



PS 98 SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Home School Connection

January 2019

Principal Kim's Message

Happy 2019 PS 98 Families and Friends! I hope the New Year brings good health and happiness to each and every family.

A new year always brings opportunities for reflection and dreams of possibilities. At PS 98, during the month of January, we had two very special opportunities to dream and think about the future – the Student Council Future Day and Famous Person Day events.

On Future Day, our young students were inspired by parents and community volunteers for their passion and excitement for their chosen profession. Because of their generosity with time and knowledge, our students were introduced to a wide and diverse range of career options as they expanded their perspectives on the opportunities that are open to them. On Famous Person Day, our students researched, came to school dressed as their exemplary person whom they want to emulate, then shared their accomplishments with each other.

Hopes for the future are cultivated and practiced every day at PS 98. Our students, Giovanna Rao, Sydney Pullo, Ella Goodstein, Amelie Gomez, Simon Finamore, Parsa Melatparast, Konstantino Plioutas, Dejonay Boyd, Beyan Velieva, Aurelio Cagno, and Michael Cohen give up their lunch recess daily to support and help younger students. Julius Brown, Riley Harrigan, Julia Newton, and Isabella Diaz assist young students as Bus Monitors so that everyone is safe. Layla Cottman, Valentina Dinapoli, Ella Goodstein, Madison Hall, Meagan Hall, Kaylee LoGiudice, Chloe Park, Mia Singer, and Kayla Yi are Ambassador members who are learning the philosophy of philanthropy inspiring others to collect and donate necessities for people in need.

Through continued modeling and support from our dedicated teachers and staff and committed parents and community members, our students demonstrate care, concern, understanding and empathy for others. Seeing our students believe in core values, identify and follow their passion and understanding that hard work and sacrifice is needed to achieve dreams makes our future bright.

With the warmest regards,
Lena Kim
Principal

Unit of Study: Light

Our Pre-K current Unit of Study is entitled, Light. Throughout this unit of study we have been encouraging the children to inquire, think and explore light, darkness and shadows. We are exploring the questions: *What kinds of light are around us? What is darkness? How does light help us? What are shadows?*

Children have had opportunities to deepen their understanding of natural and man-made sources of light through read-alouds and center activities. Some of our read alouds include, *Sources of Light* by Daniel Nunn, *Light is All Around Us* by Wendy Pfeffer and *Shadows and Reflections* by Tana Hoban. After reading these books, we have helped the children brainstorm their ideas about light on a Circle Map. We have also helped the children describe qualities of the sun after watching videos, listening to books and participating in experiments. We recorded their thinking about the sun on a Bubble Map.

Students are currently making stained glass windows using tissue paper and container lids in the Art Center. We are hanging them in the windows and encouraging the children to note the effect the sunlight has on them. In the Science Center we are researching the difference between diurnal and nocturnal animals. The children were interested in learning about why our hermit crab sleeps during the day. We learned that crabs like many other nocturnal animals stay out of the sunlight to prevent dehydration.

We hope to have some sunny days so that we could explore shadows during our Outdoor Playtime. Curiosity and wonder are alive in Pre-K!

Kindergarten News

Mrs. Eisenberg, Ms. Borgese and Mrs. Sheridan

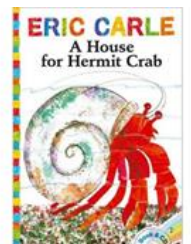
Foundations



We have begun our second unit in Foundations. In Unit 2, the children will learn how to blend and read three-sound short vowel words by tapping out using their fingers. These words are often called CVC words. During the first few weeks, the CVC words will begin with the consonants f, l, m, n, r, and s. These consonants have sounds that can be “held” into the vowel sound and are easier to blend. The children will also learn how to form capital letter A-Z. These will be taught to the students in alphabetical order. The children will continue to use their magnetic tile boards and dry erase boards to help them practice sounds and letter formation.

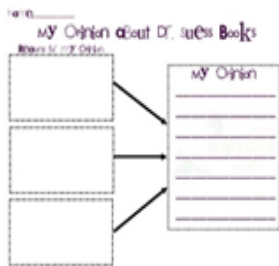
Reading

We have been reading the story, *A House for Hermit Crab* by Eric Carle. Our essential question for this unit is: How can retelling help readers to understand stories? The children were introduced to a new Thinking Map to help them understand the story. We created Brace Maps to identify the parts of a hermit crab and the parts of an ocean. The children created beautiful illustrations using their Thinking Maps as a guide. We also continued to use previously taught Thinking Maps to teach story



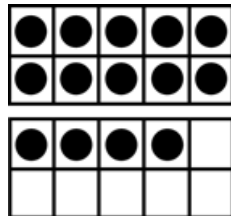
elements. The children have been using the Thinking Maps to write complete sentences about the story.

Writing



The children have been learning how to write expository writing pieces where they give their opinion and reasons to support their opinion. They learned how to organize their thoughts using a Partial Multi-Flow Thinking Map. For our first opinion writing piece, the children had to choose who their best friend is and write reasons why they are best friends. The children used both a Bubble Map and Partial Multi-Flow Map to help guide their writing. We just completed an opinion piece about our favorite sport or hobby. The children will continue to work on many opinion writing pieces throughout this unit.

