

# MPE Newsletter

January 31, 2020



## Physical Education

It has been a sad week in the world of sports with the passing of Kobe Bryant, his daughter and 7 other people in a helicopter crash in Southern California. Kobe was an inspiration to many people, not just in sports but in many other aspects of life. Students in grades 3-5 did a special Kobe Bryant theme warm-up in class this week, for example, dribbling 24 times and doing 8 push-ups or 8 curl-ups as well as doing some of Kobe's signature fun fade away shots. The 5th graders watched the short film "[Dear Basketball](#)" (Click to watch) and discussed Kobe Bryant's legacy. We discussed how his work ethic attributed to his success on and off the basketball court and how talent combined with work ethic is a great recipe for success in and out of the classroom.

## Kindergarten

This week the Kindergartners are getting to understand the difference between "wants" and "needs". Often, we say we "need" things when they are really a "want"! Some of our basic needs are food, clothes, shelter and love. We continued to develop as writers by writing about things we like. As writers we also need to check our work. Did we remember to use spaces between words? Did we start a sentence with a capital letter and end with punctuation? Did we stretch out the words so we could write down the sounds we heard? Being able to edit our writing is a skill we will continue to work on. In math, we are wrapping up a unit on comparing numbers. Based on the book [The Mitten](#) by Jan Brett, we estimated how many bear counters could fit in a mitten. Since our counters are three different sizes, we were able to compare the number of

bears to the size of the bears used. By using math words like "more, less, greater and fewer" we were able to talk about our findings.

## 1st grade

This week the first grade dove into nonfiction writing! Students used Chromebooks to go on an interactive website called Pebble Go, where they explored various animals that interested them. Students learned about animal habitats, life cycles, characteristics and more through video, audio and text! Each first grader selected one animal to research further and recorded facts about that animal in their "All About" animal packet. Students will be turning their facts into a nonfiction book in the upcoming weeks! In math, the first grade explored repeating patterns! Students learned that repeating patterns can change in shape, size and color. Students practiced recognizing and building several patterns using flat shapes and solid shapes. First graders even challenged themselves to make a pattern with three shapes and then applied their skills to identify the next shape in their partner's pattern. They were awesome mathematicians!

## 2nd grade

This week in second grade we are finishing up our addition unit! The students have learned multiple strategies for two-digit and three-digit addition with regrouping and will be ready to move on to subtraction next week! We have also transitioned over to our next social studies unit, all about communities! This week we are focusing on the similarities and differences of urban, suburban, and rural communities. In reading, the second grade is coming to a close on our nonfiction unit and preparing to move forward with fiction series books. The children have worked so hard in this nonfiction unit and have learned how to use nonfiction text features and structures to gain a full understanding of whatever they are reading about. They understand that there are 3 types of nonfiction (reference, biography, and literary) and can comfortably use them all! Similarly, in writing we are closing out our nonfiction research writing. In this unit, the students learned how to use reference texts to research and write all about polar lands. This week, they are typing their final drafts about polar lands! Some are writing about the Arctic and Antarctic and the people that live there, while others have chosen specific polar animals to write about. By the end of this week they will have completed a final draft and will be experts on their topics! In addition to all of this hard work in class, the students have been working so hard at home to research a famous African American in preparation for Black History Month. The students will share what they learned about their person in the coming weeks. We are so proud of how far the second graders have come in utilizing nonfiction texts and we look forward to starting our next units!

## 3rd Grade

In science, third graders have been working on an exciting culminating project for their weather unit! They are graphing weather patterns from cities around the world and noticing patterns across the continents. Look for these graphs on display in the halls in the coming

weeks! In social studies, they are beginning to learn about the Navajo tribe, as they make their way across the country in their study of Native American lifestyles. In writing, they are practicing writing about their reading as they launch the Literary Essay unit.

## 4th grade

In the fourth grade, the students completed their nonfiction reading unit. We reviewed text structures and how to integrate key details to summarize two texts on a similar topic. We are excited to start our grade-level novel, *The Wild Robot* next week. During writing, the writers continued learning about literary essays using both fiction and nonfiction texts. This type of writing helps to make connections to reading and the importance of using text-based evidence to support a thesis. This week the mathematicians explored chapter 6 on division. They came to understand how to divide with remainders and to interpret those remainders using real-world problem solving skills. Be sure to ask your child about our Superbowl 3 Act Task. During social studies, students completed centers focused on our nation's government and learned more about our constitution. Finally, the super scientists completed the unit on organisms this week through hands-on performance tasks and making scientific claims to prove their opinions.

## 5th grade

In social studies, the fifth graders recently took their Unit 3 assessment on the colonial period, and the results are overwhelmingly positive! This week, our students also participated in a Current Events Report Bootcamp. It is very important students can write a detailed, effective report and successfully follow a rubric, and our Bootcamp was an engaging way for students to practice this skill while having a bit of fun. Our fourth unit of study is "The People Rise: The Revolutionary War." Students will compare and contrast various acts, taxes and major events to determine the role each one played in leading to the Revolutionary War. By looking at the war through different lenses, students will gain an understanding of, and appreciation for, the different perspectives of those involved.

