



North Elementary Principal's Message

Dr. Paula Manchester
Principal



December 5, 2019

I hope everyone enjoyed our first snow day! I loved looking at all the pictures and seeing all the different creations of snowgirls, snowmen, forts, and snow angels.

Thank you to all our families who came out to the annual Fall Festival. We look forward to this annual tradition every year! Check out the pictures of our creative scarecrows below.

December is here!!! Our little elves have been busy this past month working hard on their academics while having some fun too. We look forward to the month of December, as we continue to learn in an environment filled with joy and great learning opportunities.

I wanted to wish all of our Somerset families a Happy Holiday season. During December, we know for many families, this is a time of celebrating different holidays. We also know it is a time when families may not celebrate the holidays. We want to teach our students that even though we may have different beliefs, traditions, or ideas, it is important for us to continue to learn from each other so that we continue to build a stronger and more inclusive community.

We will be sharing different holiday traditions around the world. It is a perfect time to learn about geography, culture, and history. Please feel free to reach out

to your child's teacher about special holidays or other traditions you would like us to learn about. Please enjoy this time with your beautiful families.

Please dress your child appropriately for the weather for both morning and afternoon recess. Children will be going outside as long as the temperature or wind chill are at least 22 degrees (Fahrenheit). All students are expected to go outside and get access to fresh air, while exerting some energy. Also, when there is snow on the ground, we are hoping to allow students to play in the snow, as long as they have the proper attire and they are able to dress themselves with minimal assistance (hats, snow boots, snow pants, gloves, etc.). Please consider working on helping children dress independently, so that we are able to give them this opportunity. Students without the proper attire will be limited to the blacktop area of the playground when there is snow on the ground.

Please label all of your child's items (jacket, hat, gloves, lunchboxes, etc.). We are already gathering a large collection of student items in our "lost and found" area. If your child is missing an item, there is a good chance it's hanging off the library banister. Please check out our collection during Parent Teacher conferences.

Parent Teacher Conferences are Monday, December 9th by appointment only. Please email your child's teacher if you have any questions. There is no school for students on this day.

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 9th	No School Parent/Teacher Conferences By Appointment
December 14th	Wreaths Across America Ceremony 11:30
December 16th- 20th	Holiday Spirit Week (Voluntary)- See Below
December 18th	String Concert Grades 4 & 5 at 11:30 AM
December 18th	String Performance (5th Grade) at Galleria Mall 7:00 PM
Dec 23rd- Jan 1st	Vacation- No School

Spirit Week Presented by our Special Activities Committee

Mon Dec. 16	Merry Morning Monday- Wake up, roll out of bed and wear PJ
Tue Dec. 17	Santa's WorkShop - Dress like Santa, elves, or toys

Wed Dec. 19 **Winter Wonderland Wednesday- Wear blue and white and/or your favorite hat and scarf**
Thur Dec 20 **Deck The Halls- Wear your favorite holiday accessory**
Fri Dec 21 **Festive Friday- Show up your favorite festive outfit (flannel or sweater)**

A note from our Special Education Director:

Happy December! I hope you are all enjoying a happy and successful school year! It surely has been flying by already. It is wonderful to be a part of this district and working alongside you all. We wanted to take a moment to share some news and welcome Dr. Carolyn McKearney to our schools. As we know, it is important to always grow and reflect. We must continue to assess our programs and continue to build our skillset to support all students. With that in mind, we are inviting Dr. McKearney into our schools to assist us with some of our new programs. We are proud to have established our Therapeutic Learning Center Classrooms at North Elementary as well as at our Middle School. These programs provide social-emotional and behavioral support as well as integrated academic instruction as needed. We have dedicated staff in these programs that are excited to work this educational coach and continue to enhance their programs. Ms. McKearney will visit our classrooms and work with staff in a coaching model. We are excited to welcome her! The information below will highlight a bit about Dr. McKearney as well as provide an outline of what this coaching model will look like. We will certainly gain much from this valuable professional development and direct consultation!

Wishing you all a lovely December,

Ms. Meg Ashton
Director of Special Education
Somerset Public Schools

Dr. Carolyn McKearney's Bio:

Masters in Adapted Physical Education
Licensed Special Education Teacher
Licensed Special Education Administrator
Licensed Superintendent
Doctorate in Educational Leadership. Dissertation in Creating Brain-Based Therapeutic Environments/ Classrooms.