Math



We just finished our chapter on subtraction. The children learned how to represent subtraction as taking apart and taking from. We solved subtraction word problems using objects, drawings, and even ourselves to represent problems! We are now working on representing,

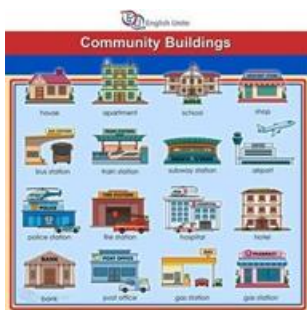
counting, and writing numbers from 11-19. The children will be representing numbers in various ways including using a tens frame, drawing objects, and writing equations.

Science

The children have been learning about living and nonliving things. We learned that living things find the nutrients, water, sunlight, shelter, living space, and other essentials they need to survive. The children created Tree Maps to sort living and nonliving things. They used the information on the Tree Map to write about living and nonliving things. The children also created Circle Maps to identify animal needs. They will be using the information from their Circle Maps to create a new thinking map called a Bridge Map. The Bridge Map will show the relationship between animals and the food they need to survive.



Social Studies and Sanford Harmony



We just finished up our second unit in Social Studies. The children learned how they change and grow over time. They created Flow Maps to show how they changed from a baby to a child. In unit 3 the children will be learning what makes up a community. They started the unit working in groups to create Circle Maps to brainstorm the places that make up a community.

We will be learning about the different buildings that make up a community and the purpose of each building.



In Sanford Harmony we have been learning how to be a “feelings detective.” The children listened to stories about Z and learned how feelings change the way you look and sound on the outside, and feel on the inside. The children created Tree Maps to represent the different emotions people have. We worked with buddies to study pictures of people and wrote stories based on the emotion shown. Our next unit will be about communication.

First Grade News

Ms. Convery, Mrs. Rodgers and Mrs. Pinto

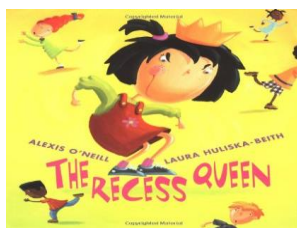
Foundations



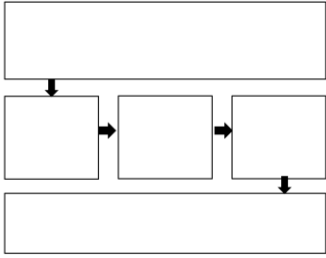
We have just begun Unit 8 in Foundations. In this unit, the students will learn the difference between a blend and a digraph. They will be expected to blend, read, segment, and spell words with up to 4 sounds. They will focus on the following r-controlled vowel sounds: ar, or, er, ir ur. In the following unit, the students will learn about closed syllables. They will learn the difference between a closed syllable and an open syllable. They will focus on the vowel team sounds for: ai, ay, ee, ea, ey, oi, oy.

Reading

The first grade students have been engaged in two exciting fictional stories that focus on the theme of classroom citizenship. We started the unit by reading *Fine, Fine School* by Sharon Creech. The students were immersed in a number of different lessons around analyzing characters, which included using adjectives, going back to the text to support their ideas with text evidence, and identifying the different points of view within one text. We are currently using the same skills to read and understand a similar text titled *The Recess Queen* by Alexis O'neill. The students have been enjoying the author's creative choice of words, such as rhyme and rhythm, throughout the text. In addition to the reading skills mentioned above, we are incorporating social emotional lessons throughout the unit. We are focusing on friendship and the qualities a good classroom citizen possesses.



Writing



The first graders have begun learning how to write about their personal opinions about a specific topic or issue. They are expected to organize their thoughts using Thinking Maps. They start by brainstorming their ideas on a Circle map. Once they identify their topic, they create a Partial Multi-Flow map to provide reasons to support their opinion. Next, the students create a Flee Map to help organize their thoughts and to plan their writing. The students are expected to include an opening sentence that states their opinion, and a closing sentence that summarizes this same thought using different words. Between the opening and closing sentences, the students

will write several sentences explaining their reasons why. These sentences should also include transition words (first, next, last).

Math

The children have just finished learning various addition and subtraction strategies in Chapter 5. In Chapter 6, the students will be learning how to use place value to model, read, and write numbers to 120. During this unit, the students will explore place value by using tens frames, hundreds chart, quick pictures and base-ten blocks. In addition, students are learning how to count forward by ones, fives, and tens.



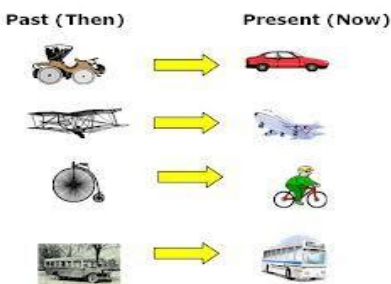
Science



Students have been engaged in learning all about animals and the structure they have to help them survive. The students created animal clay models and utilized different materials to mimic the structures they have learned about. The students are currently learning about how animal offspring survive where there are predators. They also will recognize that offspring will resemble their parents, both in structures and behaviors. The students reflect on the idea that when offspring are grown, they defend themselves in the same way as their parents.