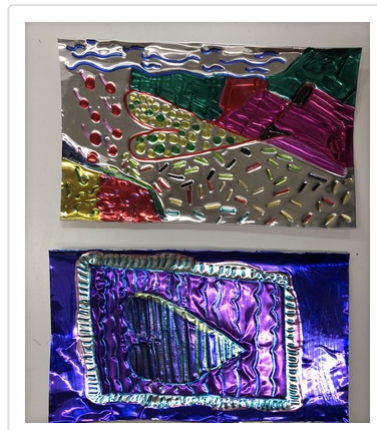
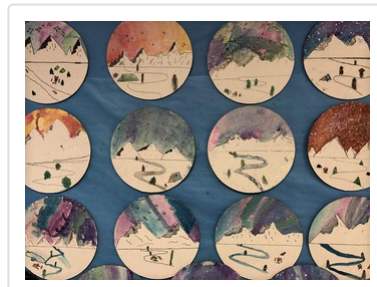
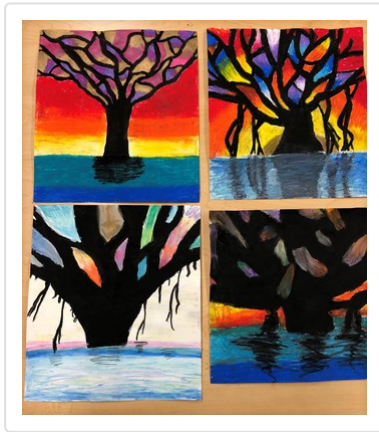
In writing, our fifth graders published their argument essays and showed what they know on the end-of-the-unit on demand. We have also been learning about and practicing different grammar concepts. While plural possessives can be challenging, the students' knowledge has really expanded! Our upcoming unit of study focuses on the literary comparative essay.

## Art - Mrs. Levy

Mrs. Levy's 1st-grade art class is learning how to sew. They are in the process of using yarn and a plastic needle to sew a simple running stitch around the border of their hand-drawn house which they colored in oil pastels. Mrs. Levy's 5th-grade class is in the process of using colorful sharpies to add dimension to the abstract design that they etched into a square piece of heavy-grade aluminum.

## Art - Mrs. Montgomery

This week in the art room with Ms. Montgomery, kindergarten learned about artist Georgia O'Keeffe and began creating their own paintings inspired by the artist while using different tints and shades of their chosen colors. First and third grade were inspired by contemporary artist Jim Dine and his huge colorful heart paintings and sculptures. Second grade students began to work on their illustrations of bunnies based on work by illustrator Kathryn Selbert. Fourth grade students looked at work by contemporary artist Jennifer Aranyi who creates beautiful mountain terrains using pen and watercolor. While 5th grade continued their gorgeous stained glass masterpieces! Be sure to look in the hallway for some new artwork coming soon!



## Focusing on Kindness at MPE

The fourth graders participated in a lesson on kindness this week. The fourth grade girls met with Mrs. Szostak and Mrs. Kelner to learn about healthy friendships and girl relational aggression. The boys in fourth grade met with Mrs. Triana and Ms. Bannon to discuss healthy friendships and good sportsmanship. Both groups had engaging conversations and learned how to make others feel accepted and a part of the MPE community in a fun way.

# Global Play Day

On February 5th, MPE will participate in Global Play Day ([globalschoolplayday.com](http://globalschoolplayday.com)) during a community meeting. We encourage your child to bring in things to play on this special day. Items can include: legos, stuffed animals, legos, board games, puzzles and much more. The one rule, NO electronic devices. To learn more about why play is important please watch this interesting talk on the decline of play: [Peter Gray's TEDx video](#) .

A Message From Nurse 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.

## Word Wiz Wednesday

We have already completed 3 Word Wiz Wednesdays! Word Wiz Wednesday is a schoolwide initiative to help build student vocabulary knowledge. Research shows a strong relationship between vocabulary and reading comprehension. Word Wiz Wednesday is a fun way to expose students to various vocabulary words.

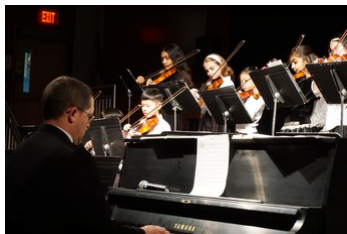
Every Wednesday, a student announces a word over the loudspeaker. He or she says the word in 2 sentences in order to provide everyone with enough context clues. The rest of the students in grades K-5 have the opportunity to guess what the word means. They can make a guess by either coming up with a definition or a synonym. Next, they complete a card at any point during the day and enter their results located on the bulletin board in front of the big gym. The prize is lunch with a teacher and friend of their choice!

The students have been doing such a phenomenal job determining the meaning of the words! Our words have been *elated*, *scrumptious*, and *appalled*. Congratulations to all of those who have won so far!



## MPE Winter Concert

Mr. Battista and Mr. Hegedus are super proud of the orchestra, band, and chorus on both of their wonderful performances yesterday. They have worked very hard the last 4 months and their hard work and dedication paid off yesterday. We are really looking forward to what awaits us for the Spring concert!





## Kindness Bingo Celebration

As a culmination of our Kindness Bingo initiative at MPE, the entire student body and staff came together to celebrate with a dance and ice pop party! Ask your student about the many acts of kindness going on at MPE on a daily basis.

