

MPE Weekly Newsletter

January 10, 2020

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.

Aesop



**Kindergarten
smiles brighten
our day!!!**



**Working with
friends is so much
fun especially
when we are
being creative!**



**We love our new
media center!**

School starts at 8:05! If your child arrives after that time, it counts as a tardy. Please be on time as this is a valuable life skill! We appreciate your attention to this important matter.

Three tardies are considered an absence.



**Students will be going outside for recess whenever possible.
Please make sure they are dressed appropriately!**

Dismissal changes must be submitted in writing the morning of the change. It is really important that any changes to dismissal are arranged through a note to the teacher in the morning. Teachers do not always check email during the day as they are teaching! Thank you so much!

Kindergarten

This week the Kindergarten children are trying to work as quietly as possible. We are trying not to wake up the many animals hibernating in our classroom. We learned about which animals hibernate and how animals get ready for hibernation. It is also shopping time in Kindergarten. We are learning how to shop for reading books that fit us "just right". Every few weeks we will get to "shop" for new books to read during reading workshop. In math, we are starting to learn how to compare quantities and numbers to 10. Using math language such as more than, fewer than and, the same as, we are able to make comparisons. Thanks to the PTA we did some really cool science experiments that taught us about forces. We learned about the force of air, the effects of a force and how a force on an object can be changed.

1st Grade

This week the first graders explored sound! We learned several cool science words such as, "vibration!" Students worked together to brainstorm sounds that are loud, soft, high and low. We even shared sounds that we like and don't like to hear! Classes also went on a fun listening walk around the school to record all the sounds they heard and shared their results with their classmates. We even played an interactive game called "Guess that Sound" where we had to decipher various sounds that we hear every day! The first graders enjoyed learning about how sound is made!

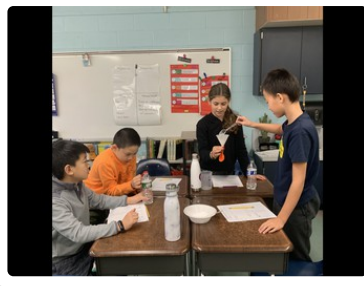


2nd grade

This week in 2nd grade we are continuing our nonfiction work in both writing and reading! In reading, we are studying literary nonfiction, biographies, and reference texts and practicing how to absorb and understand the most information we can. In writing, we are studying the polar lands and learning how nonfiction writers question the subject that they want to learn about in order to learn even more! This week, the students are taking notes about the polar lands and recording questions that they still have after reading. In math, we have finished up our place value work and have moved on to two-digit addition. Just like at the beginning of the year, students will be learning various strategies for adding two-digit numbers. In science, we are continuing to study matter. Now that the second graders are experts on the three states of matter, they have begun to study atoms and molecules. This week we will be focusing on the way that heating and cooling effects matter, as well as physical and chemical changes to matter. Be sure to ask your child about some of the experiments we do this week!



Learning about matter!!!



Thinking and hypothesizing together!



Building a rainforest with our friends!

3rd grade

Third grade students are jumping right back in again in the new year and are quickly picking up their momentum! In reading, they are practicing comparing and contrasting two different nonfiction texts. In science, students are learning about the water cycle as part of their weather study. In social studies, they finished an in-depth study of the Lenape Native American tribe and are beginning to investigate the Cheyenne tribe. In math, students are continuing to explore the concept of division using manipulatives and modeling. They are also starting to make connections between the four operations that are crucial in building their number sense.

4th grade

In the fourth grade, the students continued their nonfiction reading unit. We identified text structures, unknown words, and summarized. During writing, the writers completed their persuasive writing unit and some classes also began a peer interview project. This week the mathematicians explored chapter 5 on two-digit by two-digit multiplication. They came to understand how to multiply with tens, how to estimate products, and compute using both the area model and traditional algorithm. During social studies, students completed their journey through the American Revolution by creating a class book entitled *If I Lived in NJ During the American Revolution*. We are excited to learn more about our nation's government in our upcoming unit. Finally, during science, the classes completed their incredible invertebrates projects and learned about the importance of food webs in ecosystems.

5th Grade

Happy New Year! In social studies, the fifth graders are studying the colonial period and the three colonial regions. In the weeks before winter break, our students worked very hard on in-class projects, choosing either to make a job advertisement for a colonial job, create a billboard for a colonial region, or write a letter to family from the perspective of a new colonist. The results were very impressive! Currently, students are studying the Triangular Trade and slavery, including reading and researching primary sources. We are currently practicing how to refer to the text in our responses, and include text citations in our writing.