Social Studies

The students are currently learning about families now and long ago. During this unit of study, students will be able to answer the following question: How do families grow and change over time? Students have been looking at books, photographs, and articles to help them compare and contrast things, such as toys, transportation, school, communication, clothes, and homes. Students will work with their families to create a family crest that includes things from the past and the present.



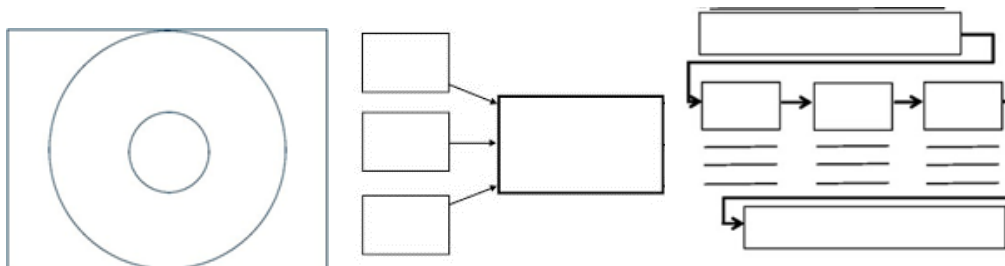
Reading

Currently we are reading a very exciting classic by E.B. White. The children are enthralled by the rich vocabulary and vivid characters created by E.B. White each and every day we read. We utilize our thinking maps to synthesize our thinking and make connections from the world the author creates to our world. We cannot wait to culminate this reading with a trip to see the play Charlotte's Web live on stage. Through our unit we are learning how characters are responding to major events and challenges. Understanding how characters respond to major events helps us understand each other, our feelings, and how we can overcome challenges. It is interesting to see how characters relate to one another in the story and we are enjoying the wonderful world of Charlotte's Web.

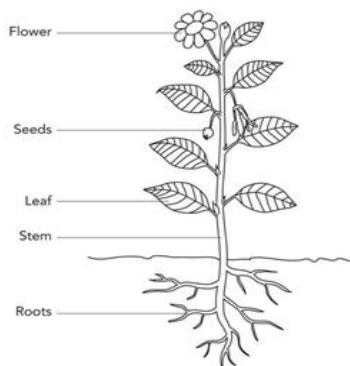


Writing

Second grade is familiar with writing our opinion on a variety of different topics. We can write our opinion, give supporting details, and provide a conclusion to our writing piece. We just love giving others our opinion, and we can use different thinking maps to share them. First, we create a circle map to brainstorm our thoughts. Then, we create a partial Multi-Flow Map to explain the reasons for our opinion. Next, we create a FLEE map with our reasons and details to support our opinion. Finally, we write a cohesive opinion off our FLEE map.



Science



Second grade is learning about plants and their parts. How are the parts of the plant important? Through a variety of investigations students will learn how the parts of the plant help the plant survive and the different jobs of each plant part. We love hands on learning in second grade. We are dissecting plant parts and seeing firsthand how the parts help the plant survive. Science is a wonderful world around us.

Math

We are proud of our second grade mathematicians for grasping the concepts of two digit addition and subtraction. We have learned many strategies to use such as how to count up or down on a number line, break apart numbers, draw quick pictures, draw a bar model, and write the standard algorithm to solve.

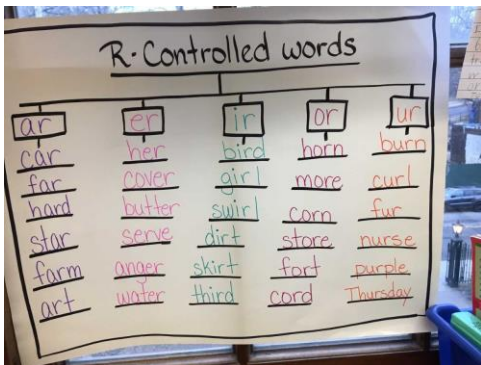
Currently we are learning how to add and subtract three digit numbers utilizing different strategies. We are taking some of the strategies we have mastered in two digit addition and subtraction and seeing how we can utilize them with three digit numbers.

Social Studies

What is the difference between rural, urban and suburban communities? Our last trip to Queens Museum let us see the 5 boroughs of New York City. Now we are going to explore the different kinds of communities that exist and how people live in them. Our book *Charlotte's Web* lends into this theme as well. We can see a rural community and how different it is from our own. We will be looking at these different types of communities and doing many different activities to be able to identify the differences and commonalities between them.



Foundations



Students continue to learn different types of syllables. Thus far we've learned about open, closed, vowel consonant e, and r controlled syllables. In our current unit, students will learn how to read and spell words with the double vowel syllables such as **ai** and **ay**. Furthermore, students will be introduced to homophones which are words that sound the same but have a different meaning and spelling.

Third Grade News

Mrs. Mei, Mrs. Kuchynsky and Ms. Cirillo

Reading

Currently we are reading *The Year of Miss Agnes*. As we navigate through the pages of this book the children are learning about relationships, community and culture in addition to a host of new vocabulary words. Our students are using a variety of Thinking Maps as they compare and contrast the different characters, identify character's traits and feelings while sequencing the order of events in the story. We continually encourage all of our children to engage in meaningful conversation as they work with partners, in small groups, and as a whole class. Through teacher modeling, the children are learning how to properly support their answers and opinions with evidence from the text. This is a very important skill for the children as it will help them to become better writers and confident

public speakers as well. It has been fun listening to the children share text to self -connections as they are able to compare their own school experiences with the experience of students from the late 1940's.

