



PS 98 SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Home School Connection

May 2021

Principal Chan's Message

Dear P. S. 98 Families,

Happy Spring! Our students' daffodil planting in the Fall has beautified our school this Spring! They bloomed just in time for us to welcome back 28 remote students to in-person learning! We are so happy to see so many more smiling faces in the halls and classrooms of P. S. 98.

Our Read-A-Thon was a success! Children unplugged to read and fostered their love for literature. Thanks to your children and their sponsors, over \$6,000 was raised for school funds! I want to thank all the readers, families, sponsors, Student Council and School Ambassadors for supporting reading and fundraising.

As the weather has been getting warmer, our teachers are taking advantage of our outdoor space for learning activities. Please make sure your children bring in a water bottle with their name on it and a light jacket if the weather is chilly in the morning.

The final playground renovation design has been voted on and The Trust for Public Land is working hard to make the plans that our 3rd and 4th grade students designed come to life. Thank you to all of our community members for collaborating and voting on this project. I will keep you posted with timeline updates as I receive them.

Councilman Paul Vallone is supporting our school with the funding for the playground renovation, CASA grant for after school enrichment, air conditioning installation for the auditorium and additional funds for STEM instruction next year. With sincere gratitude, we thank him and his office for always supporting our school community!

May 3 - May 7 we celebrated Teacher and Staff Appreciation! On behalf of the P. S. 98 staff, we express tremendous thanks to all the parent and student volunteers for their kind and thoughtful chalk messages and awesome car wash! The French Workshop cookies, Coffee Station coupon, plants from QG Floral and Landscape, Aegea lunch and cookies from Martha's Country Bakery are incredibly generous and very much appreciated!

I want to extend a warm thank you to our families for keeping communication open during this challenging year to make sure that our children's needs were being met. Thank you for your cooperation, understanding, and partnership. It is always valued.

Warm regards,

Kristy Chan

Instructional Focus

P. S. 98 students will actively engage in collaborative conversations and writing that encourages the exchange of ideas that is based on evidence that generates deeper, stronger understanding and new thinking across content areas.

Schoolwide Instructional Priority

Know every child well

Social Emotional Learning Mission Statement

P. S. 98's goal is to provide evidence-based social and emotional learning (SEL) as part of our instruction. We believe in educating the whole child, equipping students for success in school and in life by fostering positive relationships, social awareness, self-awareness, self-management and responsible decision making. We plan to know our students well, collaborate with families and support SEL to build supportive relationships between students and between students and staff.

Pre K News

Mrs. Tulimeri

In Pre K we just completed our *Plant Unit*. The children observed and learned about different plants. The children connected to the previous units of study, *Light* and *Water*, when having discussions about the needs of *plants*.

The Pre K children had the opportunity to learn about plants through hands-on explorations and by observing them in our immediate environment. They observed plants around our school and in our classroom. The students learned about the different parts of a plant such as the root, stem, fruit, leaf, bud and flower. After learning what makes a fruit a fruit and a vegetable a vegetable, they divided the toy produce items into a fruit group and a vegetable group.

In the science center, the students planted various seeds such as marigolds, pansies, radishes, carrots and rye grass seeds. They observed how the plants changed over time and recorded their observations. The class also discussed the importance of chlorophyll in plants. The children enjoyed making chlorophyll artwork by crushing up plant leaves and pressing them onto paper.

In the art center, the children expressed their creativity by making Vincent Van Gogh paintings after reflecting on his famous *Sunflowers* and *Irises* paintings. They also studied about ocean plants such as seaweed and kelp. Using this knowledge of ocean plant life, they created ocean habitat dioramas.

In the math center the children rolled numbers on a die. The numbers represented the number of apple seeds to place on their paper apples. They also made seed patterns. Finally the children were

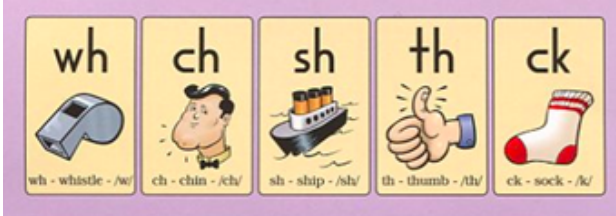
encouraged to identify measurable attributes of objects such as length and weight. They described the plants using words such as small, big, light, heavy, short, and tall.

We look forward to studying about *Babies* and *Transformation* with the children during these last two months of school. It has been a wonderful year of learning and fun in Pre K!

Kindergarten News

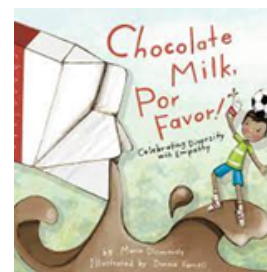
Mrs. Eisenberg, Mrs. Borgese and Mrs. Polizzi

Fundations



We have begun our last unit of Fundations. In this unit, the children will continue to review sentence structure. They will also begin sentence dictation. We will be emphasizing the fluent reading of sentences, using phrasing. The students will also learn how to proofread their sentences for capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. We will continue to review tapping out words, digraphs, and trick words. Please continue to practice trick words at home. The children should be able to read and write them.

Reading

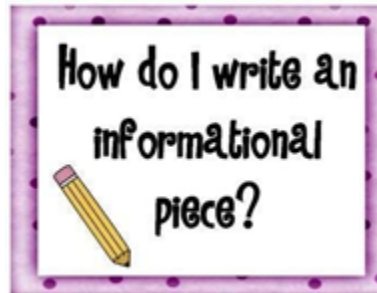


We read *The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle and learned about a plant's life cycle. The children created their own Partial Multi-Flow Maps to explain the effect the wind had on the seeds. The children used the Partial Multi-Flow Map to write about what happened to the various seeds in the story. The children also created Flow Maps to show what happens to the seeds and plants over the course of a year. The children used their maps to write across multiple pages.

We also read *Jack's Garden* by Henry Cole. This story showed the children the process to create a beautiful garden. The children created their own Flow Maps to show the process. They used their maps to turn and talk to their buddies and write the steps to create a garden.

