

MPE Weekly Newsletter

Week of February 24, 2020

“The time is always right to do what is right.” -Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



An Important 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.

Washing your hands is the single most important step in preventing the spread of infection!

Read Across America – Week of March 2-March 6

MPE has planned some fun activities to celebrate *Read Across America Week*. *Read Across America Week* is a program sponsored by the National Education Association that seeks to motivate students to read in celebration of beloved author, Dr. Seuss. This year, a number of activities will be happening throughout the week.

On **Monday**, students will dress up in pajamas and gather in the big and small gyms to engage in independent reading by a “campfire.” Students are encouraged to bring in flashlights and stuffed animals.

On **Tuesday**, students will wear crazy socks in honor of the book “Fox in Socks.”

On **Wednesday**, students will wear their clothes backwards, mismatched, inside out, etc., in honor of the book “Wacky Wednesday.”

On **Thursday**, students will wear a college shirt in honor of the book, “Oh the Places You Will Go!”

On **Friday**, students will wear their favorite hat in honor of the book, “The Cat in The Hat.”

Throughout the week, guest readers will be sharing a story in various classrooms. Students will also be planting seeds out of recycled water bottles in honor of the book, “The Lorax.” Furthermore, Mrs. Kelner will teach a lesson using the book, “My Many Colored Days.”

Grades K-2 will work on several arts and crafts activities. They will decorate a bow tie similar to what the Cat in the Hat wears. They will also draw their own Dr. Seuss character. Lastly, they will think of rhyming words just like Dr. Seuss does and write them on the Cat’s hat!

We sure are excited here at MPE about *Read Across America Week*! Let’s all spread the joy of reading that Dr. Seuss helped foster!

Kindergarten

The Kindergarteners were very busy this week! In Writing Workshop, they continued to add to their “I See” stories. They have learned that writers always need to look back at their work and edit before they can “fancy up”. The children are always excited to share their writing pieces with a friend. In Reading Workshop, the children are learning about characters. They each made their own character stick to add to their tool bag. They loved using their stick to help them use their character’s voice. In Science, students have been exploring the world of physics. They were able to complete activities to show how force, motion, gravity and simple machines are a part of their everyday lives.

First Grade

The First Grade returned back to school from break recharged and excited to get back to work. In writing workshop, we wrapped up our unit on nonfiction upon completion of our All About Books. The students researched and gathered all the information from the website *Pebble Go*. We began our next unit on opinion writing, where students will write persuasive essays and learn to provide lots of strong details in support of their topic. In reading workshop we began our character unit. This week we read books by Kevin Henkes such as Sheila Rae the Brave and Owen and made connections between ourselves and the main characters. In math, we are wrapping up our unit on numbers to 20. This week we looked at increasing and decreasing number patterns and found one more or two more than a number and one less or two less than a number and write equations various ways. In Science, we studied George Washington Carver, Rosa Parks and Ruby Bridges and wrote about why they are famous, how they made the world a better place and character traits that each had which helped them to achieve their accomplishments.

Second Grade

This week, the second grade has been working hard in their Series Book Clubs to gather information about the characters and identify patterns that they notice from book to book within the series. In writing, they have been learning how to use persuasive language and select an appropriate audience for whom to approach to get what they want. Ask your child about the history of Livingston. The

second graders are learning about how the town has evolved over the centuries. They will be creating a virtual timeline depicting Livingston through the ages. In math we have continued to work on two digit subtraction with regrouping along with identifying known information within word problems as well as how to solve one and two step word problems.

Third Grade

Third graders have shown so much growth in their Mini Literary Essay unit and are justifiably proud of themselves! Many have expressed their amazement at the quality of writing they can produce at this point in the school year, as compared to the beginning of the year. In science, third graders worked on some exciting culminating projects as they wrap up their weather unit. These included developing an informed argument about whether we should be doing more to prevent climate change (and then debating with their classmates on the topic!), as well as participating in hands-on STEM design challenges to prevent damage from extreme weather (tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, and earthquakes). As we wrap up our study of Native American tribes in social studies, if you can kindly send in any empty paper towel rolls, we would greatly appreciate it and will be using them to create totem poles inspired by the Kwakiutl tribe!

Fourth Grade

The fourth graders are LOVING their class novel [The Wild Robot](#). We are using all of our reading strategies to understand the class novel on a deep level. We are also practicing our Notice and Note as well as doing character analysis, cause/effect and visualization work. In writing the students are becoming experts at literary essay writing. We are working on our third essay where we are comparing the themes in two texts. In math we have begun our fraction unit! Students practiced making "groups of" and "sets of" and we began to learn how to model and find equivalent fractions. In Social Studies students are finishing up their government unit by creating a final project that showcases all they have learned. Science has been all about our body systems! We will learn all about the Digestive System, Circulatory System, Nervous System, Skeletal System and Muscular System.