Writing

We are working on our Expository Writing Unit. The children are quite familiar with the: I do, you do procedure as we've been modeling this throughout our writing units. In this fashion the children are gaining the confidence and ability to write a well - organized piece of writing with all the essential components. The use of thinking maps has been extraordinarily helpful in the organization of the children's thoughts and the colored pens/markers make it fun! It also gives the children a chance to run their ideas through their partner's as they "orally rehearse!" It is a great time for us to work as a team to ensure the success of everyone! We are seeing a lot of growth in our children's writing which is very exciting.

Math

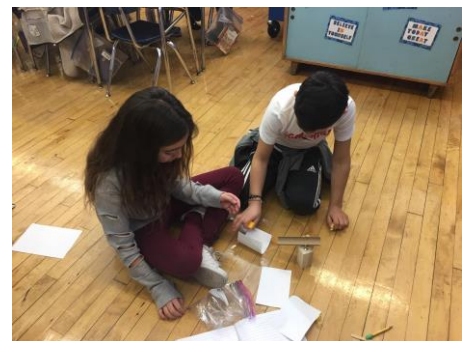
We have recently introduced our children to our unit on Understanding Division. The children will be able to identify the different parts of a division problem, and utilize different strategies for solving and modeling division problems. As we work through the unit, the children will make connections between multiplication and division as well as writing sets of multiplication and division facts. We will continue to work on solving multiple – step word problems in which the children will need to apply all the skills they have learned thus far. In addition, we will work to further instruct our students to properly answer questions in which they are asked to explain how they arrived at their answers. It is important that they continue practicing their multiplication facts at home and log on to IXL regularly as this will help greatly to reinforce the skills we have addressed thus far.

Science

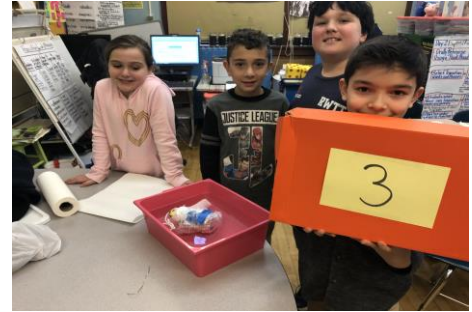
Our students look forward to science. With our new Amplify Science Program the third grade is currently working on Balancing Forces. The children are asking questions, constructing explanations and communicating ideas. We have exposed the children to many new vocabulary words such as: non – touching force, touching force, repel, attract, magnetic force, gravity, and chain reaction just to name a few. They display excitement and enthusiasm when it comes time to explore with new materials in a small group. All the children are actively engaged. In addition the children are partaking in STEM challenges where they are given various materials and a task. Together they use the Engineering Process to demonstrate how a team works collaboratively and recognize that every team member's ideas are important.



3-208 creating chain reactions.



3-209 with STEAM projects.

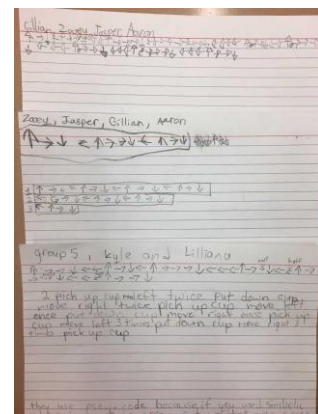
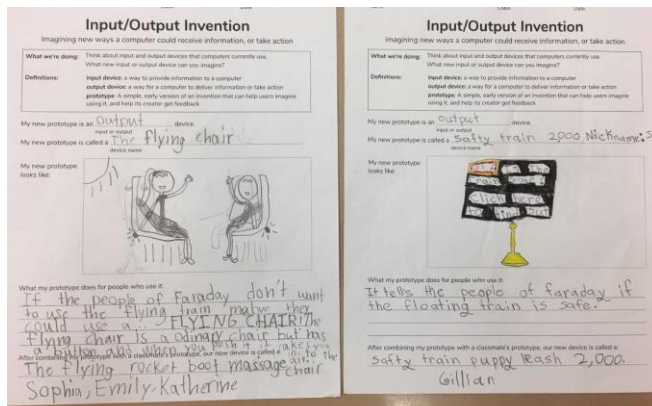


Social Studies

We have finished our unit on Culture and are exploring China. The children are learning about how the people and geography of China shaped its past and present. We will read Chinese Folktales and learn a lot about the history of China. It will be a lot of fun exploring the how traditional culture, including music, art, and religious practice, influences modern China. Lunar New Year is fast approaching, so it is a perfect time to learn about this holiday. The students will be using various thinking maps to organize facts and details to produce their own writing about China. Many of our students have had the pleasure of visiting China and will be a wealth of knowledge for us as well. This is sure to be a very exciting learning experience for us all! Our trip to Queens College to see the Chinese acrobats will be on March 18th where we will learn about Chinese history and culture through music, dance and acrobatics.

