

MT. PLEASANT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

11/19 - 11/21 - Book Fair

11/19 - Author Visit - all grades

Book Fair Evening Event - "Book Blast"- 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Family STEAM Night - Students in G 2-5 and families - 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

MPM Cafeteria - see more information at end of Newsletter.

11/20 - Book Fair Evening Event - "Milk and Bookies"- 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

11/21 - Book Fair "Books and Bagels" - 7:30 - 8:00 a.m.

11/26 - BNL Picture Retakes **This is a date change*

11/28, 11/29 - No School - Thanksgiving Break



Many MPE students enjoyed the Half-Day Activities sponsored by the MPE PTA last week. While parents attended Parent/Teacher conferences, students were treated to a Bubble Show and the MPE Big Top Circus!



Fourth and Fifth grade students got to experience geography in an exciting and unique way during the Earth Balloon assembly sponsored by the PTA.



Friendly Reminder: School starts at 8:05 am. Students can be dropped off at MPE from 7:35 am - 8:05 am. After that time, students are marked late. Three tardies are counted as an absence. Research shows that school attendance is an important factor in student achievement. Furthermore, many of the school rankings include attendance data in their calculations. Please make every effort to have students arrive to school on time.

IN THE CLASSROOMS...

Kindergarten

The kindergarteners are learning about their reading "super powers". They are learning how to use Pointer Power, Picture Power, Letter Power and Word Power. Each of these powers enable readers to take on a different kind of reading challenge. Kindergarteners are learning how to choose a power to help out when they get stuck reading. Sometimes, more than one power is used at a time! We are also finding out how to count using ordinal numbers. Ordinal numbers look and sound different from regular counting, but they are still easy to use. Our writers are beginning to write "I will" stories about when they grow up. Some of us have some very big plans! And in science, we are asking a big question: What is a scientist? Stay tuned for the answer...

First Grade

Students are continuing to build their reading stamina as well as using decoding strategies to word solve independently during reading. This week, in writing and social studies, students are identifying characteristics and traits to describe their family members. During math, first graders are making subtraction stories about pictures, writing subtraction sentences related to real-world problems and writing/recognizing fact families.

Second Grade

This week in second grade, students started learning all about nonfiction! In reading, students began learning about different types of nonfiction text features. They were able to explore various nonfiction texts, looking for features like table of contents, labels, captions, and more. In writing, students began working on "How-To" writing pieces. They picked a topic that they are an expert at, and began to teach others how to perform these tasks. In math, students started learning all about patterns in numbers. They practiced skip counting by 2's, 5's, and 10's, and applied that using repeated addition. Second graders continued working on their "Me on the Map" booklet projects. They can't wait for you to see the finished product!

Third Grade

The third grade classes enjoyed a nice trip to the Sterling Hill Mines! The students learned about and explored the various types of rocks, as well as how mining works. The classes are working on their knowledge of maps and are being cartographers this week! They are creating their own maps to share with the class. In reading and writing, the third graders are beginning their exploration of nonfiction text by looking at the various text features, and understanding how to research topics to write articles. In math, the students are working on their understanding of subtraction.



Third graders from MPE had a blast on their field trip to the Stirling Hill Mining Museum. They traversed underground into what was the last actual working mine in NJ until it closed in 1986. Students dug for different types of rocks and minerals and learned about the work life of a miner.

Fourth Grade

This week fourth graders finished up their realistic fiction stories and are looking forward to the opinion writing unit. In reading, students participated in Readers Theater traditional literature plays, including Pandora's Box. In science, students learned about how scientists classify living things into six kingdoms. In social studies, we started learning about the causes of the American Revolution. In math, students made arrays using colored tiles to find the factors of different numbers.

Fifth Grade

So much has been happening in the world of fifth grade science! After mastering the scientific method in Unit 1, our little scientists were asked to design their own experiment after planting bean seeds in soil. Students have been asked to observe, monitor, document and graph the growth of their plants at home. While some seeds have been a bit stubborn, others have grown into bean stalks! I can't wait to review all of the results. Meanwhile, back in the classroom, our students have been learning all there is to know about matter, physical changes, chemical changes, mixtures and solutions. Our study of matter was only interrupted this week by a brilliant introduction to plate tectonics when they visited the Earth Balloon. The students were fascinated!

Art

In Ms. Mondanaro's art class, fourth grade students are creating their very own, original superhero! Students read the story *Even Superheros Have Bad Days*, and discussed using their own individual powers and choices to spread kindness, instead of anger. Students observed comic book artists, and began to brainstorm and design their character using proportion. This week, students are working on creating, and painting a cohesive background for their hero.

Physical Education

Students in Kindergarten through 5th grade had a spooky blast participating in the Halloween stations. November is all about scooters! In the coming weeks we will participate in some exciting scooter lessons, which include individual, partner, advance and special scooter activities. Students will use different movement patterns and muscles in order to complete various tasks. They will learn how scooter activities improve our muscular strength, endurance and flexibility. Students in grades 3rd through 5th will be able to tie it to their Fitness Plans and use the various tasks to improve their fitness and keep working toward their goals.

Music

On Wednesday our fifth grade orchestra students participated in the 2nd Annual District String Day at Heritage Middle School. The MPE String students got an opportunity to rehearse and perform with 5th graders from the five other Livingston Elementary schools. The students rehearsed with the middle school and high school orchestra directors and had some help from the Livingston High School Chamber orchestra students. The students also got to listen to the Mount Pleasant Middle School, Heritage Middle School, and Livingston High School orchestras. It was an amazing experience for them which allows them to see what they have to look forward to if they continue.



More Halloween Fun!



Right click on the link below for a wonderful Halloween slide show. To open the slideshow, right click the link and select Open Hyperlink. Enjoy!

[Halloween Slideshow](#)