Professional Development Topics include:

1) Creating Supportive Environments

- 2) Programming For Anxiety
- 3) Anxiety and The Brain
- 4) Matching our Strategies to How the Brain Works.
- 5) Understanding The Brain-Based Therapeutic Philosophy
- 6) The 4 Components of a Therapeutic Classroom.

Consultation:

Dr. McKearney is an educator who works with educators to create therapeutic classroom environments for students. Teachers will create these environments to decrease behavioral incidents and increase student regulation. Her philosophy is based on the work of Dr. Kevin Plummer who believes that the most effective strategies are based on understanding how the brain works. These brain-based therapeutic interventions will be introduced during professional development opportunities and then embedded into the consultation. Classroom wide and individual student support plans will be developed in consultation.

Consultation includes:

- Classroom observations
- Case studies and creation of individual support plans
- Classroom/ program development
- Coaching sessions
- Team development (to ensure carry-over when the consultant leaves)

North Elementary Fall Festival Scarecrow Stroll

Thank you to all who came to our Fall Festival and took the Scarecrow Stroll. Every year the scarecrows are unique and we love to see how they turn out.

Insights

Getting in the Christmas Spirit with Insights Santa!!



PreK

Mrs. Rayray's Class

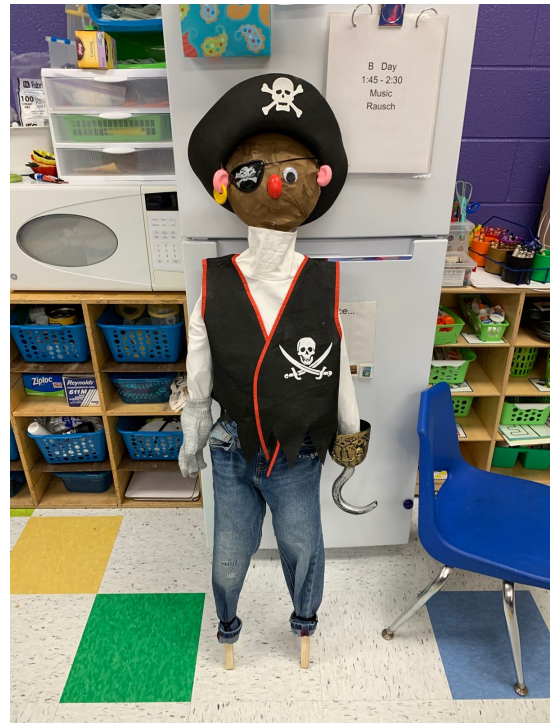
Elsa and Olaf were created by Mrs. Rayray and Mrs. Neilan's Pre-K class. Elsa was made mainly out of different kinds of trash bags along with a plastic pumpkin, garden stakes, paper towel tubes, and recycled cloth. We had fun making and throwing paper snowballs that were used to stuff Olaf. We used real paint rollers to paint the sky of the backdrop and as we were cutting out paper snowflakes, real snowflakes fell from the sky! We love the wintery magic of Frozen!



PreK

Mrs. Cabral's Class

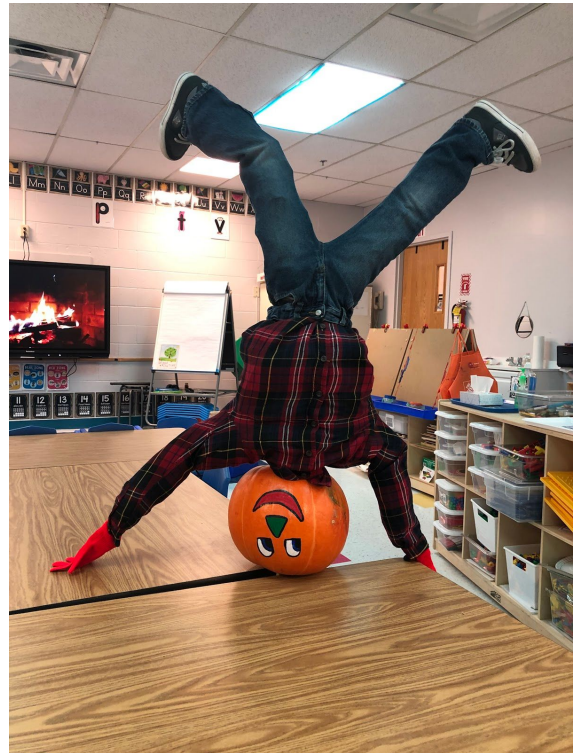
My inspiration was the things we do in preschool. The kids love to dress up and the Pirate costume is something the boys love and they all love Mr. Potato Head. Thought it would be a great mash-up.



