

## North Elementary Principal's Message

February 5th, 2020

Dr. Paula Manchester  
Principal

It is hard to believe we are already in the second month of 2020, and according to Punxsutawney Phil we are looking forward to an early spring!!

February is Black History month. A time to reflect on the rich culture and contributions from African Americans in history. Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas celebrate birthdays this month, two important individuals who took a stand and led the way to abolish slavery. Please take some time to learn about some of the contributions and the many stories of inspiration. Don't forget to come to our *North Culture Night*, February 12th at 6:00. Come learn about the cultures of the families here at North.



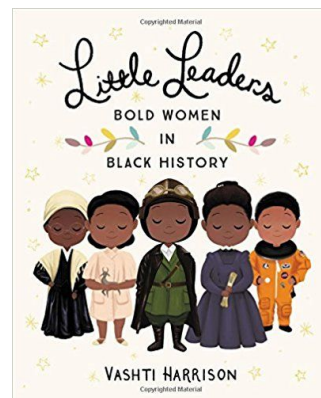
If you are looking for a movie to watch this month, check out the movie *Harriet*. It is based on the story of Harriet Tubman and her journey as she escaped from slavery and was determined to spend the rest of her life freeing other slaves. Through her dangerous missions, she liberated over 750 slaves through the Underground Railroads, and worked for the military during the Civil War. Her story reminds us of how important perseverance, grit, and determination are in any journey we take.

## Celebrating Each Other

To help expand on our cultural learning opportunities, here are some books you can pick up or borrow from the library that immerse children into the lives and cultural experiences of other children.

### Elementary K-5

- Maya's Blanket/La Mandta de Maya by Monica Brown
- Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music by Margarita Engle
- Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofose by Laurie Ann Thompson
- With Books and Bricks: How Booker T. Washington Built a School
- Rosa by Nikki Giovanni
- Ira's Shakespeare Dream by Glenda Armand
- Four Feet, Two Sandals by Karen Lynn Williams
- Last Stop on Market Street by Matt de la Pena
- My Name is Sangoel by Karen Williams
- Bayou Magic by Jewell Parker Rhodes
- Little Leaders Bold Women in Black History Vashti Harrison
- Save Me a Seat by Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan



North Elementary School staff and students have been working hard staying on our path toward success. Over the next couple of weeks, grade level teams will be working together analyzing student data and creating intervention groups based on information they have gained from universal screening assessments administered. RTI/WIN (Response to Intervention/What I Need) groups continue to be utilized at every grade level to help students.



Please write your child's name in their jackets, lunchboxes, sweatshirts, or anything that is not attached to them. Our *Lost and Found* pile is growing. If your child is missing an item, it may be in the pile. We have some gloves, mittens, and hats as well.

## Student Council

A special thank you to our student council who organized a food drive, and thank you to all the families who contributed.



Something to think about.....

Would your kids respond in the same way as these kids?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1XDVDyDJ3s0#action=share>

### Positive Communication

It will only be a matter of time before our elementary school students will be using social media to communicate and interact with their peers. Teaching and modeling positive digital citizenship will set the stage for our students to become problem solvers, as they work through conflicts in a positive way. Please be mindful of how you use social media, and how you speak about our school community. If you have any concerns or would like help with solving a problem, please come to us directly. If you have a question, please ask that person directly. In a world where negativity can hurt others, we have the power to make our own communities positive places for our students to grow up in and flourish. By speaking directly to each other, we can learn different perspectives while expanding our own thinking. We are in this together!! 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](mailto:paula.manchester@somersetschools.org)



Please come to our NORTH Loves Culture  
**North Elementary ♥ Culture Night**

Hello Olá هيلو Hola Γειά σου مرحبا

**Please join us !**

**What:** Celebration of Cultures, Community, and Self Care

**Where:** North Elementary Cafeteria (Please enter through cafeteria)

**When:** 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm on 2/12/20 (Wednesday)

**Hosts:** Hosted by Grade 5 Student Council, Student Services, and ESL

**★ Learn about different cultures, taste foods from around the world, take an international selfie!**

**★ Attend a lecture with a local wellness expert, take a yoga or art class, learn about mindfulness and essential oils.**

**If you want, wear traditional clothing of your culture!**

**WARNING:** Food may contain nuts, wheat, soy, fish, eggs, dairy products, or other allergens. There may also be cross-contamination with possible allergens.



