

SEPTEMBER 27, 2019

# MT. PLEASANT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

Thank you so much for taking the time to come to Back to School Night. It was a wonderful evening full of proud moments. Our students' work was found in every classroom and our teachers shared pertinent information about their lessons. MPE is truly a special place where we strive to make everyone feel welcomed and valued. Enjoy the long weekend and spending time with your amazing children.



Students had a wonderful time at the **MPE School Picnic** on the evening of Friday, September 20. They enjoyed dancing to the DJ, participating in races and games, creating craft projects and dining outdoors!



# IN THE CLASSROOMS...

## *Kindergarten*

The kindergarteners have completed three full weeks of school!! In Reading Workshop, the children are understanding that books can become "Old Favorites." We read books over and over because we love them. Everyone has an "old favorite!" In Writing Workshop, the children are learning how to write about what they love about school. They listened to the story "I Love School" to help generate ideas. It's great to see how many things make them happy at MPE! In Math, the kindergarteners are working on number sense. They are learning that numbers are very important in our daily lives. The children are learning that numbers can be represented in many ways (numeral, number word, object to show amount). Fall Is Here!! We listened to poems and stories about Fall. The children brainstormed ideas of how the environment changes in Fall and how we change in the Fall.

## *1<sup>st</sup> Grade*

This week the first graders learned about empathy! Students have read or will read the story, *Chrysanthemum* and discussed the main character's feelings and the author's message. Students were given a small paper heart to hold while reading. Each time *Chrysanthemum* was teased because of her name, we folded the heart. Every time a character said something nice to *Chrysanthemum*, we unfolded the heart and tried to our best to smooth it out. By the end of the story, the heart was a wrinkled mess. It could not be smoothed out perfectly. We discussed that sometimes our own hearts feel wrinkled and crumpled when we don't like what someone says. We put a Band-Aid on the heart as a way to show that we can "own" our mistakes and apologize. The heart is still wrinkled, but it is healing.

## *2<sup>nd</sup> Grade*

This week in week in 2nd grade we continued to work on various addition strategies, focusing on finding missing addends, rewriting numbers, and solving word problems. In science, we have transitioned from the scientific method to engineering! We learned how to use the Design Loop Model to plan and create our own solutions to problems, and even worked as teams to build our own structure of spaghetti that could balance a marshmallow on top! In reading, we practiced making predictions in our independent reading books, and identified various traits and feelings that we are noticing in our main characters. In writing, we are continuing to write original narrative pieces based on our own experiences, and we are focusing on incorporating description, detail, and dialogue. We can't wait for you to read our work!

### *3<sup>rd</sup> Grade*

In 3<sup>rd</sup> grade we have been busy writing our Personal Narratives! We are practicing adding sensory details, dialogue, action and adjectives to our writing to make our stories come alive! We are ending our unit this week in Number Sense and will be starting our Addition Unit when we come back. In social studies, we have been busy learning about different kinds of maps (Resource, Political, Climate and Physical Maps). We are also learning about latitude and longitude lines on a map. Ask your child about the special way we remember the differences between the two. Thank you to all the parents that came out for Back to School Night!

### *4<sup>th</sup> Grade*

Fourth graders have been busy this week! We finished our number sense unit and took our first math quiz. We began our next math unit - adding and subtracting with larger numbers. In reading and writing, we are continuing to build our communities. We spend a lot of time reading and discussing books using the strategies of inference, questions, and predictions. We love to think about what we are reading! In writing, we have begun to do some quick writes about sensory details and character building. This will help us when we get to drafting our own realistic fiction stories. In social studies, we have been having a blast learning the states! We have drawn maps, gone on scavenger hunts and played interactive online games to help us remember what each state looks like and where it is located. We finished our unit on the scientific method by conducting our own experiments - this was fun! We also started to learn about the engineering design loop model and how this is different from the scientific method.

### *5<sup>th</sup> Grade*

We sure pack a lot into science in fifth grade! We've been moving full steam ahead (no pun intended) to understand how scientists think and work together to solve problems. The students are now very familiar with the scientific method and were able to come up with a testable question, hypothesis and conclusion after observing our classroom "egg in a bottle" experiment. They enjoyed visiting centers in order to try out several scientific tools. Ask them how to use a triple beam balance! In addition, we are currently studying buoyancy as well as the engineering design model. Your fifth graders have been working with their peers to design and create their own "Penny Boat" made of aluminum foil. Did it sink or float, and how many pennies did your child's boat hold?

### *In Spanish this week...*

Kindergarten is learning to introduce themselves by saying *Hola, me llamo...*

1<sup>st</sup> grade is packing their school bags for Spanish class.

2<sup>nd</sup> grade is talking about where animals live and describing them by size and color in Spanish.

3<sup>rd</sup> grade is asking their classmates "when is your birthday?" in Spanish and using a bar graph to see what month has the most birthdays.

4<sup>th</sup> grade is talking about the 21 different Spanish speaking countries and identifying at least one of those countries and locating its capital and region.

5<sup>th</sup> grade is reading about famous Spanish speakers and answering questions about their name, age, birthday, where they live, where they are from and what they like to eat and do.



### *In Art this week...*

We had a great time in the art room at Mount Pleasant this week! Kindergarten, 1st, and 3rd grade students looked at art by abstract artist, Kandinsky who was inspired by music and color like many of our artists! We also read *The Dot* and were inspired by Vashti's creativity. Kindergarten classes finished their abstract line sculpture inspired by Kandinsky's work. In 1st grade we finished our Kandinsky inspired concentric circles, and with 3rd we worked on our Kandinsky inspired paintings that are almost finished! 2nd grade used pattern and symmetry to create creepy crawly insects and worked on painting them this week. In fourth grade we worked on painting our gorgeous patterned landscapes. Our 5th grade students worked on Whimsical Landscapes inspired by artist Justin Vining, a contemporary artist who puts a spin on our everyday landscape. Stay tuned and keep your eye out for art hanging in the halls of MPE!



### A Friendly Reminder from the School Nurse, Mrs. Cullen...

- Students must be fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever reducing medications) prior to returning to school. A temperature of 100.4 or greater is considered a fever.
- Students cannot return to school for 24 hours after any episode of vomiting or diarrhea.

Thank you for your cooperation!

## **Upcoming Events**

**9/30 & 10/1 – Schools closed for Rosh Hashanah**

**10/2 – 1<sup>st</sup> day of Fall ASE**

**10/4 – 1<sup>st</sup> Community Meeting of School Year**

**10/9 – Schools closed for Yom Kippur**

**10/11 – Walk-a-thon**

**10/17 – Fall Picture Day for grades K-2.**

**10/18 – Fall Picture Day for grades 3-5**

**10/23 – Stuff the Bus stopping at MPE**

**10/25 – Pajama Day**

**Halloween Boutique**

**10/31 – Halloween Parade – 1:30 p.m.**