Fifth Grade

Fifth graders have been busy learning all about multiplying and dividing fractions. Through the use of models, they have been able to explain during multiplication why we multiply both the numerator and denominator. We love songs to help us learn concepts. We learned a couple of fun raps to help us divide. Don't forget to keep, change, and flip! In Calendar Math this month, we've learned all about triangles and how to classify them by their angles as well as by their sides. We did some fun activities to help us learn about them.



Kindness Hearts

Kindness Always Wins!

Here are a few ideas that can spread kindness at MPE. Please share with your children.

1. Write a 'thank you' letter to your teacher.

Everyone loves a hand-written note. Teachers don't often hear how much their students appreciate them so offering them a thank you note is incredibly meaningful and lets them know that you are grateful for what they do.

2. Work extra hard this week.

It is so rewarding for a teacher to see that their students are working hard and putting forth their best effort. Show them what you can do!

3. Volunteer to help clean a classroom or do another chore around the school.

Got some extra time between classes or after school? Help out the custodial staff by picking up litter or tidying up a busy teacher's classroom. They will appreciate it more than you know.

4. Make a big card for your teacher.

Ask all your classmates to sign it and present it to your teacher as a class.

5. Pay attention in class.

Imagine that your teacher is standing in front of a sea of student faces and only a handful are paying attention. Show your respect and appreciation for them by being attentive and participatory in class.

6. Smile.

Easy. Free. Always a winner.

7. Surprise your teachers with a delicious treat!

Find out what your teacher's favorite snack is and bring it to them as a surprise this week. It will make their day!

8. Make a positive sign to hang on a door at school.

Visual inspiration is always a great way to share the love. Grab some markers, stickers, glitter, and paper and get going!

9. Bring a flower or bouquet to your teacher or the front office staff.

Everyone loves getting flowers! Pick some bright, cheery and fun flowers to help brighten someone's day.

10. Share appreciation messages each day of this week.

Positive messages placed strategically on lockers, in the restrooms, on a teacher's desk or in the hallways is a lovely surprise for anyone who sees them. Have fun and get creative!

NJDOE website

Music

In Mr. Seltzer's General Music Class this week, students are revisiting concepts of high and low pitch as we review Solfege Hand Signs/Syllables related to the notes of a Major Scale. Kindergarteners, 1st and 2nd Graders are continuing to review pitches *Do, Re, Mi* and *So* through singing different folk songs. 3rd Grade students continue to make great progress on playing the Recorder, and are now beginning

to play three note (B-A-G) songs. 4th and 5th Grade students are continuing to review pitch as well as rhythm, and will soon begin studying more advanced patterns including triplets and dotted rhythms. Through the use of team-building music stations/games such as Musical Telephone and Kaboom, students continue to practice their rhythmic foundation by performing, listening to, and writing these rhythms. All of my classes also use movement to reinforce these musical concepts, through different individual, partner, or group kinesthetic activities.

Physical Education

This week in Physical Education, students are learning to Jump Rope by expanding their knowledge of jump rope tricks and challenges. In the coming weeks, students in grades K-5 will learn and practice basic, intermediate, and advance rope jumping skills; then progress into a variety of tricks, challenges, long rope jumping and cooperative jump rope routines. Throughout this unit, students will also learn the value of jumping rope as a part of a healthy and active lifestyle with an emphasis on cardiorespiratory endurance.

From the School Counselor, Mrs. Kelner

On Wednesday night the district hosted the first SEL Parent Academy. The elementary school counselors presented on topics related to social-emotional learning. Mrs. Kelner and Mrs. Kandel, the school counselor at Riker Hill, presented on the topic of Social Awareness: Nurturing Empathy. Thank you to all the MPE parents who attended the event! Below are a few book recommendations that were suggested on Wednesday to help our students develop empathy.

Each Kindness - Jacqueline Woodson

We're All Wonders - R. J. Palacio

Empathy is My Superpower! A story about showing you care - Bryan Smith

I Am Human: A book of empathy - Susan Verde

The Sandwich Swap - Queen Rania Alabdullah

The Rabbit Listened - Cori Doerrfeld

Author Visit 3-16-2020

MPE is happy to host our very own PTA/MOM/Author, **Ariel Bernstein** & her illustrator Mike Malbrough on March 16th. If you'd like to order a book to be signed, please fill out the attached form below indicating which book(s) you'd like and return to MPE by **Friday, March 6th**. Make all checks payable to **MPE PTA**. Thank you!