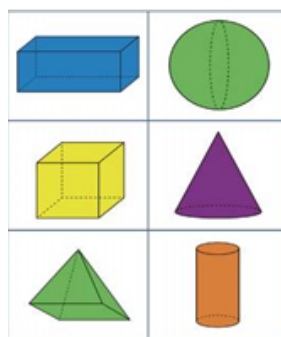
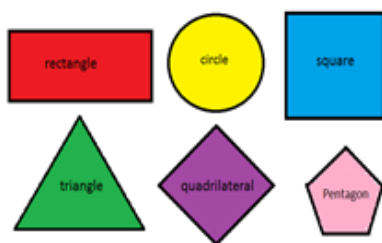
Our book of the month is *Chocolate Milk, Por Favor* by Maria Dismondy. The children created Bubble Maps to describe Gabe in the beginning, middle, and end of the story to see how a character changes throughout a text. The children used their maps to guide conversations with their classmates and write about Gabe.

Writing



Last month we began our writing unit on informational writing. The children learned how to write a How-To. We learned that How-To writing teaches something in steps, the steps are numbered, and there is a picture for each step. The children also added ordinal numbers and transitional words to enhance their writing. Some of the topics the children wrote about were: how to build a snowman, how to make pizza, how to make a smiley face, how to draw a tiger, how to make an ice cream sundaejust to name a few. Our last type, expository writing, will be an informational piece. We will be learning about butterflies and the children will use various Thinking Maps to collect information. They will use their Thinking Maps to help them create an information writing piece.

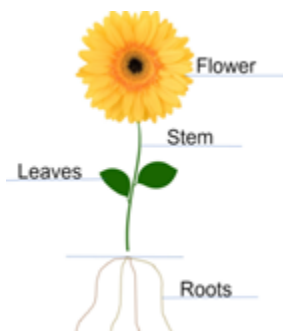
Math



The children have been learning about two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes. They identified and described shapes in order to sort them. The children learned about shape attributes, including vertices and sides. We learned that some shapes can roll, stack, and/or slide. We learned that there are flat shapes in solid shapes. We also learned that there are 2-D and 3-D shapes in the real world. We enjoyed various hands-on activities such as shape puzzles, scavenger hunts, modeling with Play-Doh! and creating Tree Maps. We also learned how to describe the relative positions of objects using terms such as above, below, beside, in front of, behind, and next to. Next month we

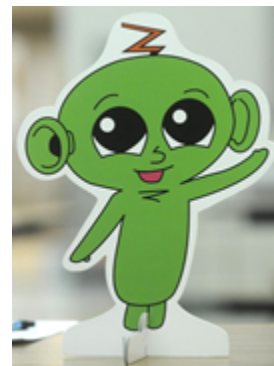
will be working on our measurement topic. We will be learning about length, height, capacity, and weight.

Science



We have been learning about plants and their needs. We have also learned that people and animals depend on plants to survive. We took a close look at the parts of a plant and created a Brace Map to show the parts and whole of a flower. The children learned the purpose of each part of a plant. We will be planting marigold seeds and observing how they grow! We connected our science and writing unit and the children created Flow Maps to show the steps to plant a seed. Next, we will be learning about the life cycle of a butterfly and will be getting caterpillars in our classroom to see this life cycle up close!

Social Studies/SEL



In our social emotional learning program, Sanford Harmony, we have just finished our unit on problem solving. We learned about empathy and that it means feeling and understanding how someone else feels. We learned how to be a good friend. We also learned that all children are different and that not everyone likes the same thing. Lastly, we learned that things can be for everyone and that things aren't just for some kids and not others. We will be starting our next unit, Communication. The children will be learning communication skills, including to listen carefully to others. They will learn the respectful patterns of communication. The children will gain positive and effective strategies for asserting their ideas, preferences, and needs.

Word Study/Fundations

The first grade students are entering the final units of study in Foundations. We are diving into reading and spelling multisyllabic words. Some of these words are compound words or words that are made up of two parts. In addition,

students are learning how to read and write words that contain -ic at the end of words, such as frantic, public, picnic, topic, etc. We are also studying words that contain the suffix -es and reviewing previous suffixes taught (-s, -ed, -ing). At home, have your child continue to practice reading and spelling multisyllabic words. Dictate a word such as sunshine, have your child name each syllable in the word and then have them write it. Your child should mark the word by scooping each syllable and then marking it as a closed or vowel-consonant-e syllable.

Reading

The first grade students are reading and listening to a variety of fictional and informational texts. Our current unit of study focuses on the theme of "making choices". The students have been working on the first grade standards of asking and answering questions, describing characters, settings, and major events in a story, as well as identifying the main topic and key details in a text. Some of the exciting texts we have been reading are *Hunter's Money Jar* by Charlotte Guillain, *The Winners' Choice* by Ana Galan, *Goods and Services* by Janeen Adil, and *The Supermarket* by Kathleen Krull.

Green Questions

I must go to the text and find the answer.

Who ... ?	When ... ?
What ... ?	How ... ?
Where ... ?	Which ... ?

In addition to our daily read alouds, the students spend time reading books on their independent reading level. During this time, the students are working on applying the decoding strategies learned during word study and applying the comprehension strategies taught during the reading lessons. When your child is reading at home, encourage them to ask questions about the text. In class, we refer to these questions as *Green Questions* or *Red Questions*. You can find the answers to the *green questions* directly in the text; whereas you

Red Questions

I must stop and think about the answer.

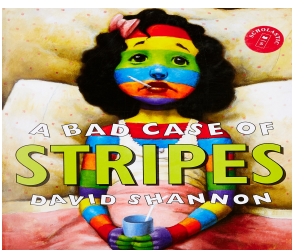
Why ... ?

Why do you think ... ?

How ... ?

What if ... ?





must stop and think about the answers for *red questions*. In addition, have your child practice retelling a text using the Five-Finger Retell strategy (see the image above).







Writing

The first grade students are currently writing an imaginative narrative. They are enjoying using their creative minds to write stories that include humorous events! We began this unit of study by reading and analyzing a variety of imaginative

texts. Currently, the students are in the beginning stages of the writing process; they started by organizing their thoughts on a Tree Map. The students were expected to list and elaborate on the characters, settings, problem, attempts to solve the problem, and a solution that solves the problem. The students will continue the writing process by creating a Flee Map that includes multiple story events, an introduction, conclusion, and lots of details! We are looking forward to seeing their final products!

