

## **PTO News February**

### **Kindergarten**

Kindergarteners are wrapping up our Personal Narrative Unit of Study where they told true stories from their life. They have been taught that great stories have actions, feelings and talking. Next up we will switch into a "How to" Writing Unit where they will act as teachers. Maybe they will teach us how to make pizza, a snow person, or even a craft. In reading, they are enjoying using strategies to build their reading stamina. Also, students have been involved in guided reading groups. In these groups students are working with their teacher to enjoy books and grow as readers by sequencing and making connections. In math, students have been working with numbers to 100. Finally in science, they are learning about force and motion with a focus on push and pull. Today, the students enjoyed a Valentine's Day Zoom to celebrate the friendships in our class. On Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup> we will learn about Abraham Lincoln on his birthday. Additionally, students are eager for the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school which will be on February 25<sup>th</sup>. There are a lot of exciting happenings on our horizon!

### **First Grade**

In Reading and Writing, we are beginning a non fiction unit. We will be immersed in non fiction reading and will be learning about text features and how they can help us gather new information as we read. In Writing, we will first write an "All About Me" book. We will gather and organize facts about ourselves and then make a book. We will then move into writing books based on topics we know a lot about. In Math, we will be reading and counting numbers up to 40. We will be using tens and ones manipulatives to explore place value. In Social Studies, we have explored some current events and will learn about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. We are excited to celebrate Valentine's Day. We wish everyone a happy Valentines days and a relaxing, safe winter break!

### **Second Grade**

Second graders have been working hard and learning so much in February. Students have been researching a nonfiction topic of their choice, collecting amazing facts, and making notes as they learn important information. Children are in the process of making informational posters which will be used to teach their classmates about the topics they chose. In math, students are practicing telling time on an analog clock. Although most of us are more accustomed to reading time on a digital clock, they are doing well.

The clock we use in class has minutes marked at every hour interval, and this certainly helps.

In science, we have been learning about landforms and the slow and fast changes that alter their shape. Students are designing an ocean front structure that will resist wind, water, and bad weather.

Hopefully we will see less wind, water, and bad weather in and outside of the classroom by the time we return from the February break.

### **Third Grade**

Third graders have been very busy this month! Our readers have been working hard analyzing characters and have been learning to have meaningful book club discussions. They have been acting as detectives, as they develop ideas about characters and dig deeper in the text to find evidence to support their thinking.

Our writers are actively developing essays where they are growing their ideas about their characters, and are turning them into strong paragraphs. This is a brand new skill for 3rd graders and they are making great progress!

Our mathematicians have been expanding their multiplication and division brains by learning a variety of strategies to solve their facts. Our goal is to have students use strategies and have an understanding of what multiplication and division mean, and how they are related, instead of memorizing the facts. Once they understand the process, they can practice to increase their speed.

Additionally, students are learning how to solve more complex problems involving one or two steps. Bar models are an excellent visual tool that helps students understand the problems. Please continue reinforcing these math concepts at home.

In social studies, students are excited to learn about geography and where we are located in our community, state, and world communities. They are beginning some research on the state of New Jersey and are looking forward to sharing their findings with their classmates.

### **Fourth Grade**

Many of our fourth graders were happy to begin "Bells" lessons with our instrumental teachers, and all seem excited for Valentine's Day! During our literacy block, we have been closely reading and analyzing several powerful literary essay texts as well as some special poems. We've been discussing their themes and author's messages. We are writing about these texts and learning to prove their important lessons with text evidence. In math, we will be wrapping up our fractions unit with some real world problems when we return from the break. We will be transitioning into our decimal unit and learning about how fractions and decimals relate. Please continue regular fact practice. The children are beginning to realize the importance of strong fact recall and how it is essential in solving many of the higher level math concepts. In social studies,

we are wrapping up a unit on the Early People of NJ. Students have enjoyed creating Google Presentations, making longhouses, and Lenape tools. In our next science unit, we will be studying energy and motion, speed and the energy of an object, and energy transfer. We hope you have a fun and restful break.

### **Fifth Grade**

In language arts, we have been reading informational texts and are beginning to select topics to research. We have also been continuing our Writer's Studio work and writing about reading, based on our independent reading books. This Friday, we are celebrating our writing in class with a Writer's Studio Showcase- each student will share one piece of writing.

Math - We wrapped up Chapter 3 (Multiplying & Dividing Fractions) this week, and students took the Chapter 3 test on Thursday. After the break, we will start working with decimals.

Social Studies - Students have been working in groups to research and create Google Slides presentations on how relationships developed between the Native Americans and the European colonists. After the break, students will study the New England, Middle Colonies, and Southern Colonies. They will learn about the resources, jobs, religions, education and government systems, the populations represented in each region, and what the land/climate was like.

### **Physical Education**

Students are enjoying their time back in the gym for physical education. They are spending the time getting out all of their energy! We are using the time together to work on our underhand and overhand throwing. As always we place a large emphasis on being a good teammate and working together with others to solve a problem. We are going over ways to stay healthy in the winter by eating fruits and vegetables and getting enough exercise daily. Students continue to learn and grow this year and are improving daily!

### **Media**

Lincoln school is abuzz with excitement over our recently launched Lincoln Loves Reading month! Lessons in media are mirroring this fun event. Students in all grade levels are beginning their author study on Dr. Seuss. Students are reading through his works and learning about his life. The culmination of our Lincoln Loves Reading month celebration will be our annual tradition- celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday during Read Across America. This will take place the week of 3/1/21- 3/5/21. Other events will include an outdoor book walk, outdoor libraries, and Golden Tickets for staff and students.

**Art**

Lincoln artists have been working hard during their art time. We are currently working on a collaborative landscape painting that will incorporate various pieces from each grade. Each grade level will be working on their own special part in this collaborative painting which will be displayed in our hallway outside of the art room! We are all very excited to create something that holds a special touch from each of our Lincoln artists!

**Music**

Vocal music classes have been in full swing, virtually and during in-school flex time, as students move, dance, listen to music, practice music and mindfulness, use the Quaver Music app, and prepare virtual concerts. Recently, the fifth grade students prepared their rendition of "Fifth Grade Wonderland" to be released this month! Fourth grade singers are preparing a choral song for a virtual release later this spring, to go along with our school-wide "Set Sail Together" theme. The younger grades have been learning the names of the notes on the musical staff and learning all about instrument families, while singing for winter holidays such as Groundhog Day and Valentine's Day. Keep on singing!