Special thanks to the North PTO for sponsoring our night

# North Elementary Night

Get Air Trampoline Park

207 Swansea Mall Drive



Vacation Week Special

Thursday, February 20th

Anytime 5:00pm-10:00pm

20% of Full Price Tickets will  
come back to North  
Elementary



Thank you to Firefighter Jeffrey Langlois,  
Lt. Aaron Fisher, and Lt. Jerry Cunha for  
training some of our staff on CPR, AED, and  
first aid!

# BINGO FAMILY NIGHT

## "Oh What A Night"



## DATES TO REMEMBER

February 12th	North Elementary Culture Night 6:00-8:00
February 17th-21st	Vacation-No School
February 20th	Get Air Trampoline Park 5:00-10:00
February 25th	School Council 4:30
February 25th	PTO Meeting 6:00
March 5th	Paint Night 6:00
March 10th	District String Festival at SBRHS 7:00pm
March 11th	District Band Festival at SBRHS 7:00pm
March 20th	Early Release 12:30
March 24th and 27th	Pre-School Screening by appointment
April 3rd	Spring Dance
April 10th	No School
April 20th-24th	Spring Vacation
April 28th-May 1st	Kindergarten Screening by appointment
May 2nd	Autism Awareness Walk the Walk

### MCAS Dates

#### ELA

5th Grade ELA March 31st, April 1st

4th Grade ELA April 2nd, April 7th

3rd Grade ELA April 8th, April 9th

#### Math

5th Grade Math May 5th, 6th

4th Grade Math May 7th, 12th

3rd Grade Math May 13th, 14th

#### Science

5th Grade May 18th, 19th





## **Lunch**

I would rather not have to call parents because lunch accounts are in arrears. Please keep lunch accounts updated. If you haven't already done so, please create an account on [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com). When you log into the system, you are able to see what your child is spending and make deposits when the account runs low. We can send home an application for free and reduced lunch if you think you may qualify. If you are eligible for free or reduced lunch, snacks are not included, and students will still need to pay for snacks purchased in the cafeteria.

## **DISMISSALS:**

A friendly reminder to send in a note if you are picking up your child and do not want them to take the bus. Phone calls for requests for dismissal changes should only be used for emergencies. **If you are sending in a note for dismissal, please make sure your child's full name and classroom are indicated.**

**From School Nurse Stephanie Roy**

Happy Winter!

I hope everyone had an enjoyable and healthy winter break! January weather can bring up a few health concerns here at school:

\*Flu/Strep: Please notify the School Nurse if your child has been diagnosed with the flu or strep. We do have some immune compromised kids here at the school and it is very helpful for illness tracking and prevention. Children with fevers >100F will be asked to be dismissed. They may return to school when their temp is <100F for 24h without medication.

\*Wet/soiled clothing: As long as temps are appropriate, we do encourage outdoor play for our kiddos during the winter. Fresh air and exercise are good for little bodies and brains! However, we do often see kids coming to the Health Office with wet socks/pants. Comfortable bodies learn better, so please consider packing an extra pair of socks or pants for your child if they will be playing in the snow here at school. Also, I do accept donations of any clothing, as nosebleeds, lunch spills, and bathroom accidents are very common.



\*Head Lice: Per district regulations, we cannot exclude a student from school with head lice. They are a nuisance, but do not transmit disease. Parents/Guardians will be asked to treat the student and they can return to school the next day. Parents will not be regularly notified if a student in their child's class has head lice. They do not jump from person to person, they are transmitted via direct contact.

\*Dry Air: More exposure to indoor heating causes a myriad of health complaints for our kids. Nosebleeds are quite common, and most often are not problematic. The drier air also requires us to drink more water. Decreased water intake can lead to headaches, which is a common finding here in the Health Office. Sending your children with water will keep them hydrated, focused, and eliminate time spent out of the classroom for nurse visits and water fountain trips. Also, as a reminder, I am not allowed to dispense Vaseline. Please pack a lip balm for your child to use if you feel like they are prone to dry chapped lips.

If you ever have any concerns, questions, or would like to speak to me about the health and wellness of your child, please feel free to reach out at any time! 508-324-3170 or [stephanie.roy@somersetschools.org](mailto:stephanie.roy@somersetschools.org) Stay Healthy!!

## Snacks

**Please remember that all snacks eaten in the classroom must be peanut free.** Classroom surfaces are shared by all students and it is harder to avoid cross contamination during snack time. We are able to monitor this better in the cafeteria during lunch time. Students can eat peanut foods in the cafeteria.



There is a lot of research that will support eating healthy snacks during the day is important. Please have your child bring in healthy snacks to school. Snack time in the classroom is an opportunity to refuel. Veggies, proteins, and fruits are a great snack that can make a difference. Minimize the cHere is some additional information.