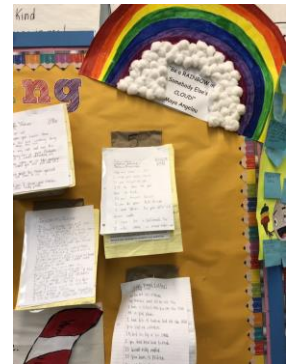
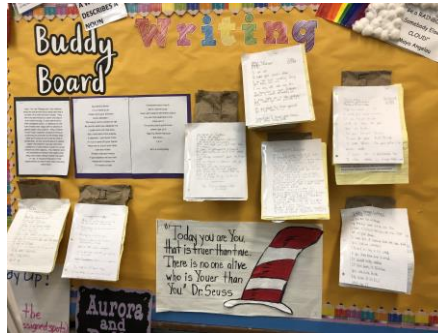
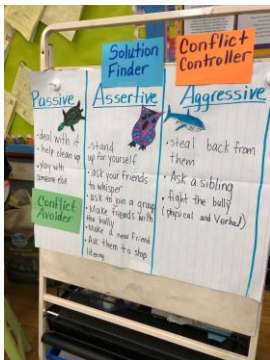
Computer Science

We are very ecstatic to be learning about computer science in the classrooms this year. It has been integrated into our current curriculum through unplugged and plugged activities. As programmers, we collaboratively work in small groups to design and create a set of algorithms to run. If there's a bug, or problem, in our instructions, we try to debug, or fix them. We also participated in our school's Hour of Code during the week December 3rd to celebrate Computer Science Education.



Social Emotional Learning

The third grade has been fully immersed in activities that focus on Social Emotional learning. Through Sanford Harmony we are able to spend quality time helping our students develop a toolbox of strategies that they could utilize when confronted with a variety of situations. Some instances in which these tools might come in handy include: communicating with their peers, problem solving and dealing with conflict. We have been placing emphasis on the need for the children to advocate for themselves. This is a skill that they will not only use inside of the classroom but use throughout their lives.



Fourth Grade News

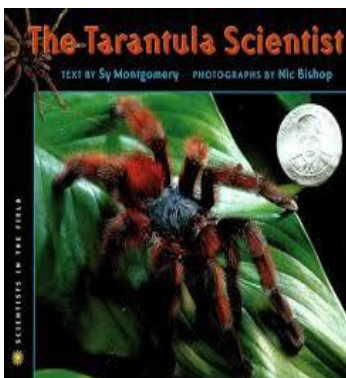
Mrs. Cincotta, Ms. Kawal and Mrs. Roma

Math

Fourth grade has begun learning all about fractions this month. We are currently working on renaming fractions with common denominators, comparing and ordering fractions. We will be moving on to adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions. We cannot wait to challenge our students with real world problem solving through a MasterChef challenge where their knowledge of fractions will be put to the test!



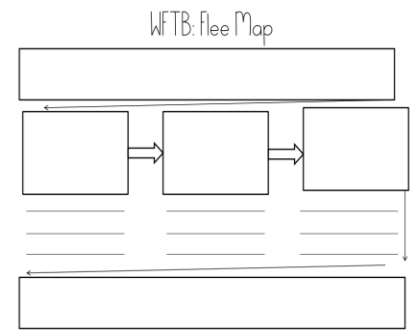
Reading



Our students have completed their in-depth study of the characters, setting and theme of the text *Lunch Money*. They are currently using close reading strategies to better understand non-fiction texts. The students particularly enjoy reading New ELA articles about animals that are tied directly into their study of animals in science. In addition, the students will be begin to explore the non-fiction ReadyGen Text : *The Tarantula Scientist*. During the study of this text, the students will learn how researchers adopt specific habits as readers, writers and observers to watch and reflect upon the worlds they are studying.

Writing

Our students worked so hard on completing the personal narrative unit in writing and we have celebrated all their hard work. This unit, we have moved onto the expository writing unit. Students have been practicing their craft by organizing their writing and providing many details to support their claims. Students have been using strategies to persuade and impact their readers by forming opinions and supporting them with facts and details.



Social Studies



The fourth graders have been enjoying learning all about the very first inhabitants of New York. They have been doing a wonderful job researching facts about how the Native Americans interacted with their environment to create unique cultures. Through our research, we have learned how important the Native Americans are to our history. Our next unit of study will focus on colonial and revolutionary period in America.

Science

The fourth grade has completed the science unit about plants and we have moved on to animals in their environment. We will be focusing on animal variations, adaptations and habitats. Students will be challenged with creating a new species! Our little scientists must explain the various adaptations this new species has and the kind of habitat it would thrive best in. We have been looking at various species of reptiles and how they survive in the wild. We are even getting our class pets involved in the research!



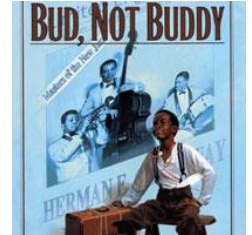
Social Emotional Learning

Through our social emotional learning we have been promoting self-advocacy across the grade. Students have been participating in discussions around learning from empathy and how to de-escalate or problem-solve within their peer groups. Both classrooms have a form of a shout-out wall where students are encouraged to recognize their peers' positive behaviors.