PreK

Mrs Schoonover's Class

Mrs. Schoonover's class scarecrow is a happy prek student who is in the middle of doing a cartwheel! Our scarecrow friend represents how fun and whimsical it is to be 3 or 4 years old!



PreK

Mrs. Kelly McCarthy-Dion

Our scarecrow's name is Farmer MacDonald. We made our scarecrow with the Old MacDonald song in mind. The students love that song and they enjoy playing with the farm animals on his farm.



PreK

Mrs. Cornell

Mr. Potato Head is a favorite toy/activity in our classroom. They enjoying creating silly faces and bodies. The students also connect Mr. Potato Head with the Toy Story Movie and enjoy talking about it and acting out some of the scenes from the movie.



Kindergarten

"Owl Be Watching You Grow"

Kindergarten has been comparing and contrasting fiction and non-fiction text about owls!

Students have enjoyed the stories and were very excited to make the owl scarecrow.



1st Grade

With the help of the *Three Little Pigs*, the first grade is hog wild for learning!! Stick by stick and brick by brick, we are building strong, engaged learners that no huffs and puffs can knock down.



2nd Grade

Kindly the Scarecrow

I Can Be Your Pal

**I can be a pal by smiling at you
I can be a pal when you feel blue.
I can be a pal who is honest and kind
I can be a pal when you're in a bind.
I can be a pal by saying please and thank
you
I can be a pal when no one wants to.
I can be a pal every single day
I can be your pal, what do you say?**



3rd Grade

Hats off in Third Grade!!!!

What better way to celebrate fall?
Students created *Hats Off in Third Grade* with a little character and with a little whimsy. Most of the hats can be hung as wreaths, while some of the others can be used as table toppers or centerpieces. What better way to greet the day than looking at one of these cuties in your home! Happy Fall!



4th Grade

Karate Kid

I am nimble on my feet
Because I don't sit on my seat

I practice my pose
To scare away the crows

Want to come and play?
Let's stay outside all day



5th Grade

Inspired by the beloved children's books "Flat Stanley", our fifth graders decided to create flat scarecrows on the theme of "Choose Kindness".

Each classroom designed and created their own unique scarecrow and decided to set them up to be holding hands to show that we are better together. To extend the theme, each student then had an opportunity to write one way they felt they could spread kindness in our school community. This trio of kind scarecrow friends was truly a team effort of cooperation, patience, and perseverance!



From Ms. Roy, Our Nurse

Happy December Families!

Scoliosis screenings for 5th grade students will occur in January. Parents and guardians that have opted out of this screening have been recorded. There is no need to send in a duplicate note. **If you have decided that you don't want the screening, please send in a note to the nurse including your child's name and teacher. Please have this in before December 14, 2019.**



FLU FACTS/INFORMATION: The flu is a highly contagious viral infection of the respiratory tract. Although the flu affects everyone, children tend to get it more often than adults. The season for the flu is usually from November to April with most cases occurring between late December and early March.

The flu is often confused with the common cold, but flu symptoms tend to develop quickly (usually 1 to 4 days after a person is exposed to the flu virus) and are usually more severe than the typical sneezing and stuffiness of a cold.

Symptoms of the Flu may include: Fever, Chills, Headache, Muscle aches, Dizziness, Loss of appetite, Tiredness, Cough, Sore throat, Nausea or vomiting, Diarrhea, and Weakness.

Symptoms can last for a week or two. The flu is very contagious. It is spread by coughing or sneezing into the air.

Ways to Prevent the Flu:

- Obtain your flu shot as directed by your physician.
- **Wash your Hands** thoroughly and frequently.
- Never pick up used tissues.
- Never share cups and eating utensils.
- Stay home from work or school when you're sick with the flu.
- Cover your mouth and nose with your elbow or a tissue when you cough or sneeze.

How Do You Treat The Flu?

- Stay home from school.
- Drink lots of fluids.
- Get plenty of sleep and take it easy.
- Call your doctor for advice.
- Return to school when your child is better.