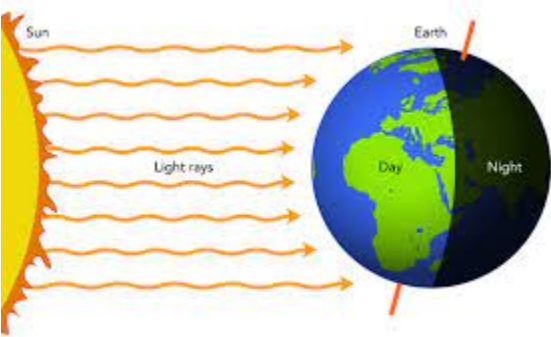
Math

2D Shapes	Drawing	Number of Sides	Number of Corners (vertices)
Square		4	4
Triangle		3	3
Circle		0	0
Rectangle		4	4

3D Shapes properties		
Cube  6 Faces 12 Edges 8 Vertices	Cuboid  6 Faces 12 Edges 8 Vertices	Sphere  1 Faces 0 Edges 0 Vertex
Cylinder  3 Faces 2 Edges 0 Vertex	Cone  2 Faces 1 Edges 1 Vertex	Triangular Prism  5 Faces 9 Edges 6 Vertices
Themumeducates.com		

Our mathematicians are studying geometry. They are deepening their understanding of shapes by learning the defining and non-defining attributes of 2-D and 3-D shapes. For example, 2-D shapes aren't defined by their color or size, but can be determined by the number of sides and vertices they have. Also, our first graders are putting together various shapes to create larger shapes. Then they are extending their skills by composing shapes to build pictures of real world items. At home, ask your child to name and define shapes he or she sees. For our last unit, students will be exploring fractions. They will learn how to partition shapes into equal shares. Afterward, we will go back and review time to the hour and half hour. At home, ask your child to explain how to tell time using an analog clock.

Science



As sky scientists, students are embarking on a study about the patterns they observe in the sky. They are exploring what the sky looks like during the daytime and nighttime. They're learning where the Earth and sun are in relation to each other in space. The students are beginning to understand that daytime and nighttime are the result of Earth facing or not facing the sun and that the earth is always spinning. Finally, students will be investigating why the lengths of daytime and nighttime change

throughout the year. At home, study the sky together. Look for patterns during the day and night. Talk about how the Earth spins and rotates around the sun.

Social Studies



We just finished our unit of study on Families Now and Long Ago. The students enjoyed learning about life in the past and how it has changed over time. The students studied and analyzed a variety of photographs, videos, and books about life long ago. The students created a Double Bubble Map to compare and contrast life long ago and today. We are currently learning about different kinds of communities and identifying the different communities we are part of. In addition, the students are learning about American history such as, national holidays, symbols, and core American values.

Social Emotional Learning



We are currently in unit 4 of our Sanford Harmony program. This unit focuses on fostering student's ability to resolve conflicts and work cooperatively with others. This unit is designed to help students accept and value different feelings and perspectives, develop empathy, understand how to compromise with others, and practice self-regulation. The students learned that there are 4 different things you can do when you have a problem or disagreement, you can:

- STOP and calm down.
- TALK to each person's perspective so you can understand the problem.
- THINK of possible solutions.
- TRY a solution and see how it works for everyone.

At home, talk with your child about the first two steps to solving a problem (Stop, Talk). Also encourage your child to use calming strategies (e.g. taking deep breaths, counting slowly, thinking of something beautiful, hugging a stuffed animal) when they are upset.

Second Grade News

Ms. Convery, Mrs. Cassidy, Ms. Choi and Ms. Hematian

Word Study/Fundations

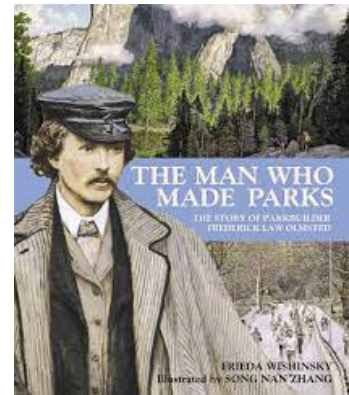
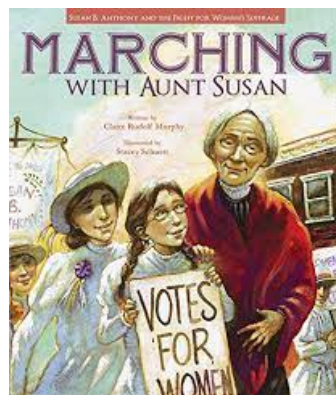
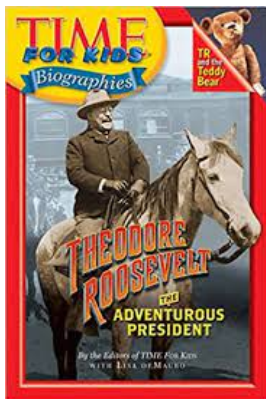


The students are hard at work learning all the different vowel team syllables in words. Many of these vowel teams have more than one pronunciation. In some cases, both pronunciations make real words, so the students are learning how to use context clues in order to decide which word makes the most sense. After learning each vowel team over the next two units, the students will be learning the -le syllable, such as in the word "fable." In order to be able to fluently read and spell these syllables, the students take part in dictations, word

building activities, and storytime. Each week, the students are also learning new trick words, so please continue to practice those at home.

Reading

In this unit, the students are learning how to use nonfiction text features to help them understand a topic. Our focus has been on biographies. The students have been immersed in different biographies and are studying how a biography is like a story about a notable person. The second graders are understanding the value of a biographical narrative as a lens into learning about historical events and time periods. We are reading the following three biographies: *Theodore Roosevelt: The Adventurous President* by the Time for Kids editors and Lisa DeMauro, *Marching with Aunt Susan: Susan B. Anthony and the March for Women's Suffrage* by Claire Murphy, and *The Man Who Made Parks: The Story of Parkbuilder Frederick Law Olmsted* by Frieda Wishinsky.

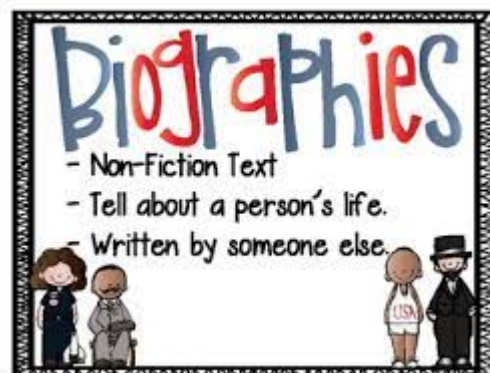


Writing

To go along with our reading unit, the students are doing informational writing pieces, focusing on biographies. To begin, each student chose a notable figure from history or television. Then, the next step was to research. The students either brought in a book about the person they chose, or information they had found online. In school, we created Tree Maps to organize our research. Each student focused on the early life, hobbies and interests, and accomplishments of their famous person. Finally, the students organized their writing into Flee Maps with details, an opening sentence, and a closing sentence. The children are now in the process of writing their rough draft. The next steps will be to revise and edit their work, rewrite their work into a final copy, and to celebrate their writing!