<http://www.buildhealthykids.com/snacks.html>

## From the Intervention Department

### What is Phonemic Awareness?

First of all, Phonemic awareness is not phonics. Phonemic awareness is the ability to hear, identify, and manipulate individual sounds-phonemes--in spoken words. Before children learn to read print, they need to become more aware of how the sounds in words work. They must understand that words are made up of speech sounds, or *phonemes* (the smallest parts of sound in a spoken word that make a difference in a word's meaning).

### Why Phonemic Awareness Is Important

- It improves students' word reading and comprehension.
- It helps students learn to spell.

#### Examples of Phonemic Awareness Skills

- **Sound and Word discrimination:** What word doesn't belong with the others: "cat", "mat", "bat", "ran"? **"ran"**
- **Rhyming:** What word rhymes with "cat"? **bat**
- **Syllable splitting:** The onset of "cat" is **/k/**, the rime is **/at/**
- **Blending:** What word is made up of the sounds /k/ /a/ /t/? **"cat"**
- **Phonemic segmentation:** What are the sounds in "cat"? **/k/ /a/ /t/**
- **Phoneme deletion:** What is "cat" without the /k/? **"at"**
- **Phoneme manipulation:** What word would you have if you changed the /t/ in cat to an /n/? **"can"**

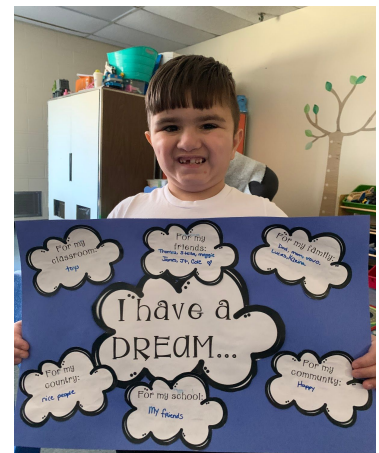
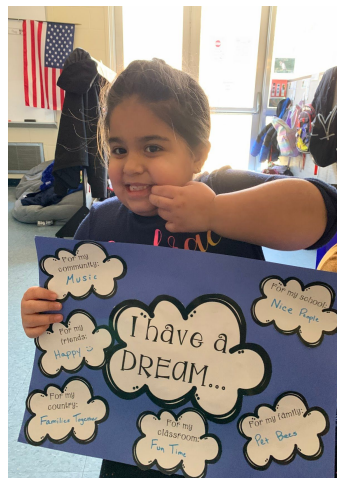
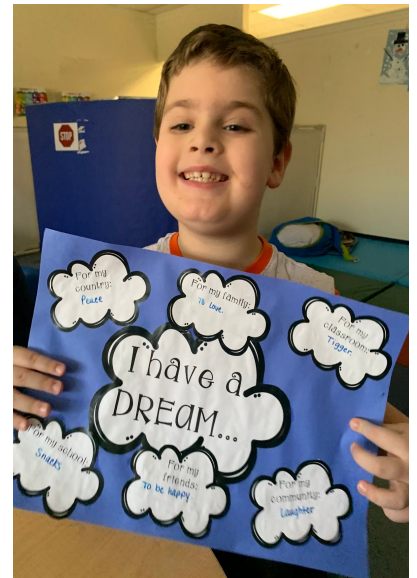
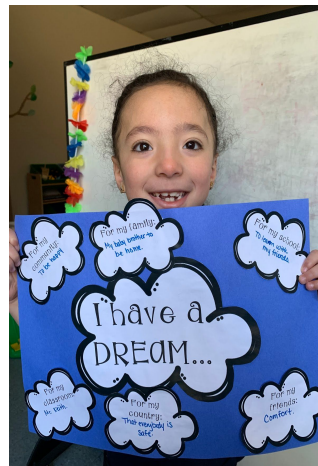
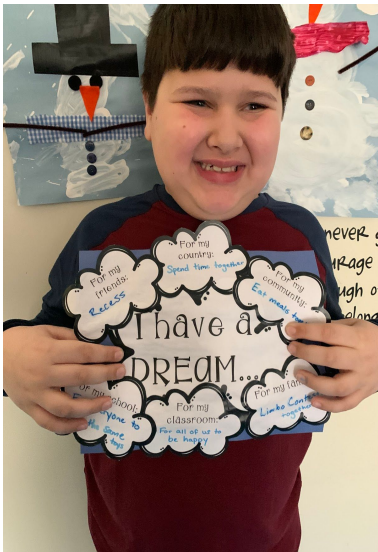
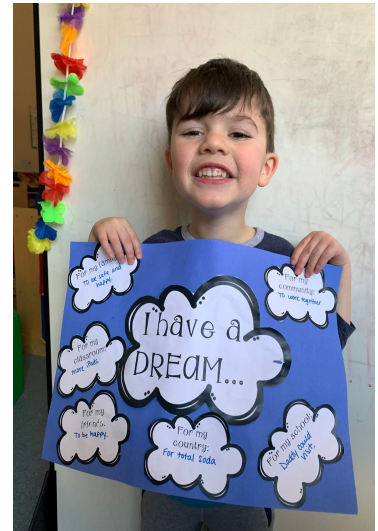
### Phonemic Awareness Can Be Developed Through Activities