In writing, our fifth graders are in our final stages of writing, revising and editing our opinion essays based on the text "Your Move" by Eve Bunting. In this unit, the expectation is for students to write an

argument essay with a specific thesis, convincing reasoning, and text-based evidence. We are excited to read the published results!

Battle of the Books

The Battle of the Books teams are set & ready to read. All 5th Graders will participate & read select books for their teams. The list is on the Media Center webpage. Competitions will be held in April or May.



Physical Education

The Whittle is a large climbing apparatus that provides countless options to discover “movement answers” to “movement challenges.” Through sequences of developmentally appropriate activities, the Whittle provides infinite benefits and proves to be a crucial part of movement education. The Whittle is made up of 6 A-Frames connected by 7 different crossovers consisting of an inclined ladder, 2 rainbow ladders, monkey bars, parallel bars, cargo net, and a horizontal bar. Led by Physical Education teachers, students are guided through basic movement exercises and challenges to increase their comfort level and instill confidence prior to individual movement exploration. The students are then guided and encouraged to demonstrate problem solving skills by making safe movement decisions. The instructed Whittle tasks are consistently modified to meet goals oriented to age-appropriate levels and abilities, the 4th and 5th grades are challenged to practice at their individual comfort level using both parallel and horizontal bars. Throughout the unit, students demonstrate increased levels of confidence in basic movement skills and courage to face fears, problem solving, cooperation, critical

thinking, movement terminology, directionality, and fitness. Year after year the Whittle proves to be an enjoyable and exciting activity and a valued tool for the Physical Education.

From the Principal

We are very excited to begin a Kindness Counts Bingo Initiative at MPE. Starting on January 15th, the students will be striving to earn a BINGO in their classrooms by completing an act of kindness such as, "thank a custodian, share something with a friend, hold the door for someone, etc." If your child demonstrates an act of kindness, they will also receive an MPE "kindness counts" sticker. When you see those stickers come home, please ask your child what he/she did to earn it! We are going to celebrate all of the caring gestures that our students exhibit each and every day. We will culminate this activity with a school-wide event once the classes have all completed the Bingo board. We are very proud of all of the wonderful people, events, and learning experiences that make MPE so special.



Buddy Biography

Students are interviewing a partner and writing a biography!



Whittle Time

Throughout the unit, students demonstrate increased levels of confidence in basic movement skills and courage to face fears, problem-solving, cooperation, critical thinking, movement terminology, directionality, and fitness.



Kindness Counts

MPE school initiative promoting kindness and school spirit!! Starting next week!! Can't wait to see what happens when the whole school gets BINGO!!!!

Word Wiz Wednesdays

MPE will be conducting a weekly vocabulary task called Word Wiz Wednesdays. Word Wiz Wednesdays is a schoolwide initiative to help build student vocabulary knowledge. Research shows a strong relationship between vocabulary and reading comprehension. Word Wiz Wednesdays will be a fun way to expose students to various vocabulary words.

Every Wednesday, a student will announce a word over the loudspeaker. The student will place the word in 2 sentences in order to provide everyone with enough context clues. The rest of the students in grades K-5 will have the opportunity to guess what the word means. They can make a guess by either coming up with a definition, a synonym, or an antonym. Students can make their guesses during lunch by completing a form that will be located in the cafeteria. There will be 3 winners each week: one winner from K-1, one winner from 2-3, and one winner from 4-5. The prize will be lunch with a teacher at the end of each month.

ART

In Ms. Mondanaro's art class, 3rd-5th grade students created their Digital Art Portfolios. A Digital Art Portfolio is a folder in Google Drive, where the students will photograph and upload pictures of their artwork to showcase their growth and strengths throughout their school career! Additionally, students discussed what it meant to be "inspired", and what is currently inspiring them. Then, they worked together to find images that inspired them and uploaded them to their Digital Art Portfolio. Finally, the students were able to present their images to their peers. I loved learning about what inspires our students!



Upcoming Events

January 10 - Report cards. Bingo Night

January 15 - Kindness Bingo Begins

January 20 - No School - MLK Jr. Birthday

January 21 - 2-hour delay for students/ PD for staff

January 24 - Spirit Day/Pajama Day

January 29 - 1st day of Winter ASE

January 30 - MP1 for K ends

January 30 - Winter Concert Dress Rehearsal - 10:00 am - MPM Auditorium

Winter Concert - 7:00 pm - MPM Auditorium