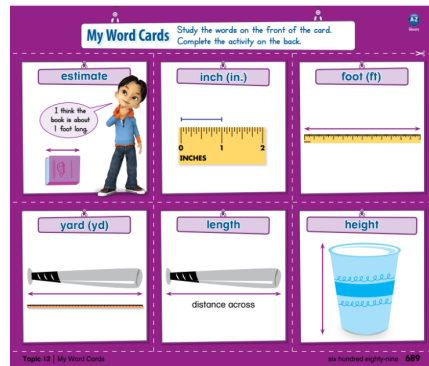
Name: _____ FLEE MAP

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→		
→		
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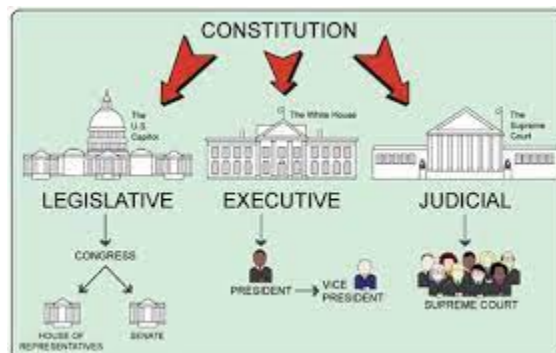
Math

Our second graders have been hard at work using different tools for measurement to measure lengths of objects in inches, feet, yards, centimeters, and meters. They are using their knowledge of these units to estimate and problem solve real world problems. Comparing units and lengths of objects and making precise decisions for which tools to use to measure are more skills they are learning to make them better independent thinkers and problem solvers. For the remainder of the school year, our second grade friends will continue to apply their skills in addition, subtraction and problem solving to create and analyze charts and graphs, and will also problem solve with Geometrical shapes.



Social Studies

In Social Studies we have been studying and celebrating the democracy and citizenship of our great nation as we study the Government of the United States. Our second grade friends took a virtual field trip to Independence Hall where our country was born with the Declaration of Independence! We have been studying the three branches of government as well as the importance each person has in our country. We the People have a voice and a vote that can help our country. We have also been virtually visiting many different national symbols, parks, and monuments that represent the freedom, independence, democracy, and good citizenship of The United States of America.



Science



Our 2nd grade scientists have been working on a unit that helps them learn all about erosion and changing landforms. The students are learning how wind and water can cause changes to landforms and are using models to demonstrate this. They have learned the different types of landforms and are learning that landforms made of solid rock undergo small-scale changes, and that over time, these changes add up to big changes.

Social Emotional Learning

Our second graders have been getting to know each other on a deeper level in our Social Emotional Learning this year. Each month this year PS 98 has had a focus on a new country's culture. We have been enjoying this all year as we learn and celebrate the multicultural background of all of our friends! We have learned how important it is to understand that everyone's family in our country has come from another place. As we all live together in one community we share and celebrate our differences each day! Whether it be with food, music, games, literature, language, or history of our cultures, we each can enjoy and welcome the similarities and differences we all share!



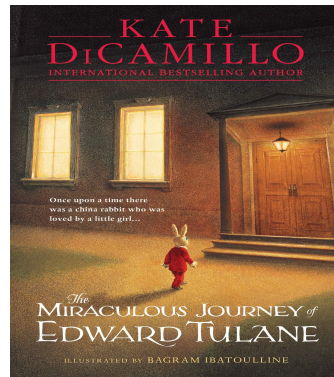
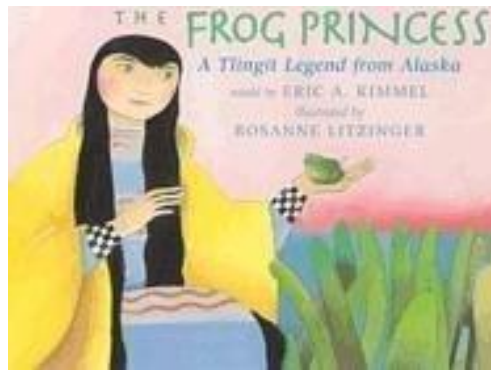
Third Grade News

Mrs. Kuchynsky, Ms. Kiss, Ms. DiAmore, and Mrs. Whitlock

Reading

In third grade, we just finished our first ELA state test and are so proud of our hard work. We practiced PRESTO (preread, read the questions, eliminate wrong answers, search in the story, tell why, and bubble), RADD (restate, answer, detail, and detail), and chunking to make us stronger readers and build on our sense of comprehension. Then, we moved onto *The Frog Princess*, a Tlinglit Legend from Alaska to start off our Fairy Tale writing unit. We dissected the book with our reading skills and compared and contrasted it to fairytales of similar titles, such as *The Frog Princess* or *The Princess and the Frog*. We looked into how illustrations can help a reader interpret a story. Now, we are moving into reading *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, a wonderful fictional tale of a bunny who learns a lot about life and bonds. We are using our reading skills to read closely and determine the

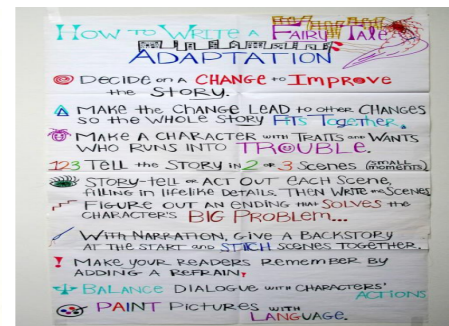
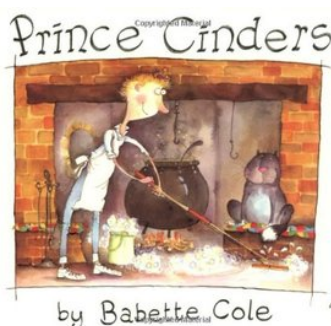
author's intent and meaning. Along the way we are learning new vocabulary words and reflecting on our own values and lives. We can't wait to see what the rest of this book holds for us.



Writing

Third grade is diving into an exciting new writing unit called Once Upon a time... A fairytale unit of writing. Within this unit our young writers will learn many new skills. First, we will study different fairytales and examine the elements of fairytales. How do good authors write these amazing stories? What do they all have in common and how do they differ from Narrative stories? As you can imagine this is an exciting unit for our young writers. They get to use their imagination and tell stories in a way they love to tell stories. They can learn from mentor texts how good authors write stories using elements of writing such as plot, figurative language and dialogue in writing.