Also, as an additional reminder, I am not allowed to dispense cough drops without a physician's order here in the health office.

Stay Well!

Stephanie Roy, BSN, RN



Communication

Please feel free to contact your child's teacher, Mrs. Brown or myself whenever you have questions. Your child's teacher, however, should be your first contact to address any specific questions or concerns you may have as they may have the information you need. If they are not able to answer your question, feel free to contact me. Our goal is to ensure good communication between school and home. I will continue to be sending out my monthly newsletter via email every month. We also use email frequently to communicate any information you may need. You can contact any of the staff here at North Elementary by using their first name and their last name separated by a dot followed by @somersetschools.org. For example, my email is paula.manchester@somersetschools.org.

Grade Level Happenings



Insights

This month, Insights will be continuing our theme of being thankful while we transition into the new theme of giving! Students will be exposed to books and activities that promote them to think of how giving can make others feel and why it is important to give.

The arrival of our new Christmas themed dramatic play center will be our biggest yet! Our play center will include a Christmas tree, Christmas lights, and a life-size gingerbread house! These dramatic play centers help to promote language development, social interaction, and problem solving skills!

PreK

The month of November flew by us. We hope everyone enjoyed their holiday break. We have been busy joining in on a lot of fall activities and learning about trees during our Tree Unit. We went on a field trip to Chamberlain Farms. We were able to ride on a school bus, enjoy a hayride, pick cranberries from the cranberry bog and pick a pumpkin in the pumpkin patch. All the classrooms made scarecrows for the Fall Festival. The full day preschool classes had their Thanksgiving Feast. The preschoolers enjoyed eating all the fixings. The half day classes had their Snack Feast. They enjoyed a variety of snacks, family styles.

For the month of December, we will be beginning our Clothing Unit. We will participate in multicultural holiday activities. We are looking forward to parent/teacher conferences and our holiday concert coming soon!







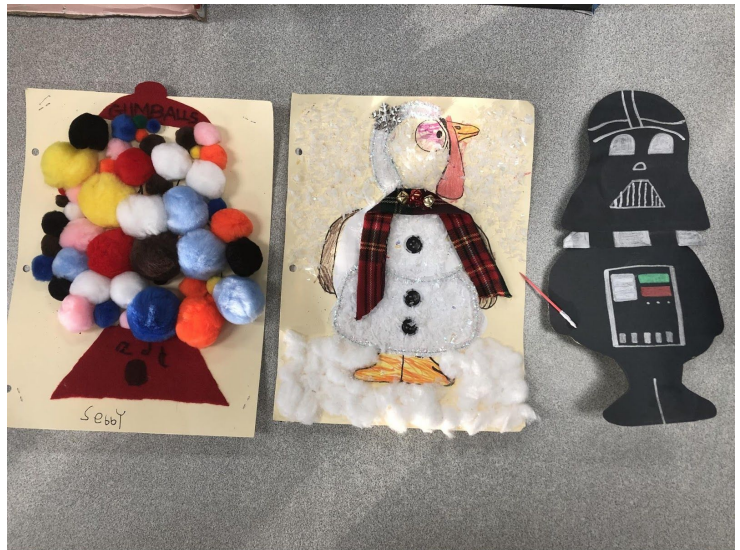


Kindergarten

In Kindergarten we are reading fiction and nonfiction stories about weather. We are also working very hard at reading our kindergarten sight words. We learned about our first two vowels or "Superstars" in Lively Letters (a and o) and are beginning to practice reading short vowel a and o words together. (cat, rat, pot, got, etc).

In writing we are working on using our sight words and the sounds we hear in words to write a sentence that tells about our drawings, thoughts and experiences. In math we have been comparing sets of objects using the words greater than, less than, same, and equal. We have also been working very hard at counting by ones and tens together and at counting on from a given number.

The students did an excellent job at creating and sharing their Turkeys In Disguise for their November Family Project. There is no family project for the month of December. The children are working on a special project in class that we look forward to sharing with you at parent conferences.



Grade 1

The holiday season is upon us and Santa's elves aren't the only ones who are busy at work! The first grade classes have also been working hard. We have been learning and practicing many new skills across all areas of the curriculum.

In reading, we are moving on to module B of unit two. In this module, students will read stories that introduce children from different communities around the world. Students will be asked to retell these stories using key details as well as citing evidence from the text. Building further understanding of the text using illustrations to describe characters, setting and story events will also be explored.

