

Kindergarten

Reading- the children have been hard at work learning their super powers aka reading strategies!

Writing- the children worked in writing True Stories. In this unit they wrote about something that happened or something they did while using finger spaces, and adding speech bubbles when appropriate. The children are also asked to represent in each story where they are, who they are with and what they are doing in each story. A daunting task but these early writers are up to the task and motivated to do so!

Math- We've wrapped up learning about numbers 0-20 and are now conquering flat and solid shapes.

Science- We will be learning about recycling, reducing and reusing with an Enrichment opportunity presented for free by SWANCC in the Makery.

STEAM- The children will have the opportunity to explore force and motion along with movement in the makery with Ms Lawnizek. They have received a race car, a magnet wand, straws and tape and then have to move the cars without their hands! One group had this opportunity already and had a blast experimenting, failing but persisting and having a whole lot of fun in the process of learning!

1st Grade

We are so grateful for the thoughtfulness and generosity of McKenzie parents during the holiday season. 2020 is off to a great start in reading as we become super smart about the non-fiction topics we select independently. In social studies we are working on maps to learn where we are on a map starting from our homes and neighborhoods, to our state, and all of the way to our planet. The first graders are also learning more strategies for addition and subtraction as they solve problems that include numbers between 10 and 20.

2nd Grade

*non-fiction reading and writing, students are becoming experts on topics of their choosing by reading lots of books about a particular topic and growing their knowledge. In writing, students are writing how to and all about books to share expertise each student already has

*students are introduced to the wonderful world of bar modeling in math. This is a tool that helps students visually represent mathematical thinking. Shortly, we will be moving on to an introduction to multiplication through exploring repeated addition

*we are finishing up a social studies unit and will be jumping into the science of sound soon!

3rd Grade

The third grade team wishes the PTA a Happy New Year! The students are busy building their informational reading skills and persuasive writing craft. In science, the students are learning about the sizes and distances of various objects in space. In addition, the third graders are developing their multiplication number sense. We look forward to the Historical Perspectives program coming up, thank you iGNITE!

4th Grade

Reading — focusing on non-fiction: reading, taking notes, and making presentations on extreme weather events and natural disasters

Writing — working on personal essays and opinion writing

Math — flexible grouping for our fractions unit

Science — will start our electric circuits unit at the end of January

Social Studies — working on our unit on the automobile as an innovation

Technology

1st Grade: Review letter locations, review paint bucket tool, learn how to take videos of classmates (using a green screen), learning how to use a green screen app

2nd Grade:

Review coding using Osmo Awbie (thank you PTA)

3rd Grade:

Finished up keyboarding, review of digital citizenship, create their own fortune teller (while secretly practicing keyboarding...shhh, don't tell them)

4th Grade:

Started their Reading Rally iMovie trailer, this will be a multiple week project

Music

K - beginning to play the xylophones

1st through 4th grades are taking their rhythm and singing assessments this week.

3rd grade has begun learning to play the recorder.

4th grade is continuing to learn repertoire for their spring music program.

Library

Could you thank the PTA on behalf of the library at the next meeting?

We were able to get 53 new books and renew our subscription for the BookFlix database. We love the new selection and think the students are really going to enjoy the choices. We really appreciate the hard work and dedication that goes into the bookfair and are very thankful!

Spanish

Kindergartners have been learning how to talk about different activities and if they like or dislike them.

First graders have learned to talk about their families and their pets. They are now starting to learn about Mexico to prepare for their mercado this spring.

Second graders learned about people and places in their school. Now they are diving into learning about lunch foods and experiences.

Third graders are learning about different cities in Spain and how to talk about likes/dislikes of classes and sports.

Fourth graders have learned about their daily routines and will be starting a new unit on Spanish Speaking Countries.

Curriculum Updates for Art, Grades 1-4

1st Grade: In December, 1st graders made their own Egyptian Cartouche with tooling foil after studying the art and culture of Ancient Egypt in our Art through the Ages series. They also worked on an underwater fish project reinforcing the color wheel with

tints and shades. Next were working on self portraits and then pattern and texture with fish prints

2nd, 3rd and 4th graders have just completed a clay unit with glazing finishing in the next week. Students will be bringing their clay home by the end of January.

2nd grade made coil pots inspired by Navajo pottery. They are now working on class collage Murals based on Habitats with painted texture papers.

3rd grade worked on clay animal vessels learning basic hand building techniques and metal tooling -creating relief pattern designs. This month they will be printmaking, learning about radial symmetry

4th grade worked on their clay pieces learning the difference between functional and decorative pottery. After they finish glazing, they will be creating sand art designs inspired by both Tibetan and Mexican art styles.