We are having so much fun examining different fairytales and comparing them to different versions of the same fairytale. In this unit the children will create their own fractured version of a familiar fairytale. We will decide what changes to make and of course add a little magic! Our young writers will be using many writing skills to create imaginative stories that show problem solving and character development in fun and exciting ways. How do writers adapt a classic version of a fairytale and why? This is what we will be exploring together through this exciting unit called Once Upon a Time.



Science

Third grade is taking on the role of meteorologists, working for the fictional Wildlife Protection Organization (WPO). We have been investigating weather patterns as we solve the problem of where to establish an orangutan reserve. We learned that orangutans live on Borneo and Sumatra—some of the hottest and rainiest places on Earth—but the development of palm oil

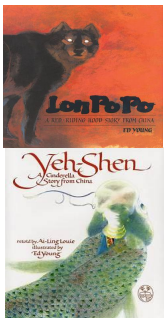
plantations is rapidly deforesting their habitats. We have been analyzing the weather on three fictional islands in order to determine which has weather most like the locations where orangutans live and recommend one island to the WPO for the reserve. We have been learning to make sense of the data that is necessary to accurately describe the weather of a given location over time. This way we figure out how meteorologists collect, analyze, and represent weather data. What do you think the perfect island for the orangutans will be?

Social Studies

The third grade has been diving deeper into the last part of our unit in China. We have been learning about China's Dynasties, their religion and belief systems, and the Silk Road. We also have discovered some important stories in Chinese folklore which has been an important connection in our new unit in reading and writing which is about fairytales and folktales. The students have been able to compare and contrast the stories in order to help them understand how the author adapts and portrays each part of the story. This allows us to understand the history of China and their beliefs.

In addition to studying China, we are now learning about Egypt which is part of our new case study. We will be diving into many interesting and important parts about their history such as important historical events and their culture.

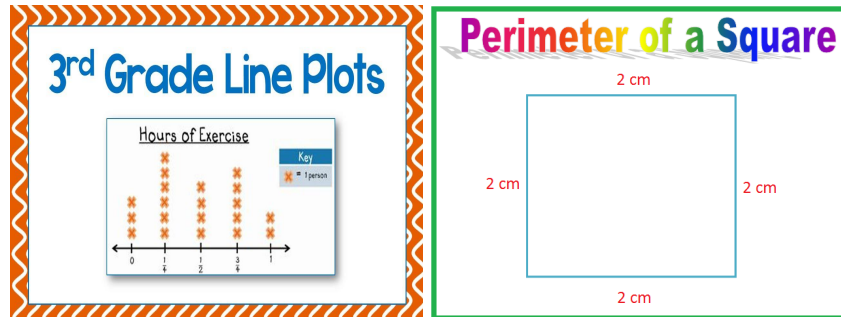
Lastly, the third grade has celebrated, learned and shared information about the different cultures that impact and support our students in the school. We have learned much about one another and how we can incorporate this in our daily studies.



Math

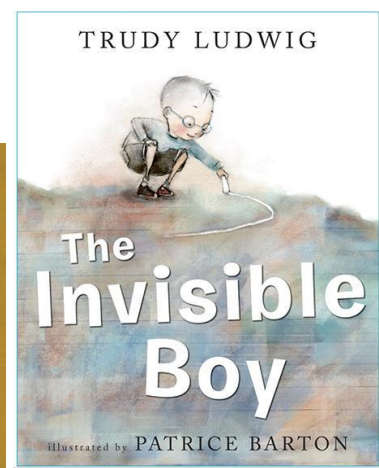
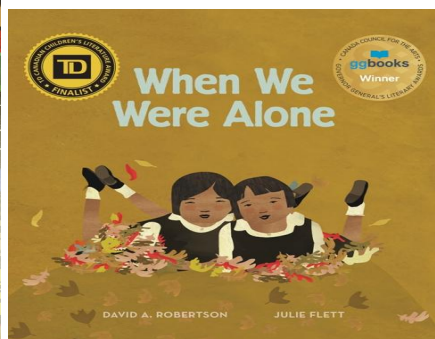
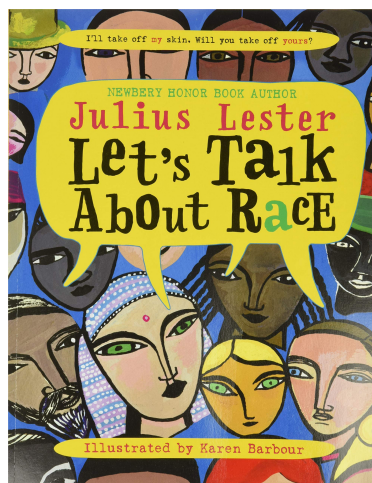
We are so proud of our students and the manner in which they persevered through the NYS Math exam. It was evident that the children have been grasping the math concepts we have been teaching and are clearly able to demonstrate their mathematical thinking. Currently we are backtracking and reviewing so that the children can take the Unit Tests which we bypassed as we prepared and covered all the concepts needed for the exam. In addition, we will soon be investigating Line Plots using fractions and ordering them above a number line. The children will be able to identify common lengths as well as least common lengths. Furthermore, the students will be exposed to solving perimeter problems and how to find the missing lengths. As the children prepare

for fourth grade, together we will investigate Place Value Relationships, Using Mental Math to Multiply by Multiples of 10, 100, and 1,000, and Use Models to Multiply 2-Digit Numbers by Multiples of Ten. Please continue to have your children work towards memorizing their multiplication facts. Thanks to all of you for your continued support. We truly appreciate it!



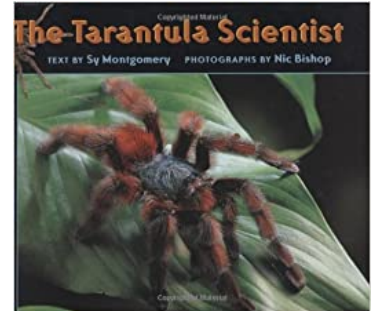
Social Emotional Learning

The third grade has been immersed in a wide variety of literature that pertains to Equity and Diversity as well as Social Emotional Learning. The children understand how **“equal”** doesn't necessarily mean the same. It continues to be a pleasure engaging in conversation with the children as they share their own opinions and ask meaningful questions as they pertain to the texts we are reading. In addition, many are opening up more and are willing to share personal experiences within our classroom communities. Furthermore, our third grade students are kind, compassionate, and thoughtful (just to name a few) towards their classmates and always willing to support each other which is just another way they are demonstrating their understanding of what it means to be equitable and fair. We will support our students in all aspects of the curriculum and model continuously what a classroom community looks like and feels like.