Reading

We are just finishing up the book *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis. This story takes place in Michigan in the 1930s during The Great Depression. It revolves around an orphan named Bud who is in search of his father, whom he has never met. As the story unfolds, we see specific themes of family, motivation, overcoming obstacles and learning about yourself through the eyes of this 10 year old orphan. The 5th grade classes deeply analyzed the plot, characters and settings in order to understand Bud's choices, as well as the ramifications of his decisions and the risks that he takes in order to fulfill his quest. As with previous books, students utilized Thinking Maps to organize their thinking, speaking and writing about the story. However, students are now progressing to selecting their own Thinking Map for each lesson to demonstrate their understanding of the lesson in their own way.



Writing

Both classes are in the midst of producing an expository writing piece. Students are learning specific strategies to incorporate into their basic essay structure, such as writing unique, unpredictable openings and closings, providing quality reasons to support their opinions, varied transition words and phrases to move the reader "logically" through the piece, using clarification statements as a way to explain reasons, and incorporating personal experiences or anecdotes. Students are providing information to the reader about a particular topic and expressing their opinion about the topic based in research. Unlike narrative writing (which was completed earlier in the year), expository writing generally does not have any elements of narrative writing such as characters, setting or sequenced events through time. Students are using Thinking Maps to structure their composition, and continuously adding onto their maps to enhance their writing.

Math

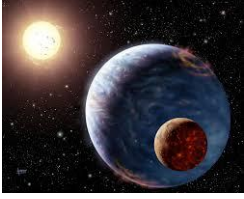
After discovering the values that exist between numbers by studying decimals, fifth graders will now see these through the lens of fractions. Over the next few weeks we will decompose whole numbers into parts, and explore strategies to add, subtract, multiply and divide these parts. We will see fractions in context, as they exist around us every day. As you measure ingredients in your kitchen or fill your gas tanks at the station, please encourage your children to see fractions outside of the classroom, as they relate to their lives.

Social Studies

This month is Social Studies, students will begin the exploration of Mexico. Students will analyze and discuss a variety of primary sources such as maps, paintings, music, journal entries and poems to further their understanding of Mexican culture and history. The studying of different cultures help students become globally aware citizens who are able to open-minded, celebrate similarities, and have compassions for all people of the world.



Amplify Science



In connection with our ELA curriculum, students will begin their exploration of space. Students will investigate, use kinesthetic and digital models, obtain information from videos, texts and models, investigate and plan their own investigations to have a deep understanding of star constellations and the Earth's orbit. To make real-world connections, students will become astrologers who are helping archaeologists. Students are asked to figure out and explain the significance of the illustrations on a recently discovered thousand-year-old artifact with a missing piece.

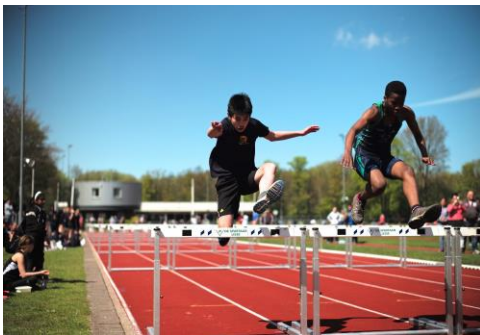
STEAM

Students were given a fictional situation where they were asked to become ecologist. Pesticide companies have been ordered to stop using harmful chemicals in the wetlands area. However, all the osprey have already evacuated due to the damage the chemicals have caused. Students asked questions, researched, collaborated, planned and designed ways to help bring the ospreys back to the wetlands. Through this process, students learned about the importance of ospreys to the wetlands and the importance of caring for our environment.



Physical Education

Mr. Sciabarassi



Spring is just around the corner! Pre K through 2nd grade classes are just finishing up our winter basketball unit. They worked on dribbling, passing and shooting. This was a great way to combine hand-eye coordination, skills, fitness and teamwork. As the weather gets nicer, these students will move on to other teamwork and community building games in preparation for our upcoming field day this spring! We will be focusing on skills they will need to use during this amazing day of competition and fun!

Some things to expect are relay races, obstacles courses, throwing, catching and other fun games that involve teamwork and age appropriate skills.

Grades 3 through 5 have been finishing up their fitness unit. We began with different fitness stations, games and activities. This helped the students become familiar with the proper technique in performing certain exercises while still having fun. This then led into the "Fitnessgram" fitness testing. The fitness test included certain muscular endurance, cardiovascular and flexibility exercises listed below.



Muscular Endurance: Push-ups, Sit-ups

Cardiovascular: Pacer test

Flexibility: Sit and Reach



The students did a great job performing these exercises. They worked together as a class and helped each other to score to the best of their ability. The students did a wonderful job during the entire fitness unit, while having fun along the way!

For the remainder of the year we have activities like basketball, volleyball and field day preparation activities that we will be doing. These are great ways to keep the students active and fit while learning new skills as well!

Douglaston Club Highlights

Mr. Adams

Stock Market Club: Students in Stock Market Club have been working hard to keep up with the erratic changes in the market and trying to understand the reason for the changes. With all that, they have been able to maintain their positions (and their sanity!) while finding ways to improve their standing in the market.

Math Olympiad: Students in the Math Olympiad have now been through two Olympiads, and they have proven their competence in math by remaining in the top 10% of all schools in the competition. The problems will be getting harder, but the hard work these students exhibit will keep them at the top.

Chorus: the PS98 Chorus continues to work hard toward their Spring Concert, learning to sing together as a unified group and working on music from various genres. We look forward to hearing the performance.



