

# MPE Weekly Newsletter

WEEK OF MARCH 2, 2020

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY DR. SEUSS!!!

As students entered the building on Monday, March 2, they were greeted by the Cat in the Hat! Later in the day, staff and students cozied up for Campfire Reading to celebrate Read Across America. At recess, students enjoyed the Spring-like weather at recess while wearing their pajamas!



## AUTHOR VISIT MARCH 30 - DATE CHANGE

**AUTHOR VISIT - 3-30-20 (DATE CHANGE)** - We are so excited to welcome our very own MPE parent, Ariel Bernstein, and her illustrator, Mike Malbrough on Monday, March 30. If you would like to order a book to be signed, please send in the flyer or visit the PTA website beginning Monday, March 9th.

THIS WEEK IN THE CLASSROOMS...

# KINDERGARTEN

In addition to many exciting schoolwide activities related to Read Across America Week, the Kindergarteners used this week to connect Dr. Seuss books to their learning. Since we have been learning about characters we shared and wrote about our favorite Dr. Seuss characters. Noticing that Dr. Seuss's books have rhymes, we learned about word families. Making lists of words that belong in the same family, such as "cat, hat, bat, mat" was a lot of fun! As writers, we are starting to write our first three page stories! Using the mentor text Lunch by Denise Fleming we are writing about what foods we like to eat for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. In math, we compared flat shapes and solid shapes by identifying their sides, corners, flat faces, and curved surfaces. We also created and labeled patterns made with shapes. We love looking at our "math shape art" hanging in the Kindergarten hallway!



## 1ST GRADE

This week the first grade started opinion writing! We brainstormed various topics to write about and learned how to use supporting details to support our evidence. We also started learning about significant women in history in honor of Women's History Month! Students used chromebooks to explore important women such as Sally Ride, Amelia Earhart and Wilma Rudolph. In reading, we celebrated Read Across America and Dr. Seuss' birthday! Students rotated through all the K and 1 classrooms to listen to each teacher read their favorite book. We had a fun-filled week!

## 2ND GRADE

This week has been extra special in second grade! The students were taught a lesson about emotional regulation from Mrs. Kelner, made their own plants with recycled water bottles, and had some extra special guests come read to them! This week in reading the second graders have started their own series book clubs! Students are working in small groups, reading books that are a part of a series, and taking time to meet and discuss characters, setting, predictions, and more! They have also been so thrilled to read so many Dr. Seuss books this week as a part of Read Across America Week! In math, the students are continuing to practice two-digit subtraction with regrouping by applying their skills to multi-step word problems. They are preparing to move onto three digit subtraction with regrouping by the end of the week! In

writing, the students are working on persuasive writing. They have learned how to write strong opening and closing sentences, how to use transition words, and how to explain their reasons by adding details and examples to convince their audience to agree with them. They have had so much fun getting to apply their writer's craft to their own ideas! In our social studies unit, the students are learning about the history of Livingston from the 1600s-present day. They are tracking facts, writing paragraphs, and preparing to create a digital timeline! Be sure to ask them what Livingston used to be called and what day the town of Livingston was formed in the 1800's!

## 3RD GRADE

In 3rd grade, we have been busy learning our multiplication facts! In writing, we launched our Opinion Unit which gives students the opportunity to explore the elements of opinion writing by crafting persuasive essays. They learned that the purpose of a persuasive essay is to convince the reader that the opinion or claim of the writer is correct or valid. In social studies, we are finishing our study on the Kwakiutl tribe. We are making totem poles to tell our own stories of our families' histories. We also launched a new unit in science: Motion and Stability. This week we are studying magnets and students will test various objects to determine whether or not the object is magnetic. In reading, we are continuing our unit on traditional literature and focusing on tall tales which are stories with unbelievable or exaggerated elements. The children really enjoyed all of our activities this week in honor of Read Across America and Dr. Seuss's birthday!

## 4TH GRADE

What a fabulous week we had in 4th grade as we celebrated Read Across America Week! We dressed up, took part in a school-wide campfire reading, and even had special guest readers such as Dr. Block visit our classes. In reading, we continued our grade-level novel, *The Wild Robot* this week. We learned how we can digger deeper as readers and develop more intentional "Stop and Jots" called "Notice and Note". We also studied the main character, Roz's changes and visualized the setting to better understand the book. 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. The mathematicians continued exploring fractions. Through songs, videos, hands-on learning, and games the students came to understand how to simplify and compare/order fractions. Challenge your child to look for fractions in their everyday lives. During social studies, students completed their projects focused on our nation's government and began exploring our new unit on the Northeast Region of the USA. Fourth grader geographers are collecting postcards from around the USA (and the world!) so be sure to take part in this fun activity. Finally, the super scientists continued their journey through the human body by studying different systems such as digestive, circulatory, and respiratory.