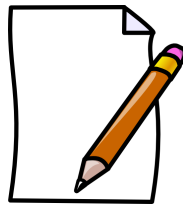
Reading

With the ELA State exam finished, fourth grade has started reading different types of poems, from acrostic poems to diamante poems. Students have used their thinking maps to organize their information that they learned while reading poetry. They will soon begin the book *The Tarantula Scientist* by Sy Montgomery. In this nonfiction book, students are invited to follow Sam Marshall, spider scientist extraordinaire, as he explores the dense rain forest of French Guiana trying to get a closer look at these incredible creatures. Fourth graders will be researchers as well, experiencing and learning all about tarantulas and other spiders. Using thinking maps and text evidence from the story, they will reflect upon the experiences they are studying.

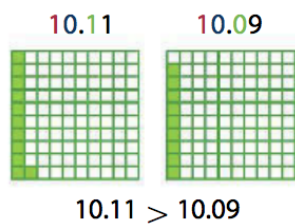
**Writing**

The fourth graders continue to work hard to develop their skills as writers. They have learned how to create structured short and long responses to various literary texts. The students used the RADD strategy when answering short response writing prompts. This ensured that they restated the question and used at least two specific examples of text evidence to support their thinking. When the students tackled extended literary response questions, they learned how to create a large Flow Map that had various types of Thinking Maps embedded which addressed specific types of thought processes. Use of these strategies helped the fourth graders to form structured, explicit responses that addressed all parts of the writing prompts.

After completing our Response To Literature unit, the fourth graders have been learning about different types of poetry, as well as specific characteristics and structures that are unique to each. The students have enjoyed creating their own shape, haiku, diamante, limerick and acrostic poems to name a few! We look forward to ending the school year with expository/informational writing.

**Math**

As the school year winds to a close, we will be starting a unit on decimals and learning about how decimals are used in everyday life. Students will be able to write fractions as decimals, locate such points on a number line, compare decimals, and solve real-life word problems involving money. Fourth graders will then move onto a unit about measurement in which they will learn how to find equivalence in units of capacity, weight, length, and mass.



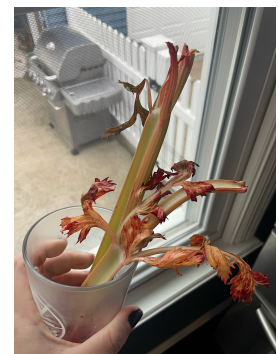
Customary Units of Capacity	
1 cup (c)	= 8 fluid ounces (fl oz)
1 pint (pt)	= 2 c = 16 fl oz
1 quart (qt)	= 2 pt = 4 c
1 gallon (gal)	= 4 qt = 8 pt

Social Studies

We are just wrapping up a unit about colonial times. Students learned about the events leading up to the American Revolution. Students made connections about the social impacts that many faced during that time period to today. We will be moving on to a new unit which covers the building of the government in the United States.

Science

Our scientists have been learning all about the structure and function of plants and how these structures work together to keep a plant alive. We recently did a science experiment where our students made observations about how water moves through a plant using celery, water, and food coloring. We have begun to spiral review for the NYS exams and will be covering life science, physical science, measurements, circuits, and magnets to name a few big ideas.



Social Emotional Learning

In our classes we have been having tough conversations regarding social issues our students may be watching on the news or hearing in their homes. Our students are very aware of the climate in New York City and we are providing a safe environment for them to be able to voice their opinions and concerns. We will continue to foster these conversations and we will continue to dive into social emotional learning to help our students cope with these social issues.

Fifth Grade News

Mr. Grossman, Mrs. Kelly, Ms. Vazquez and Ms. Barongi

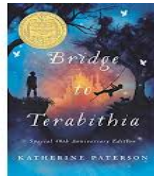
Math

Fifth graders will collect and analyze data in May, using graphs to understand how we organize information. We will learn how data tells a story beyond it's numbers. Students will use tally charts as well as line/dot plots to describe data. Transferring real-life phenomena into graphs will be a fun way to wrap up this unit. Be prepared for some family survey questions like- *favorite snacks in our household!*

Reading

In this unit, students are reading the book, *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson. This coming of age story is about two friends and the self-discovery that stems from their friendship. The writing of Katherine Paterson affords the opportunity for students to examine their own feelings, fears and belief

systems, just as the characters do in the story. Through the eyes of Jess Aarons, a 5th grade boy raised on a farm, we discuss tragedy and loss, as well as joy and growth.



Social Studies

Students have greatly benefited from immersing themselves in different heritages, traditions, and cultures this school year. Students have had many opportunities to share important and significant



attributes to their own heritage as they learn about others. This month students explored the silliness of limericks as they learned about the Irish origin of these poems and created their own to help celebrate poetry month. Students also explored German heritage as they researched and shared information about German dances, clothing, cars, and food. In addition, students



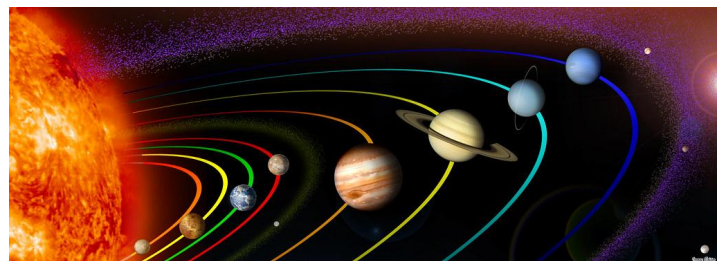
celebrated Earth Day by discussing the impact light pollution has on wildlife. This also connects with the students science lessons on how light pollution impacts the stars we can see at night.

Social Emotional Learning

Our Social Emotional Learning is heavily tied to our current text, *Bridge to Terabithia*. As we work through the story, we will stop to reflect on topics such as friendship, fear, and identity. Our SEL lessons will also focus on healthy communication in friendships. We will explore what communication is and practice how to share our feelings in a positive way.

Science

Students completed a science unit that tied in with reading and writing this past month. We explored the wonders of planets and space through the eyes of a fictional character, George, and did our own research to further understand these magnificent masses in our Feature Article unit. The study of space continues as we focus our attention on stars and where they are in space. Students will continue to use the Amplify simulation to have a full, hands-on experience exploring constellations, star placements, and what we actually can see when we look beyond the clouds.