Music

Mr. Adams



As we approach Valentine's Day, students in Music Class are, and will be, listening to music and rhythms that they can associate with their emotions and match to the emotions they are feeling on a given day. They will be discovering how music taps into and affects our feelings on a daily basis.

Pre-K has been learning about transportation through songs, and will be moving onto Light soon. They have also been enjoying watching Animusic videos to learn how rhythm works.

Kindergarten through Second grades are working hard on the songs for their Spring Show, which will be our first ever child/parent sing along. They are also beginning a unit on rhythm in our lives.

Third grade is continuing its work on their Recorders and also starting rhythm work.

Fourth grade continues work on guitar, and is beginning Ballroom Dancing.

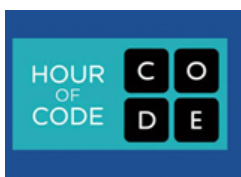
Fifth grade is finishing a video on Music and The Brain, which has led to wonderful discussions on how music affects us, from emotions to healing, and some discoveries behind the science of music.

With all that going on, each grade is getting ready to sing their Vocabulary songs for Vocabulary Day on February 8!

A lot is going on in music and there is more to come.

Technology

Mrs. Georgiou



In December, PS98 held its first HOUR OF CODE school wide event! During Computer Science Education Week, all students took part in activities related to computer science and computer programming. The activities were fun, engaging and an easy way for students to practice basic coding.

As part of the CS4ALL initiative, we will continue our computer science instruction to learn about important concepts like algorithms, abstraction, programming, data and networking. We use the curriculum offered by code.org. Students have their own accounts and work at their own pace. Code.org offers courses ranging from levels A thru F. As students master the CS curriculum, they move up through the levels.

The code.org website can be accessed by visiting bit.ly/ps98tech. Click on the Code Studio tab to get started.

Here are some additional websites for students to use to practice their computer science skills:

<https://www.tynker.com/hour-of-code/>

<https://code.org/learn>

<https://blockly-games.appspot.com/?lang=en>

[Scratch](https://scratch.mit.edu)



<https://ps98ds26.typingpal.com>



In addition to Computer Science instruction, students in all grades are practicing their word processing and keyboarding skills. These skills are very important as they are necessity in a world where technology is part of just about everything. Please encourage your child to use Typing Pal to practice their keyboarding skills at home. All students in grades 1-5 have individual account. Practicing their typing a few minutes each night or during the weekend can make a world of difference in terms of speed and accuracy.

Kindergarten students will be receiving this login information later on in the school year. If your child has forgotten their username/password info, please email me at jgeorgi@schools.nyc.gov.

In the upper grades we are learning about being savvy researchers. The internet offers an abundance of information which is not always reliable. Knowing which sites are trustworthy and safe is very important. We are also learning how to use Microsoft PowerPoint and the basics of delivering an effective oral presentation.

Art

Mrs. Colby

Being able to express oneself is a need that all of us have. Whether it's through music, poetry or visual arts each student has the power to voice their feelings and emotions. Every day we make choices ranging from big decisions to small and in art class the students have some freedom to make their own choices. Throughout this school year our students at PS 98 will be doing just that through their artwork. From making a color choice to a line placement these decisions are key in creating meaningful art and these decisions will come across through all grades at different levels.

Kindergarten has already been exposed to new artists such as, Pablo Picasso, Claude Monet, and Wassily Kandinsky. They are getting to experiment with many materials that they may not have used before. From creating snow landscapes to "magic art" each student was able to express themselves through the decisions they had to make when creating their work.

Our first graders have been exposed to artwork from artists such as: Joan Miro, Henri Matisse, and Paul Klee. They have created mixed media pieces, painted their own paper, and learned about different types of colors. Our students were able to express themselves either through their brush strokes when painting their paper or by selecting a color to use when creating their own version of Castle and Sun.

Second grade is also learning about various artists and art styles. They have been introduced to Vincent Van Gogh, Paul Cezanne, and August Renior. Each of these artists have their own style unique style, just as our students have their own unique style and it can be seen through their artwork. Our second graders created a still-life using glue as a drawing tool. They have also been working on watercolor seascapes.

Third grade learned all about warm and cool colors and how colors convey certain feelings. They learned about what a silhouette is and created a silhouette skyline with a watercolor background. Our students were able to express themselves through portrait drawings and practiced working on their facial feature drawing skills.

Fourth grade learned about the artist Guiseppe Arcimboldi and his food and nature portraits. Students were introduced to different types of portraits through this artist. They were also introduced to the idea that artwork is supposed to make people react and think about what you as the viewer are looking at. Students learned about monochromatic color schemes and are currently working on a painting on canvas boards.

Fifth grade has been learning about geometric and organic shapes and the difference between the two. They have been working on how to create different values using different types of shading techniques. The students learned all about color theory and created their own color wheel using only primary colors and then used those colors in a drawing of their own design.

As the year progresses, each grade will be exposed to new artists, new materials, new techniques and various ways to create their own artwork and express themselves through it.



