

# Weekly Newsletter

January 17, 2020

*“Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.” Mother Teresa*



*Remember school starts at 8:05 am. Drop off early, avoid the traffic, establish good habits and make your mornings run smoother!! We are trying to get 100% of our students to be on time at MPE!! We can do it!!*



*“Early is on time, on time is late, and late is unacceptable!”  
Eric Jerome Dickey, Best Selling Author*

Kindergarten

This week the kindergarteners are learning about kindness, and the inclusive teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The K kids are excited to participate in the schoolwide Kindness Counts Bingo activity, and are also earning tallies for good behaviors and kindness expressed in their classrooms. The children worked together with friends to make a poster to display in the hallway. Working cooperatively made everyone feel included, and allowed each worker to do his or her part. They also picked a classmate's name from a bucket and had to make a replica of that person for display in the hallway. Each person is unique and has his or her own style. Look in the hallway to see how our kindergarteners drew their friends. In math, we are exploring the terms "more than", "fewer than", and "same". We learned ways to compare amounts and how to use the right terminology. In writing, we are putting the finishing touches on our "I love" stories, highlighting a part of ourselves that we love.

### *1st grade*

This week the first graders learned how to use think marks to stop and jot an important part of something new they learned while reading nonfiction text. Students practiced with their independent books and use post its to share what they learned with a partner. During math, students learned how to classify, identify and sort solid shapes. We excited to participate in the MPE Kindness Bingo!

### *2nd grade*

This week in second grade, students continued learning all about the polar lands in writing. After learning about people who live in the polar lands, students were able to write a paragraph where they could teach their readers all about the people who live in the polar lands. These paragraphs included an opening sentence, interesting facts, and a closing sentence. They are so excited to choose one of their polar writing pieces to publish! In science, students participated in a STEAM challenge where they had to separate a mixture of unifix cubes and lentils. They designed and built devices that would separate the unifix cubes from the lentils, and had a great time testing out their products.

### *3rd grade*

The third grade is finishing up their study of nonfiction text. They are working on comparing and contrasting the perspectives of authors with articles discussing the same topic. In writing, the students are working on completing their state research and are thinking creatively on how to persuade others to enjoy their states as much as they did! In math, the classes are beginning their exploration of the fact families for multiplication and division. With Social Studies, the students are working on learning more about the Cheyenne tribe, while in Science, they are focusing on the water cycle and how clouds are formed.

### *4th grade*

This week fourth graders continued learning about food chains and food webs. They completed a collage to demonstrate their understanding of producers and consumers (see twitter for examples). In math, students started learning about the different ways to model and represent division. In reading and writing, we continued non-fiction and began taking notes for our non-fiction literary essays. In social studies, students started learning about how the government was formed once the Revolutionary War ended.

## 5th grade

In reading workshop, fifth graders have completed a book club unit, in which most of the clubs read three novels. With their club members, they have begun to identify and discuss the social issues that appeared in the books they were reading, they used these discussions to try to discover the message the authors want to convey to their readers about these social issues. Next, the students identified common social issues between two of the books they read together in order to compare what the authors were trying to say about it and the writing technique they used to bring that message across. In writing workshop, fifth graders are finishing up a unit on argument essay writing.

Our little scientists are wrapping up their unit on matter, and what a fun and interesting unit it has been! Students learned about solubility when they conducted investigations mixing sand, salt, lemon juice and vegetable oil with water to see what would happen. Ask them for their results. But, they really had a blast when they witnessed a chemical reaction first hand! Our fifth graders inflated balloons with a mixture of baking soda and vinegar. Their reactions were priceless! And...this week your children are preparing to "Be the Teacher." I have had the chance to see just how creative our fifth graders are. They have been working tirelessly to create slideshows about matter and physical and chemical change. Upon completion, they will be visiting second grade classrooms and presenting their slides. All of the students are looking forward to explaining everything they have learned to our second graders!



*MPE is working to  
earn a Dance Party!!  
Being kind rocks!!!*

*Bingo with our  
friends!!! Thank you  
to the PTA for a  
wonderful evening!*

*If your child comes  
home with a Kindness  
Counts Sticker, ask  
about it and celebrate!!*

## Spanish

Kindergarten is learning to sequence the days of the week and identify fruits from the story "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" by Eric Carle.

1st grade is going on a scavenger hunt to identify animals and Spanish speaking countries.

2nd grade is learning to create a monster using body parts in Spanish.

3rd grade is learning to create their own version of Pura Belpres story "Cucarachita Martina y Raton Perez" in Spanish.

4th grade is learning to describe what their family members like and dislike to do by reading "Cuadros de familia" in Spanish.

5th grade is learning to research typical foods from Spain and create a diagram for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

## *Music*

In Mr. Seltzer's General Music class, students are continuing to explore music through playing instruments, movement and dance activities, and by studying music notation. The 4th and 5th-grade students have been exploring rhythmic patterns, note identification, solfege hand signs, and musical instrument families through station activities and games. This week, my 3rd-grade students are thrilled to be receiving their recorders and embarking on this exciting musical journey. My Kindergarteners, 1st and 2nd graders are continuing to explore concepts related to singing, dynamics (loud and soft) and tempo (fast and slow) by exploring movement in small groups, partners, and by themselves. As we progress through this year, my classes will continue to explore more complex musical ideas and improve their musical abilities every day!

## *Art*

This week in the art room Kindergarten read the story *Monsters Love Color*. Students then mixed primary color paints to create secondary colors to paint their own monsters with! First and third grade were inspired by contemporary artist Jim Dine and his huge colorful heart paintings and sculptures. Second grade students continued working on their flower collages by contemporary artist Jonas Woods who creates beautiful flower collages, paintings, and prints. 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!

***MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Kindergarten Pre-Registration will open on Tuesday, January 21, 2020. Please note that you need to complete the entire kindergarten registration process by May 15th in order to be notified of your child's school placement by June 1st. This includes families with older siblings already attending a school within the District. Click below for details on the three-step pre-registration process.***

 [New Student Registration / O...](#)

[www.livingston.org](http://www.livingston.org)

***Winter Concert Information!!!***

The 4th and 5th-grade orchestra and band are working very hard for the Winter concert on January 30. The beginners have come a long way since September and you will be amazed by the progress they have made over the last 4 months. The 5th-grade advanced groups are eager for you to hear their all the hard work they put into the pieces they have been preparing for the winter concert. We look forward to seeing everyone at the concert on the 30th!!