Writing

April was poetry month, and the classes did a unit on poetry. We focused on odes, limericks and haikus, and learned about the characteristics of each. Currently, we are in the beginning stages of personal narrative writing. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to show their readers more about who they are, what has happened to them in their past, and how they felt during that experience. Information in a narrative must be presented in an organized manner with a central idea, a plotline, vivid imagery and some type of culminating event. The goal is for students to relate something that is important to them and share it with others through a structured story.

Physical Education

Mr. Sciabarassi



As the school year is coming to an end, and the weather is becoming beautiful, our Physical Education program has been focusing on many outdoor activities.

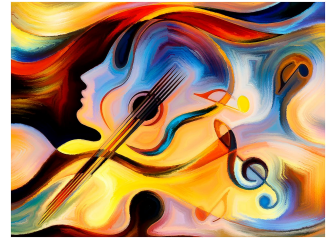
All grade classes have been getting extra preparation for field day. Since field day won't be held at Alley Pond Park this year, it will definitely look a bit different here. I still plan on incorporating a field day atmosphere here in the school yard with the students. We will have different varieties of games and fun activities! We have been focusing on skills they will need to use during this amazing day of competition and fun. Some things we have been focusing on are relay races, obstacles courses and other fun games that involve teamwork and age appropriate skills.

Physical Education is a great way to keep students active, especially as summer is approaching. It helps the students stay mentally sharp in the classroom as well. They get great exercise while learning and having fun.

All of our students, staff and myself are very excited for these great end of the year activities. As long as the weather stays nice, I enjoy having the students outside, socially distanced and being active!

Pre K-2

Students in Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st grade, and 2nd grade have spent the last few months describing different elements of music. We listened to songs from Carnival of the Animals and tried to determine the animal associated with each song based on tempo, dynamics, and instrumentation. We also listened to other pieces of music and tried to figure out the meaning of each song. Students then drew what they imagined the song was about.



As we approach the end of the year, Pre K and Kindergarten classes will be working on their graduation/stepping up ceremony songs. Pre K will be singing and performing Ready To Go, I'm Lucky There's a Sun, and We're Moving Up. Kindergarten will be performing How Far I'll Go, First Grade First Grade, and The Kindergarten Class. Videos of these songs can be found in the Google Classroom if you'd like to practice with your child at home!

3-5

Students in third, fourth, and fifth grade have spent the last few months finishing the music technology unit, where they were using various websites to create their own music such as bandlab and chrome music lab. Students used virtual instruments, drum machines, and pre recorded music to add to their own compositions.

As we approach the end of the year, third and fourth grade will be continuing their unit on musical literacy with both rhythm, and staff reading. Fifth grade students will be working on their graduation songs Aware, and It's Our Time. Recordings of these songs can be found in the Google Classroom if you'd like to practice at home with your child!

**Chorus/Midori**

Students had the opportunity to participate in the afterschool Midori program these last few months. Third, fourth and fifth grade students finished their six week drumming program with the Talujon group back in February while kindergarten, first, and second grade students finished their six week storytelling program with the Green Golly group. A huge thank you to all of the staff at Midori and Friends for helping us put together this amazing program!

On April 20th, a video of the PS 98 Virtual Chorus singing the Aware song was presented during the PTA meeting. On May 18th, a video of the PS 98 Virtual Chorus singing Flashlight by Jessie J will also be released. Please come to the PTA meeting on May 18th to see this great video project!





Happy Spring!

Kindergarten

We have been responding to age-appropriate literature by using our web-based drawing program, Wixie. The students are learning about the various tools needed to create pictures, text and sound. A couple of weeks ago, all K students received login information for their Typing Pal accounts. They are now ready to start practicing their typing skills. They are encouraged to use the program a few times a week. This will go a long way in helping our kindergarteners master their keyboarding: a necessary skill throughout their school years.



First Grade

Our first grade students have been learning about dangerous animals. We have been doing research by visiting various websites to gather factual information from websites like Brainpop and National Geographic for Kids. They used the Wixie program to complete an online animal research report. We are currently working on creating a comic strip with speech bubbles.



Second Grade

Our second graders have been writing adventure stories focusing on the development of characters and plot. We discussed the importance of adding details to their stories. After the stories were completed, we discussed how to convert them into a movie by adding music, sound and narration. The end products were phenomenal! I was amazed at the students' imagination and creativity. We also spent some time playing Quizizz. Quizizz is an online gaming platform that is fun and engaging. We played Quizizz to practice our ELA and math skills.



Third Grade

Students have been exploring computer programming using Scratch. We are discussing the importance of debugging. We are creating/coding dialogues between sprites using motion, sensing, repeat and event blocks. Scratch will be used extensively as part of our computer science curriculum throughout the grades. The students are having fun making funny animations and games. During our Google Meets, the students share their creations giving us all the opportunity to learn from each other. We also debug each other's coding issues in a fun and constructive way.



Fourth and Fifth Grade

Our upper grade students have been diving deeper in Scratch - learning more advanced coding to create animations and games. Scratch is also used in middle schools for computer science instruction. I can say with certainty that our students are well-prepared as they have been learning coding since Kindergarten.



Advanced Python Coding Club

Congratulations to our advanced coding club members. They have completed PART 1 of their Python training! PS 98 definitely has some budding programmers! Although they are beginners, they have a fundamental understanding of how programming works, and they have written a variety of codes of varying complexity. I foresee many of our students seeking careers in software development in the future. 😊

Technology/STEM

Mr. Chan

STEM is a program where students will learn how science, technology, engineering and math play a crucial role in the world around them. Students will understand the importance of scientific ideas as they build constructions to the various challenges that are given to them. They will follow the EDP (Engineering Design Process) where they will come up with questions, solutions and possible materials needed to accomplish their goals.

Students in upper grades have been learning about force and the various transformations of energy. They have been doing hands-on experiments where they see potential and kinetic energy in action through the use of ramps and golf balls and ping pong balls. They have also been learning about how these forces are weakened or enhanced by friction. They will continue to apply these lessons of

energy and force through the construction of catapults and parachutes, using EDP in groups to collaborate with each other on what they think the best solutions would be given the materials that they have.

Kindergarten have learned about push and pull and have shown and explained numerous examples of each in everyday life. They have also learned a little about friction by rolling marbles in the classrooms on Lego tiles to see the effect that it has on the movement of the ball. They will also have a chance to make a simple catapult in the future to showcase when there is push and pull involved in the mechanism. Their next topic will be focused on space and the various patterns and observations they can observe in the sky.