Informational/explanatory writing will be our focus during the next few weeks. Through the use of modeling and mini lessons, students will come to understand that informative writing focuses on one main idea and provides facts about a specific topic. Our goal is that with this guidance, students will develop a final independent writing piece.

Grade 1 mathematicians have been working on unit three and exploring various addition strategies. Students have practiced applying strategies such as counting on, doubles plus and minus one, and making a ten to help solve for various addition problems. Our next unit will focus on non-standard units of measurement and time.

Finally, we are off to travel the world! In social studies, all classes will be learning about several holidays around the world. The children will be participating in many hands-on activities and reading literature about many different holidays and traditions. Have a wonderful holiday season from the grade 1 team!

Grade 2

December is here! This month will go by quickly but not without some holiday cheer! As we begin to look closer at expository writing or deeper at narrative writing, our students will be busy creating "How To" pieces or creating imaginative stories involving some holiday characters! Using writing techniques to draw in our readers, second graders will be lifting the level of their writing. You can look forward to some great pieces coming home soon!

Our "teacher elves" have been busy making sure the students are growing as readers, too! Students have increased their independent reading time, deepened their comprehension skills and have been sharing their opinions on the stories they're reading. Guided reading groups are also a time when students are having conversations about the themes in their texts, asking/ answering questions and writing about their stories.

Problem solving with some silly holiday problems will keep our skills sharp in math! Second graders have been using a variety of strategies to solve basic facts along with using "Reflex", an online math resource. Showing how to solve a problem with pictures and equations, as well as, explaining how a problem was solved, will continue to be practiced.

Don't forget to have your child spread some holiday cheer the week before winter break! Keep an eye out for the fun ways to be festive...Happy Holidays!

Grade 3

Where did November go? In ELA, students are working on understanding the central message or main ideas by looking closely at the details used to support them. For writing, we are understanding how to convey information about main ideas and details through text features and illustrations. During social studies we are wrapping up the Wampanoags. In math, the focus will be moving on to understanding multiplication. Students are now using this operation to find how many in all. They will use equal groups, skip counting, number lines, and arrays to find the products. Strategies for multiplying with different factors will now be explained and practiced. In science, students are moving on to weather. We wish everyone a merry holiday and a relaxing vacation!

Grade 4

Our Fourth Grade writers are focusing on narrative writing this month. We will read many mentor texts and use the authors' strategies to improve our own writing. In Reading, we are continuing to build our reading stamina for reading independently. We are also building our comprehension skills through Interactive Read Alouds and Guided Reading groups.

This month, our scientists are exploring soil, rocks, and landforms. We will be using our new science kits to investigate soil samples and learn about physical and chemical weathering.

In Math, we will be working on two digit by two digit multiplication. We will also be moving on to division. It is important that students know their facts through 12x12 in order to be successful. Please review at home!



Our Geographers are continuing to work their way across the United States studying the landforms, resources, and history of each region.

We are looking forward to a great month of learning!

Grade 5

During the month of December math classes will continue to focus on decimals with operations. As the month progresses we will move from addition and subtraction of decimals to multiplying and then dividing. Students should continue to master their math facts through Reflex. Between home and school all students should be getting their green light daily. Please encourage your child to use this program as it is a great way to master those facts!

Science classes will be wrapping up the physical science unit with mixtures. Students will learn about solutions, mixtures, compounds, and molecules. They will be participating in activities that will require them to put two substances together and then witness a chemical reaction as a result! Be sure to ask them about these activities as the month progresses. They are usually a favorite amongst the students.

I'm ELA this month we will be wrapping up narrative and descriptive writing with some winter themed assignment. Student will be able to utilize all of the strategies that they have learned during trimester 1 and their imagination to author a fun seasonal writing piece. In reading we will be investigating point of view through a variety of literature and our own responses.

History class this month will wrap up colonization in preparation for our in-depth study of the American Revolution in the new year. Student will be comparing and contrasting the different colonial regions as well as each region's relationship with the native nations who inhabited the region.

We are looking forward to meeting all families at conferences this month. Remember to bring your child with you. You will be impressed with their ability to showcase their goals and their progress so far this year!

