting details. We are learning how to give examples from the text to support the main idea. We are gathering new and interesting facts about topics as we read.

In writing, we are writing All About Books. These are books that teach the reader about something. We are creating a table of contents and writing at least 3 facts in each chapter of our books.

In math, we have practiced tens and ones by playing some fun games

during math centers. We have also been working on ordering numbers and number patterns. We are now working on double digit addition without regrouping using manipulatives.

Our scientists have been so eager to learn more about the earth, sun and moon. We have gone outside to investigate the position of the sun at different times of day. Our scientists have learned that the sun is bigger than earth and that the earth is traveling around the sun. They have many questions so we have much more investigating to do!

Second Grade

Second graders are excited to be publishing their opinion essays proving a character trait with regards to their book club character. That also sadly means we are wrapping up book clubs in reading. The students loved having a partner to read with and to discuss their series with. In math, we just completed a unit on fractions, learning that a fraction is an equal part of a whole, as well as how to partition shapes into fraction parts, and next we will be exploring the concepts of multiplication and division. As scientists, we are learning about the Earth and its various landforms.

Third Grade

"Spring" is off to a great start for third graders.

Writers recently celebrated their opinion writing. This writing piece will be going home soon.

Our next writing project will involve adapting a fairy tale.

Students will adapt a classic fairy tale by changing the setting, characters, problem, or solution.

To get ready for this, students are reading different versions of many different fairy tales.

Metric measurement is a current focus in math. Students are measuring length using centimeters and meters.

Today we will be counting the total amount of donations collected after the Read-A-Thon. We are hoping we met our \$5,000 goal with this second fundraiser. Thank you to all for your support in this effort. We will keep you posted.

Fourth Grade

Today we are excited to be visiting the Zabriskie House in conjunction with our study of New Jersey's early people. The Zabriskie House is one of the very first homes built in Wyckoff. Fourth graders have been studying energy in our physical science unit. Last week we designed and built catapults using very basic and limited materials. Then, we tested our catapults to see whose catapult had the most potential energy to throw a marshmallow the farthest. In math, we have completed our decimal and angles units. We learned how to use a protractor to draw and measure angles. Next, we will be studying perpendicular and parallel lines. Our fourth graders are enjoying their book clubs as they read, discuss, and write about a variety of fables, fairy tales, legends, and myths. Also, we are working on fluency while having fun with Reader's Theater! In Writer's Workshop, we are currently working hard to revise and edit our challenging literary essays. Finally, we look forward to our Chorus Concert on April 2nd!

Fifth Grade

Language Arts:

The fifth graders are working on publishing their informational research projects on Google Sites. Soon, they will be ready to celebrate their work with a writing celebration. Our next language arts unit is called the social issues unit, the students will explore various social issues as they read picture books and chapter books in book clubs.

Math:

We recently wrapped up our work on fractions and have moved into our decimals unit. Upon completion of this current unit students will be able to:

- Read and write thousandths in decimal and fractional forms.
- Represent and interpret thousandths in models or in place-value charts.
- Write a fraction with denominator 1,000 as a decimal.
- Compare and order decimals to 3 decimal places.
- Round decimals to the nearest hundredth.
- Rewrite decimals as fractions and mixed numbers in simplest form.

Science:

Fifth graders have recently started their Physical Science unit. We kicked off the unit with a lab safety lesson, which included a fun rap song. We then started exploring what "stuff" is made of. This included rotating through stations with solids, liquids, gases, and odors. Students observed, asked questions, and took notes in their science notebooks. Students were free to make predictions and/or record other scientific thinking. We then moved on to the question "What is matter made of?" Students had several investigations (i.e. a balloon demo, dissolving salt into water (Where did the salt go?), and a dry ice balloon demo). Students jot down ideas and their thinking; they also recorded their findings and drew diagrams in their science notebooks. As students continue to explore "What is matter made of?", they observed a balancing balloons investigation and a Balsa wood demo; students continued to record their ideas, thinking, findings and draw diagrams in their notebooks. We wrapped up this question with a read aloud from *States of Matter*, a BrainPop video, and an article *Changes in Matter*. Finally, students started working on the question "Is Air Matter?"; they worked in collaborative groups to design a model

(drawing) with everyday objects to prove that air is matter and takes up space.

Media

In Media all classes enjoyed celebrating Read Across America week and Dr. Seuss' birthday by playing games like Dr. Seuss ring toss, making a truffula tree, red fish blue fish tic tax toe, reading in a boat and a house. It was a fun week for everyone!