First graders have been learning about space and the various patterns they can see in the sky. They have created their own compasses to show where the sun rises and sets each day as well as creating diagrams that show the different phases of the moon and the different positions the sun has in the sky during different times in the day. They will continue to learn about the solar system as well as tracing shadows outside to see how the sun moves in the sky which then changes the position of their shadows.

Second graders have been learning about landforms and how the land changes quickly or slowly depending on what is causing the change. They have made various diagrams and models to showcase different landforms. They will continue to learn about volcanoes and model what one looks like. They will also have lessons providing an entry level understanding of forces, how various activities represent it and how forces can affect the trajectory of objects in motion.

Student Council

Mrs. Kelly

Members of the Student Council teamed up with the Ambassador members to support our school Read-A-Thon fundraiser. Members created posters and commercials to share information about how to participate in this opportunity and the benefits of reading. This event was a great success! Thank you to all who participated! In addition, staff and students participated in the most recent School Spirit Day which was Holiday Day. PS 98 was filled with people dressed in different holiday attire. Students also shared their favorite holiday traditions and drew pictures of their families celebrating to participate in the school wide celebration. Our next school spirit day will be on Friday, May 21 and it will be Sports Day! Stay tuned for more Student Council events later this year.

PS 98 Ambassadors

Mrs. Holle

I am proud to announce that our Ambassadors, alongside the Student Council worked together to get word of our Read-a-Thon out to students. They made posters and short video clips to get students excited about reading and participating. On behalf of our Ambassadors, thank you to everyone who donated to this wonderful fundraiser. Students read a total of 23,680 minutes.

Congratulations to our Bucket Fillers

February 2021

K-101

Nina Hsieh
Avery Li

K-102

Esther Pierre
Matteo Zuccarello

1-108

Dax Gockerman
Lucas Gomez

1-109

Adam Hernandez
Andrew Lee Richards
Jacob Clavel
Georgiana
Panagiotopoulos

2-206

Dalvin Fong
Hayven Kim
Sharol Lopez-Serrano

3-208

Richard Corbisiero
Camille Pop Smirnoff

3-209

Michael Demetropoulos
Vic Gao

4-201

Zhihan Chau
Yianni Paravalos

4-203

Joshua Cheng
Jake Lee

5-202

Michael Aordkian
Ian Gao

5-205

Toby Chau
Abigail Turner

March 2021

K-101

Levi Aguirre
Elijah Chen

K-102

Jordan Lee
Naya Ray

1-108

Andrew Cho
Ashton Marasciulo

1-109

Quinn Baum
Ari Preston
John Andreeva
Ian Gordon

2-207

Lola Anaman
Eric Collura
Gage Park

3-208

Andrew Li
Leonardo Tenteromano

3-209

Calvin McCabe
Adric Hamilton-Mundy

4-201

Livana Fong
Valentina Martin

4-203

Mia Nieves
Jason Rutt

5-202

Sophia Asaro
Matthew Blake

5-205

Elena
Demetropoulos
Samuel Shorr

April 2021

K-101

Zhihyun Chau
Marilyn McCabe

K-102

Gavin Cangemi
Lawrence Luo

1-108

Ashton Marasciulo
Thomas Russell

1-109

Ethan Wang
Vienna Wong
Adrian Romero-Bajana
Maya McHale

2-207

Julian Choi
Vincent DiGregorio
Nora Sung

3-208

Vihaan Ivatury
Madeline Roth

3-209

Kathlynn Li
Leah Mendoza

4-201

Olivia Dunlap
Rebekah Shin

4-203

Pietro Alesci
Elijah Lee

5-202

Zain Alkurdi
William Hong

5-205

Lilliana Chou
Kyle Eng

Since our last Newsletter, a few students entered the MLK Art & Essay Contest. Congratulations to **Brandon Chan** (5th Grade), **Rena Bae** (2nd Grade) and **Hayven Kim** (2nd Grade).

The students participated in Respect for All Week. We had post-it day and they wrote kindness grams to fellow classmates. Congratulations to **Sophia Asaro** (5th Grade) and **Emily King** (5th Grade) for participating in the Respect for All Essay and Poster Contest.

Everyone enjoyed our two Assemblies. The first was by motivational speaker Rohan Murphy. Rohan was born with a rare deformity where both legs had to be amputated at age 4. He spoke about how he overcame the many challenges that faced him. Rohan became a wrestler, went to Penn State and is an accomplished powerlifter in the Paralympics. Our second Assembly was Tales from a Bicycle Seat where we were introduced to different parts of the world, the people and their cultures. We are looking forward to our next Assembly, The Wacky Science Show.

Maximilian Bialecki-Perez (2nd Grade) was selected as a winner for his outstanding art entry submitted to the NYC Department of Environment's 35th Annual Water Resources Art and Poetry Contest. Congratulations Max!

Over the Spring Break we had our first Read-A-Thon. Congratulations to **Class 2-207** who read the most minutes (3,334 minutes). Congratulations to our top five readers: **Elijah Lee** (4th Grade), **Naren Ray** (2nd Grade), **Joshua Cheng** (4th Grade), **Emmanuelle Cheng** (2nd Grade) and **Zooey Markowitz** (5th Grade). Congratulations to our top three fundraisers: **Elijah Chen** (Kindergarten), **Constantine Paravalos** (3rd Grade) and **Yianni Paravalos** (4th Grade). Many thanks to all who participated.

PS 98 continues to celebrate different events and heritages every month. Student Council Spirit Days are always lots fun and creative.



Positive Post It Day



Crazy Hair Day



Holiday Day



Teacher Appreciation

Dates to Remember**Ms. Diana Gautier, Assistant Principal**

May 3 - Pre-K Virtual Open House

May 3-14 - Math State Test for Grades 3-5

May 13 - School Closed - Eid Al-Fitr

May 17 - SLT meeting 2:20 pm
May 18 - PTA meeting 7:00 pm
May 19 - Schoolwide Assembly - The Wacky Science Show
May 31 - School Closed - Memorial Day
June 3 - School Closed - Chancellor's Conference Day
June 7-11 - Science Written Test - Grade 4
June 8 - No Students - Clerical Day
June 11 - Spirit Day - Show and Tell Day
June 14 - Career Day
June 15 - PTA meeting 7:00 pm
June 18 - Fifth Grade Graduation Luncheon - Tentative
June 21 - Fifth Grade Graduation
Kindergarten Step Up Ceremony
SLT meeting 2:20 pm
June 23 - Fifth Grade Graduation Rain Date
Kindergarten Step Up Ceremony Rain Date
June 25 - Last Day of School

The 2021-2022 has been posted on the DOE website or you can go to the below.

[2021-2022 School Year Calendar](#)