Music

Mr. Schaefer's Music Classes

Mrs. Whalen's Kindergarten class has been singing songs related to Thanksgiving - "Five



Little Turkeys". "Albuquerque Turkey", "I'm A Very Fine Turkey" and a song that Bruce Springsteen recorded - "Chicken Lips and Lizard Hips". We danced to the Turkey Dance - really the "Chicken Dance" with some gobbling! We also watched parts of the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade.

The Grade 3 Music classes have been singing and learning about sea shanties - working songs sung on ships. One in particular, "Blow Ye Winds", is a whaling song so we have talked about New Bedford's role in the whaling industry as well as why whaling is no longer generally allowed. Earlier in the month, we talked about Veteran's Day and made cards while listening to "Armed Forces Salute", a piece of music arranged that includes the theme songs of the Army, Marines, Coast Guard, Air Force and Navy.

Grade 5 Strings have begun working on the concept of time signatures and have learned to play F and C natural. Key signature is the primary goal for 5th grade. It's what tells students which fingers to use and where to place them thus allowing students to practice at home with the correct notes and intonation (correct finger in exactly the correct spot)

Extra help is available before school (setting up ahead of time is always a good idea) and on B and J days during lunch recess. Students need to sign up on the board outside my room by 9:00 am that day.

Concert information has been sent home for both the in-school concerts and the Silver City Galleria performance with the 6th grade String students. All take place on Wednesday, December 18:

10:00 am - performance at Chace Street Elementary, **11:30 am** - performance at North Elementary

12:15 pm - Lunch at McDonalds or Wendy's (students will need money or a bagged lunch)

1:30 pm - performance at South Elementary, 2:15 pm - return to home schools

7:00 pm - performance at Silver City Galleria (students should arrive at Center Court no later than 6:30 pm)

Almost all materials sent home will be posted on the Google Classroom so please have your student check there if they are missing something or are absent.

Grade 4 Strings have now learned to read and play 4 notes on the D string and 4 notes on the A string. We won't be learning any more new notes for a few months. After the concert and December vacation, we begin using the bow!

Students should be practicing the Winter Concert song sheet several times a week in preparation for the December 18 performance. Their performance is scheduled for 11:30. Please refer to the concert information sheet sent home before Thanksgiving.

Almost all materials sent home will be posted in the *Google Classroom* so please have your student check there if they are missing something or are absent.

Extra help is available before school (setting up ahead of time is always a good idea) and on B and J days during lunch recess. Students need to sign up on the board outside my room by 9:00am that day.