Congratulations to all our Bucket Fillers

K-101	Zayne Markowitz
K-102	Camille Pop Smirnoff
1-108	John Kelly
1-109	Richard Corbisiero
2-206	Gabriel Xuereb
2-207	Lyla Hanft
3-208	Samuel Shorr
3-209	Lefteri Vavakas
	Yianni Vavakas
4-201	Julia Newton
4-203	Arsalan Bukhari
5-205	Parsa Melatparast



Student Council

Our 3rd Student Council Spirit Day was a great success! To participate in Famous Person Day, student and staff dressed as people who have done amazing things and who they admire. Students were able to share who they dressed up with and why with their classmates and teachers.

Look out for Emoji Day coming up in February!

PS 98 Ambassadors

Ms. Debbie Govier

The PS 98 Ambassadors have been busy the past few months making a difference in the community and the world by helping with philanthropic activities. We donated over 300 pounds of food to City Harvest and collected numerous boxes of toys for Assemblyman Braunstein's Holiday Toy Drive. We would like to thank the PS 98 community for their generosity.

We are currently collaborating with the Student Council to collect pennies for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Please continue to donate your change to this worthy cause.

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's (LLS) mission is to cure blood cancers and improve the lives of patients and their families. Donations from Pennies for Patients help families of patients pay for medicines, doctors or other expenses and also help fund research.

We are joining over 27,000 schools across the nation to make a difference. Starting **January 28 and ending February 15** our school will be working to reach a goal of \$500. Donations can be made in a variety of ways: coins, cash or checks. If donating by check, please make checks payable to:

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society or LLS

Your spare change can save a life. Certainly more than pennies are encouraged to help us reach our goal. Donation boxes will be available in every classroom. Please support your children in their life-saving fundraising adventure!

The PS 98 Student Council and PS 98 Ambassadors THANK YOU!



Out and Around The Douglaston School



Stranger Danger



Pajama Day

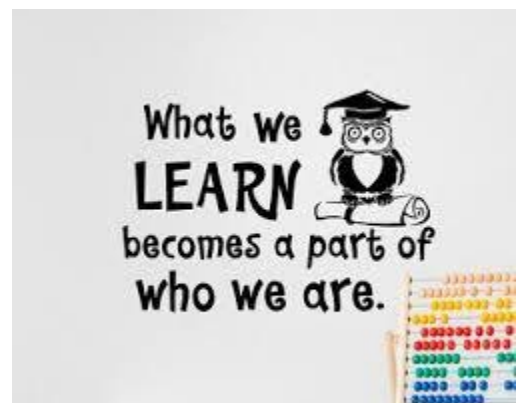


Career Day with Assemblyman Braunstein

Dates to Remember

Ms. Debbie Govier

Feb. 1 - Fabulous Friday
Feb. 5 - Lunar New Year (School Closed)
Feb. 6 - Coffee & Conversation with Principal Kim @ 8:15am
Feb. 8 - Vocabulary Day @ 8:45 - All Are Welcome
Feb. 15 - Fabulous Friday/Bucket Fillers
Feb. 13 - Parent Workshop Cyberbullying "Let's Talk About It" @ 8:45am
Feb. 18 - 22 - Mid-Winter Recess
Feb. 26 - ELA Test Sophistication Parent Workshop @ 6:00pm
PTA Meeting @ 7pm
Feb. 27 - End of second marking period
Mar. 1 - Fabulous Friday
Mar. 8 - Stand-Up to Bullying PTA Sponsored assembly
Mar. 12 - Report Cards distributed
Mar. 14 - Parent Teacher Conferences - **Early Dismissal - No Afterschool**
Mar. 15 - Fabulous Friday/Bucket Fillers Assembly
Mar. 19 - PTA Meeting @ 7pm
Mar. 22 - Fabulous Friday
Mar. 27 - District 26 Health & Wellness Fair @ 6:30pm
Apr. 2-3 - NYS ELA Exam
Apr. 4 - ELA Make-up
Apr. 5 - Fabulous Friday
PTA Spring Gala
Apr. 10 - Parent Workshop "Importance of Empathy" @ 9:00am
Apr. 11 - Spring Concert
Apr. 16 - PTA Meeting @ 7pm
Apr. 18 - Progress Reports distributed
Apr. 19-26 - Spring Recess (School Closed)
Apr. 29 - Return to school
May 1 - 2 - NYS Math Exam
May 3 - NYS Math make-up/Fabulous Friday
May 8 - Coffee and Conversation with Ms. Kim @ 8:15am
May 10 - Fabulous Friday
May 15 - Evening parent Teacher Conferences (invitation only)
May 15 - 16 - World Heritage Celebration
May 21 - PTA Meeting @ 7pm
May 23 - Grade 4 NYS Science Performance Test
May 24 - Fabulous Friday/Bucket Fillers Assembly
May 27 - Memorial Day (School Closed)
June 3 - Grade 4 NYS Science Written Test
June 4 - Eid-al-Fitr (School Closed)
June 6 - Chancellor's Conference Day (No Students)
June 7 - PS 98 Broadway Show
June 10 - 5th Grade trip - Club Getaway
June 11 - Clerical Day (No Students)
June 12 - Field Day
June 13 - Pre-K and Kindergarten Orientation
June 14 - Field Day Rain date
June 18 - Parent Volunteer Celebration @ 8:45am
June 19 - 5th Grade Luncheon
June 26 - Last Day of School (**Early Dismissal**)



Dates of Graduation TBA