

October Newsletter

Dear Families,

We have had a wonderful start to the school year. Most of the procedural routines have been established and our beginning of the year assessments are behind us. We have enjoyed getting to know your children, both personally and academically, and now we are excited to delve into the curriculum.

<p style="text-align: center;">Reading</p> <p>In reading, we have launched Jerry Spinelli book clubs. The kids have been reading various Jerry Spinelli titles for the purpose of thinking deeply about the texts and sharing their thinking with the group. The kids are jotting down their thoughts and thinking about the themes of the books. They've explored the story arc and various story elements.</p> <p>Reading stamina varies from student to student. Like anything, being able to read for longer periods of time takes practice. Hopefully, your child will be able to sustain reading for at least 30 minutes soon, if not already.</p> <p>Reading at Home:</p> <p>As discussed at Curriculum Night, I do not want the kids to see reading as an assignment, or homework, but rather just part of a daily routine. One way to encourage your child to read at home is for him or her to see you reading. You could also read with your child. Former students have told me that they really enjoy reading with their parents or other family members. They're not too old for this! There is wonderful children's literature out there that you both could enjoy together!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Math</p> <p>In math, we kicked off the year with the Week of Inspirational Math. This week includes activities around developing mathematical strategies, working through mistakes, and sharing ideas.</p> <p>We then started our first unit of the year, coordinate graphing. The kids learned key vocabulary and how to plot points. We practiced plotting and naming points by playing "Swat the Fly," a battleship-like game. Students observed patterns in their graphs and described them in writing and equations.</p> <p>We recently began our second unit around place value. We reviewed the place value system and began to learn how it helps us multiply and divide by 10 (and powers of 10). The kids also explored how the metric system relates to the place value system.</p> <p>Both classes have started math workshop, in which students have a mini-lesson, independent work, hands-on and technology activities, and small groups with a teacher. Just like reading stamina, we have talked about building stamina to work through challenging or new math work. The kids are developing strategies for persevering and problem solving.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Writing</i></p> <p>In writing, the kids have been working on personal narratives. They have generated multiple seed stories and chose one to develop. We have discussed the question, "What is this story REALLY about?" For</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Science and Social Studies</p> <p>In Science, we started by exploring the role and experiences of scientists. The kids read books about scientists from many fields and wrote about "What is a scientist?" Recently, the kids have been learning what makes a "system" in science. This sets the stage for our studies of many</p>

<p>example, a story about driving in a car on vacation could really be about spending quality time with family and not just the places you visited. After deciding on what their stories are really about, the kids angled the stories using various strategies to capture that meaning.</p>	<p>systems, like the water system, over the rest of the year. The kids have thought about systems they are familiar with, including the mail system, bus system or their family system, and created a visual model.</p> <p>In Social Studies, the kids have done a great job sharing their summer artifacts. We have practiced describing these objects and making inferences. This is great practice for our first unit: the Age of Exploration, in which we will examine artifacts and what they meant for the explorers.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Circle</p> <p>Since the beginning of the school year, the children have become more comfortable speaking and listening to one another in the circle.</p> <p>Mrs. Orcutt, our social worker, has facilitated discussions during circle time about the Zones of Regulation. The zones have to do with being aware of your emotions and we will begin to develop strategies for self-regulation.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NEWS</p> <p><u>Picture Day:</u> Monday, October 15th</p> <p><u>Care and Share:</u> We are collecting boxes of cereal during the month of October.</p> <p><u>Fun Run:</u> The kids enjoyed participating in the Boosterthon Fun Run. We raised a lot of money for our school. Thank you for all of your support!</p> <p><u>Harvest Party:</u> We will have our Harvest party on Wednesday, October 31st. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to bring in a food item.</p> <p><u>Early Release Conference Dates:</u> Thursdays, October 18th, 25th, and November 1st.</p> <p><u>Announcements:</u> Community 28 has enjoyed doing the morning announcements during October so far! Team 31 will have this job in November.</p>

Here is the Sign-UpGenius Link for the Fall Conference if you have not already signed up. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0F4EACAA2CA5F94-fall>

Check out some pictures from the start of our year below!

Feel free to reach out to contact us with any questions or concerns about your child. We look forward to meeting with you at conference time.

Sincerely,
Michael Pearson and Julia Hurley