- <https://www.readingrockets.org/article/phonemic-activities-preschool-or-elementary-classroom>
- [https://www.readingrockets.org/strategies/syllable\\_games](https://www.readingrockets.org/strategies/syllable_games)
- [https://www.readingrockets.org/strategies/rhyming\\_games](https://www.readingrockets.org/strategies/rhyming_games)
- [https://www.readingrockets.org/strategies/blending\\_games](https://www.readingrockets.org/strategies/blending_games)
- [https://www.readingrockets.org/strategies/onset\\_rime](https://www.readingrockets.org/strategies/onset_rime)

# Grade Level Happenings

## Insights

Students in Insights learned about Dr. Martin Luther King this past month. They also were able to reflect on what their own dreams were for their community, country, family, school, classroom, and their friends.



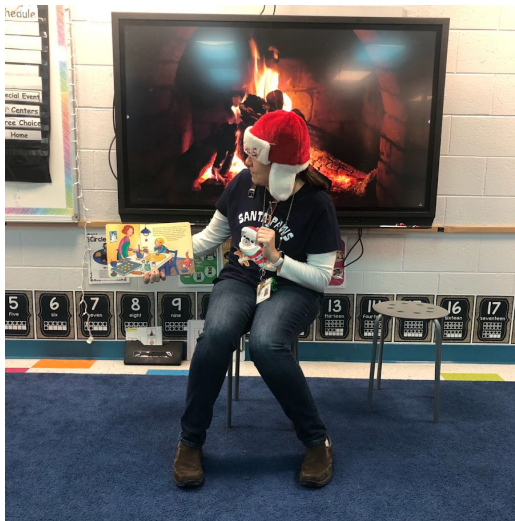


## PreK

December was a month full of wonder and excitement in preschool! Teachers enjoyed having time to meet with parents for conferences. Students had fun coming in each day to see where their class elf would be waiting for them.

Holiday traditions in different homes and countries were explored and Mrs. Fogg from the office did a class

visit and read traditional Christmas stories in German. Students met Clifford at the book fair.

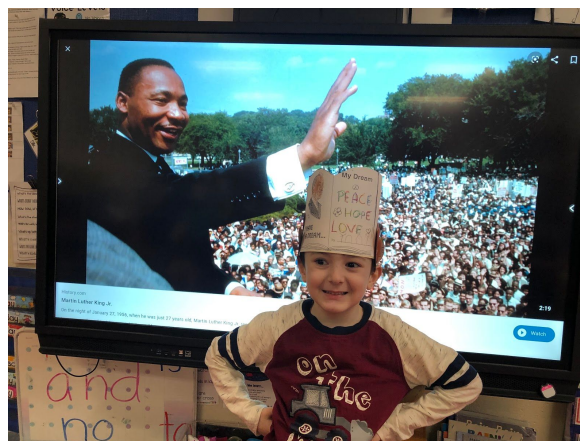
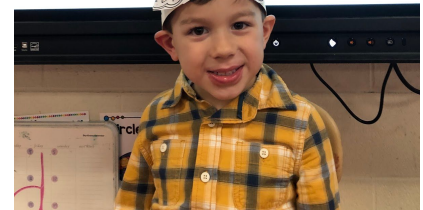


