

## PTA News

K:

As part of our Science unit, Kindergarten students learned about apples! They spent all week learning about the life cycle of apples, sorting apples, and finally making homemade applesauce! Students even composted the apple peels in the McKenzie Garden! Kindergarteners continued their Science unit: Living Things by venturing to Emily Oaks Nature Center in Skokie. Students used their senses to learn about and interact with the nature around them. They used wooden "cameras" to take pictures of nature in the woods. Students learned how to touch nature with a "gentle" touch and be respectful to nature. Students also used hearing horns to listen for and hear all of the different sounds around us. Finally, they used their sense of smell to sniff the different natural aromas in the environment. Students LOVED being Scientists. Thank you to the IGNITE program for making this hands on learning experience possible! Students took everything they learned at Emily Oaks and ventured into our very own McKenzie Garden to continue their nature exploration.

Kindergarteners have been busy at work during their writing workshop. Students learned how to write teaching books by planning books page by page and really working on stretching out words to write as many sounds as they can in their labels and sentences. Students were so excited to have a completed book to share with their families during conferences.

In math, students have wrapped up their numbers 0-10 and are beginning to learn the numbers 11-20. As they learn each number, they continue to find multiple ways to show the number such as tally marks, tens frames, and now adding a tens and ones component with the larger numbers.

1<sup>st</sup> Grade:

The first graders are busy becoming word detectives and learning a variety of strategies to decode tricky words. They have completed their personal narrative stories and are beginning a unit on informational writing. They begin the unit with how-to writing, before moving on to non-fiction chapter books in December. Students are learning about a variety of subtraction strategies and solving subtraction problems within 10. They continue to work on solving addition and subtraction word problems, and they have started to create fact families given a set of two parts and a whole. Their next chapter will focus on 2D shapes. The first grade team would like to thank IGNITE for supporting their trip to the Botanic Gardens. The first graders LOVED the workshop about worms and the team is looking into having the Botanic Gardens bring a workshop into the classroom this winter or spring. They are also excited to celebrate the end of their habitats unit with a fun Fine Arts project this month.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:

Second grade is transitioning into the wonderful world of subtraction up to 1,000. Students are using all they know about addition to think about the inverse operation of subtraction. They are using a variety of strategies to show their thinking, drawings, number lines, "traditional" calculations, and place value blocks to prove their answers to skeptics. In writing, we are finishing up the personal narratives unit and are moving onto non-fiction how to and all about writing. In reading, we are learning how to become experts on a topic by reading multiple non-fiction books about a topic to grow our knowledge. Our reading and writing units will go hand in hand to enrich one another. In social studies, are beginning to investigate how the Navajo of the Southwest lived long ago and how their way of life was dependent upon the climate and nearby resources.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:

The third grade team would like to thank the PTA for a delicious dinner at parent-teacher conferences!

The third grade students are continuing to strengthen their addition and subtraction skills in their math group and they will soon begin applying those skills to word problems. In writing, the students are demonstrating their creativity through their narrative stories. During reading, the students are practicing the skills of predicting, summarizing and studying characters and plot structure.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Here are some of the things going on in fourth grade:

\*The fourth graders enjoyed the indoor Halloween parade and class parties. Thanks to all of the parents who helped out!

They also participated in an enrichment activity the week before in the Maker's Space of the Learning Commons. SCARCE, an environmental group, showed the students how different pollutants can affect a community's ground water.

\*Classes enjoyed seeing all the great books at their Book Fair previews. Thanks to the PTA and to our fourth grade families for adding to our classroom libraries through your generous stipend and donations.

\*The students will start to practice keyboarding skills in technology class and will continue at home and during WIN time.

\*The Second Step lessons for fourth grade have been helpful to the students as they learn more about getting along with their peers. Some lessons are about being assertive- (not aggressive and not passive). They are learning more about having compassion for one another and are developing some social skills as they practice giving compliments, making conversations and joining in a group activities.

## Technology:

### First Grade:

Learning shape tools in KidPix

Learning texture tools in KidPix

### Second Grade:

Perfecting our shape drawing skills

3D Printing: Creepy Carrots are coming home this week

Coding Ozobots (oz-oh-bots) for a McKenzie Thanksgiving Day Parade

### Third Grade:

Keyboarding

Digital Citizenship

### Fourth Grade:

Animation project

Keyboarding review

## Art:

1st - We continue to work on color and color wheel related projects with color mixing in pastels and paint. Next we will be continuing our Art through the Ages unit exploring the art of ancient Egypt.

2nd .- Students just completed wonderful painted landscapes and we are now collaborating with Ms. Bergman to create props for next months concert using weaving techniques and exploring patterns. Next, we will be starting our clay unit

3rd - Classes have been working on Color Wheel sculptures that are displayed outside the art room as each class completes their project . Be sure to look for their presentations in SeeSaw where they describe their sculptures. Continuing on our 3-D unit, 3rd grade will be moving into clay at the end of the month

4th - Students are learning about the human figure and how to draw gesture drawings and movement after our stop animation flip book lesson. Students are comparing artwork from Degas, Lawrence, and Giacometti. After figure drawing, students will be working on 3-D wire figures.

Music:

There are some events coming up for parents of 1st graders and 2nd graders: The 1st grade "informances" are on Dec. 10 and 11. Parents will be invited to their child's music class to participate and share music experiences with them. We call these sessions "informances" because they are both informal and informational! The session times and dates are:

**Tuesday, Dec. 10, 10:10 - 10:40 - Mrs. Luskin's class**

**Wednesday, Dec. 11, 10:10 - 10:40 - Mrs. Young's class, 10:45 - 11:15 - Mrs. Bieschke's class**

**The 2nd grade music program is on Wed., Dec. 18, 2:30 P.M.**