## 5TH GRADE

In fifth grade social studies, the students have spent the past few weeks studying the causes of the American Revolution. This unit can be challenging, and the students have truly impressed me with their determination and collaboration. In this unit, the fifth graders began by studying the French and Indian War from different lenses. Please ask them to sing the song I wrote to help us memorize the facts! We then compared and contrasted the numerous taxes and acts imposed on the colonists, and students have done an amazing job putting themselves in the shoes of the colonists to analyze how they would have felt during the pre-war period. Before we take our Unit 4 quiz on March 17, students will learn about the Boston Massacre and the Boston Tea Party.

In grade 5 writing workshop, students are working toward publishing a comparative literary essay. In this essay, they will write about a theme common to two texts of their choice, and compare and contrast how the authors advanced the theme. In order for us to prepare for this essay, we first practiced finding and proving reasons to match our thesis based on a mentor text. I am proud of our writers' improvement in using text evidence to support their claim!

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO CALL THE CALL FOR SAFETY NUMBER IF YOUR CHILD WILL BE LATE OR ABSENT AT EXTENSION #7105. EMAIL IS NOT AN EFFECTIVE MODE OF COMMUNICATION REGARDING DISMISSAL OR ATTENDANCE AS TEACHERS ARE TEACHING AND CANNOT ALWAYS CHECK EMAIL DURING THE SCHOOL DAY! THANK YOU!**

## ART

This week in the art room students continued creating gorgeous artwork! Kindergarten and Second grade students worked on new projects based off artists and some fun stories! Kindergarten started their watercolor project based off the story *Sky Color*. First grade continued working on their project based off of the story *Giraffes Can't Dance*. Second grade looked at work by artist Jeniffer Mercedes before beginning their colorful creatures. Third, and fourth grade were inspired by jungle scenes by the artist Henri Rousseau. Fifth grade continued on their watercolor swirls inspired by artist Elsa Nunez. Be on the lookout for new artwork out in the hall!

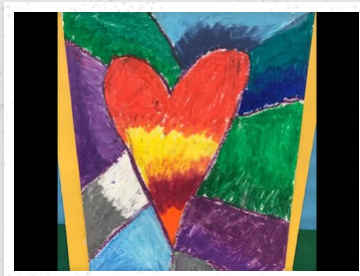
## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

The band and orchestra students continue to work hard and improve on their instruments. It is important that they are practicing every day for 5-10 minutes.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

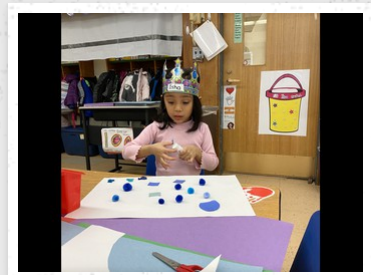
In the spirit of Read Across America Week, students read with teachers and buddies from all different grades! They enjoyed discussing their favorite books and what parts they like best. Students connected stories to their own lives and found similarities they could relate to, as well as adventures they may only experience through books. We thought about what makes a great book great and practiced how to recommend these books to others, using transition words and persuasive language.

Students also began preparing for the vocabulary they will see and hear during the month of March. They made predictions about what we might encounter this month and the special changes they might see as spring approaches. We listened to songs, danced, and acted out words to bring the magic of spring to life! Students thought “outside of the box” to come up with different ways we might find these concepts in our world, and they are excited to look for signs of spring at home and all around them!



## SCHOOL COUNSELOR

To celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday, Mrs. Kelner went into classrooms to read *My Many Colored Days* by Dr. Seuss. This book teaches the readers about different feelings through rhymes, font changes, and illustrations. Following the book, students were introduced to the Zones of Regulation, a visual chart used to help children identify feelings and strategies to help them regulate their emotions. Students were then given the opportunity to choose a feeling word and create an art piece representing their word! It was amazing to see what they came up with and see how each feeling was represented by the students.

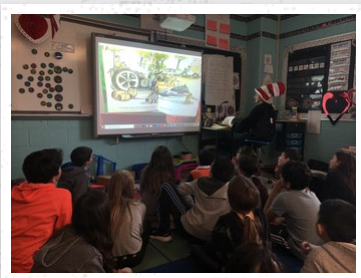


## ENRICHMENT

5th graders have been preparing for their field trip at the end of the month to JA BizTown. While preparing, students have learned about free enterprise, credit cards vs. debit cards, taxes, investments and interest. Additionally, students have learned the differences between a bank, credit union, and e-bank. They know how to write and deposit checks and use a check register to balance their accounts. *JA BizTown* combines in-class learning with a day-long visit to a simulated town. This field trip will allow our 5th graders to operate banks, manage stores, write checks, and vote for mayor. The trip will help students connect the dots between what they learn in school and the real world



## GUEST READERS FOR READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK



## STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

MPE families were very generous in donating supplies for the Mount Pleasant Animal Shelter. Student council members are shown below getting the donations ready to bring to the shelter. Thank you to all who donated!