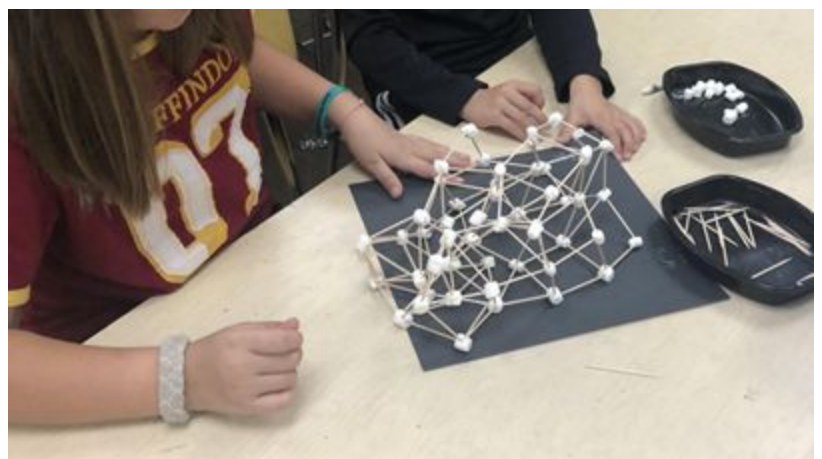
Art

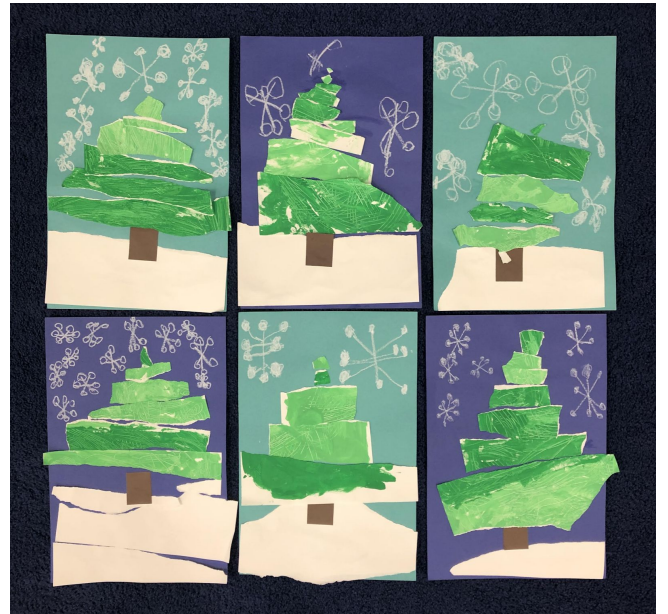
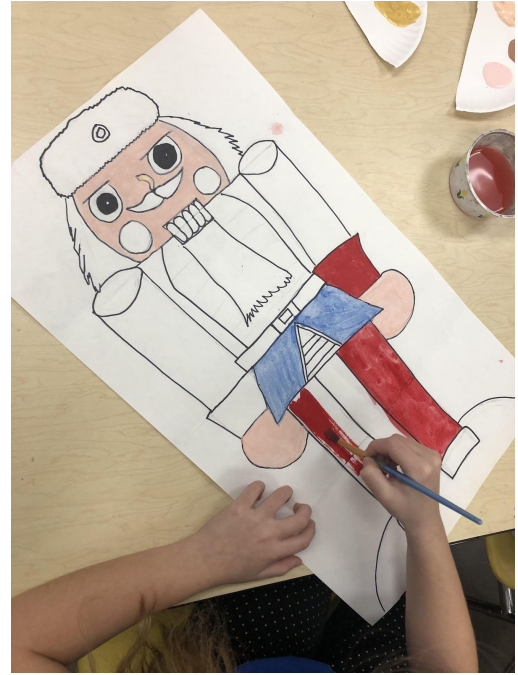
Art with Mrs. Wilson

Our North artists in action...

This is just a small sample of a few things our artists have been working on during the past month!

- Collaborative toothpick sculptures
- Metal tooling
- Model Magic sculpting
- Drawing
- Lots of painting!

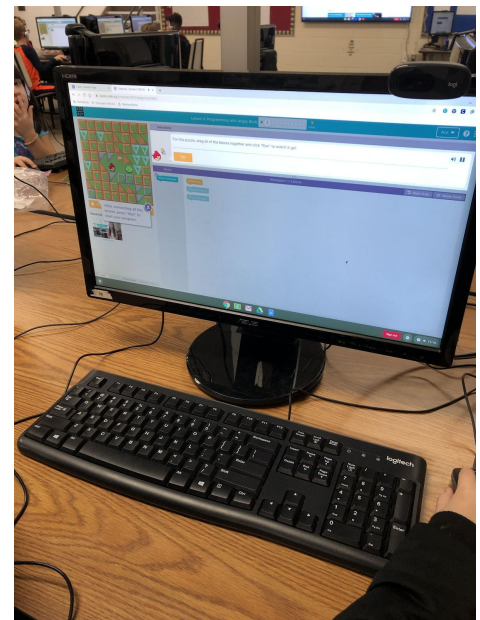
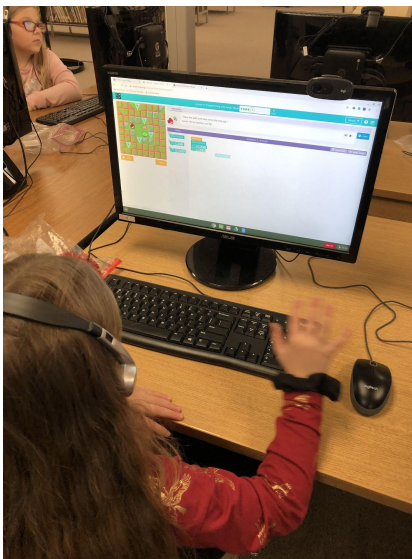






Technology

Throughout the month of December, students are learning computer science fundamentals through a CS course on Code.org. Students are focused on coding skills such as sequencing, loops, impacts of computing, and events. The older grades are also incorporating variables, sprites and binary. Students will create their own games, art and digital stories that they can share, all while developing problem-solving, collaboration, persistence and computational thinking. When the CS fundamentals course is completed, students will participate in an hour of code tutorial of their choice!



SNOW DAY ADVENTURES

Those were the days.....























