

# MPE Newsletter

February 14, 2020



## Happy Valentine's Day from MPE!!!

### Kindergarten

The children are learning to describe and differentiate flat shapes. Walk around your home and name all of the shapes you can find. Can your child independently draw a circle, a square, a rectangle, a triangle, and a hexagon?

The kindergarteners shared their latest published pieces with their 4th-grade buddies. It was fun to show off our writing and the 4th graders had many compliments for their buddies. Today, we read "I Went Walking" to inspire us for our next writing piece. What do you see when you go for a walk? The children practice great strategies when reading together at shared reading time. Then they practice those strategies when reading independently at reading workshop time. Do the words make sense? Do the pictures help you figure out the words? Do rhymes in our poems make guessing missing mystery words easier? Readers received the first of many tools that will be kept in their reading tool baggies. Readers now have a pointing stick, and will soon learn how to use other tools such as an "and then" card, and a stop sign.

### 1st Grade

This week in first grade, students continued to discuss nonfiction books in reading and writing. During writing, students used their research about their animal to write a nonfiction book. They used a variety of nonfiction page formats to help organize their learning in their all about books. For example, an

introduction, glossary and an author page. In math, first grade started chapter four-Numbers to 20. Students used connecting cubes and ten frames to show numbers and compare numbers. By exploring the students realized it was easier to count numbers from 10-20, by first making groups of 10, then counting on from 10.

## 2nd Grade

This week in second grade students began learning about two-digit subtraction! They took apart numbers to subtract multiples of ten and began working with base ten blocks to show their thinking. In reading, students have been reading their core novel, "Cam Jansen and the Snowy Day Mystery." They have begun to look at character development and make meaningful predictions using what they already know about the text. Soon, they will read more books from the Cam Jansen series to look at the various patterns that fiction series have. In social studies, second graders have taken a look at what life was like in the past compared to what life is like in the present. They are excited to learn more about what the area of Livingston specifically was like in the past!

## 3rd Grade

In third grade, students are reading and writing about traditional literature including fables and tall tales. They are identifying morals, mood, and figurative language within stories and are able to write a reading response. In writing, they are completing literary essays with details from stories/articles to support their reasonings. The weather graphing project was an exciting, collaborative assignment to complete! Students worked together to notice weather patterns across the continents and were able to graph their research. They will continue to learn about severe weather and natural disasters in the coming week! In math, students continue to work on multiplication and division facts. Finally, students will end our Navajo lessons with traditional sandpaintings of their own!

## 4th Grade

This week 4th graders started reading [The Wild Robot](#) and began having class discussions about vocabulary and predictions while reading. In writing, students continue to write literary essays using picture books. In science, students finished up their living things unit by completing a CER on animal testing and hunting. In social studies, students learned all about the Constitution and Bill of Rights. In math, students continue to learn about long division and how to check their work with multiplication and addition.

## 5th Grade

Fifth-grade readers are getting set to start the new reading unit on the interpretation of text! In this unit, they will identify the various themes within the text they read and develop those into theme statements. Paying attention to the themes they've noticed, students will then be able to identify similar themes across a set of texts. In grade 5 writing workshop, the students just completed an "essay boot camp" in which they reviewed what they know about essay structure and then wrote a flash draft essay about a literary character. The main writing project for this unit is to write a comparative literary essay in which they write about a theme common to two texts and compare/contrast how the authors advanced the theme.

Our recent visit to the 2nd-grade classrooms was a success. Our 5th-grade scientists loved sharing their slideshows and teaching the students about physical and chemical change. And...the 2nd

graders enjoyed spending time with the big kids! Currently, our fifth graders are learning all about ecosystems and how parts of an ecosystem help maintain its balance. We recently went on a walkabout to identify biotic and abiotic factors and how those factors interact. We have also had some interesting discussions about food chains, photosynthesis, and the ways in which plants benefit humans. We will end the week by incorporating art in science when we create "chlorophyll rubbings." Whether relaxing in New Jersey or in an exotic location, challenge your children to tell you about the ecosystem you are spending time in during our February break and ask them about some of the topics we have been discussing!

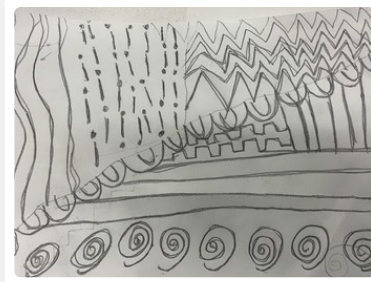
## Art

Ms. Mondanaro's Art Class

3rd graders are beginning their tree weavings! Students first chose a season and a color scheme for their tree. They learned about space, by establishing a foreground, middleground, and background. Next, students began weaving their tree by wrapping their trunks with yarn!

4th graders are beginning their line print project! Students first played a word association game to recognize that lines can convey a feeling. They examined artist Vassily Kandinsky, and observed his line paintings. Next, they planned their line design by combining a variety of lines to create an interesting composition! Students will be turning these designs into relief prints, using foam blocks and ink.

First graders are just finishing up their paper weavings! Students worked to understand the weaving pattern, under and over. Using colorful strips, students weaved onto a paper loom. Next, students learned about found object printmaking, and used bottle caps and paint to create a color pattern on top of their weavings!



## Student Council

MPE is currently accepting items to be donated to the **Mount Pleasant Animal Shelter**. A "wish list" of items that the shelter needs was sent home with the students. Please help our Student Council by donating an item or two. Please send in any items by February 28. There will be collection boxes outside the main office.

Thank you for your support!

## Global Play Day at MPE





## 100th Day of School on Valentine's Day!



Wishing everyone a healthy, safe week. Enjoy the special family time!



## Upcoming Events

**February 17 - February 21** - Schools closed for Winter Break

**February 26** - S.E.L. Parent Academy - 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. - Riker Hill Elementary

**March 2** - Read Across America Day - see below for more information

Pajama Day

Storytime at MPE - 6:00 p.m. - Media Center - feel free to wear your pj's!

**March 13** - Spirit Day - wear blue and white or MPE apparel

Family Game Show Night - 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. - MPM Cafeteria and MPM Gym

**March 18** - Day in Clay for grade 3

**March 19** - The Bash

**March 24** - District Jazz Concert - LHS - 7:00 p.m.

**March 25, 26, 27** - 12:15 p.m. dismissal for Parent/Teacher Conferences

Half Day Activities - large gym - 12:15 - 1:30 p.m.

**March 25** - Community Meeting

**March 26** - Jazz Band Assembly - 10:00 a.m.

Trep\$ ASE Evening Event with Parents - 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. - MPM Cafeteria

**March 30** - Grade 5 Field Trip

**March 31** - All Township Music Festival - 7:00 - 9:00

## Read Across America Spirit Week

### **Monday, March 2nd**

*Pajama Day! Come to school in your pajamas!*

*Bring in a flashlight and/or stuffed animal for our Campfire Reading!*

### **Tuesday, March 3rd**

*"Fox in Sox"*

*Wear crazy socks!*

### **Wednesday, March 4th**

*"Wacky Wednesday"*

*Wear wacky clothes*

*backwards, inside out!*

### **Thursday, March 5th**

*"Oh, The Places You'll Go!"*

*College T-shirt day!*

### **Friday, March 6th**

*"The Cat in the Hat"*

*Wear your favorite hat!*