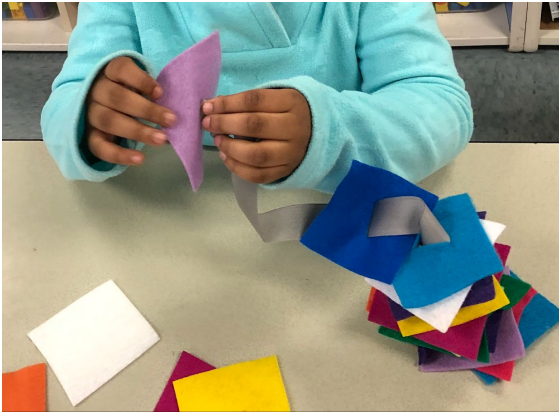




In January we talked a lot about kindness as we learned about a great leader in history; Martin Luther King Jr. We have also been doing a lot of work with our names and enjoying books. Some classes worked on the Clothing Study where they measured and compared different types of fabrics, sorted real clothing by types, colors, and patterns. Experiences related to this study included making real scarves with a sewing machine, paper clothing creations, and strengthening fine motor skills by using sewing cards with plastic needles and completing activities involving buttons. We tested liquid, powder, and bar soaps to see which made the best bubbles. Powder soap won the first test and liquid soap won the second test. We also did experiments with color. This is a cool one that you can try at home!

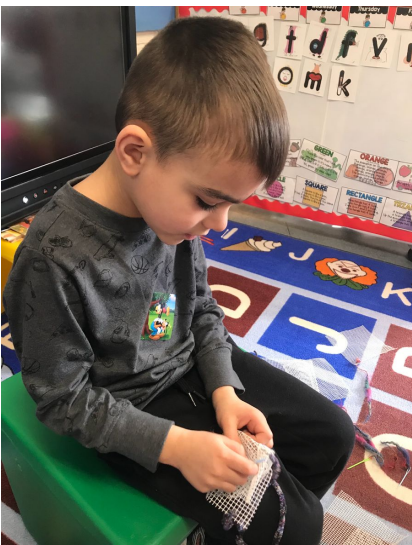
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aTYOnV8hZHA#action=share>



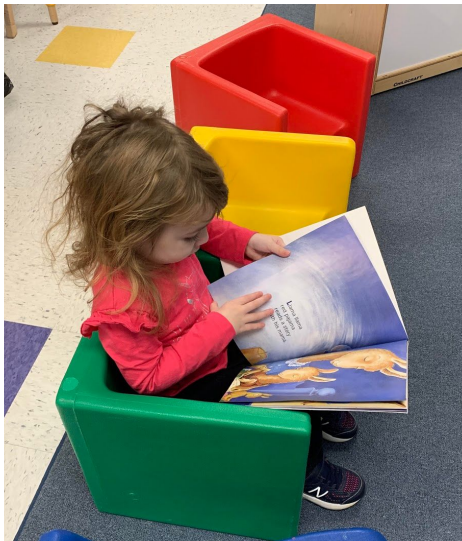


Other classes have been involved with The Ball Study. In Mrs Schoonover's Class, Mr. Ben Machado, Mae's dad, came in and did a cool golf demonstration. Mrs Cabral's class used a beach ball as a wrecking ball, and the students built buildings to knock down. After having a vote on if a pancake can roll we experimented rolling a real pancake (but forgot to take a picture), the answer was a definite "No". The children enjoyed

learning about balls and all the things we can do with them. Some of the skills covered in this study include: learning about force, such as gravity and friction and how they move different types of balls. Also, the differences between a circle, (a pancake), a sphere (a ball), and a cylinder (a can) was explored. Other activities included ways to use balls and how balls are used in different professions.







## Kindergarten

Kindergarten is continuing to practice sight words and applying them to writing simple sentences identifying nouns and verbs. Stories are being read about Changes Over Time with a focus on Then/Now. In math we are moving into the topic of simple addition using objects or drawings to solve math word problems and in Science Kindergarten is tracking weather changes in our Scientist Notebooks!! Snow much Fun

During the month of February the students will be asked to dress like they are 100 years old on Kindergartens 100th Day. More info will follow.

## Grade 1

Wow! February of 2020! The children are hard at work practicing their fluency and improving their phonics skills. In reading we have started Unit 5 it fits nicely with our Science unit Skywatchers. In this reading unit we began with Module B informational text. The anchor text is Our World in Space: Planets and the supporting text is The Sun. The focus is to understand that facts, details and features in informational text help us find the answers to questions. As learners we will understand that observations and predictions help us to discover our world. In module A the focus is literary text. The anchor text is King Kafu and the supporting text is informational Let's visit the Moon. Writing will first focus on asking and answering questions about a topic. We will then do some narrative writing that the children can either write a make-believe story or a story that could really happen. Chapter 5 has started in Math, the critical area is operations and algebraic thinking for addition and subtraction concepts and strategies. Our Skywatchers unit in Science has 5 main components. The first is objects in the sky, How can we learn about the sun's position in the sky? We will observe shadows, and patterns between daytime and nighttime objects. The second is Day and Night.

What does it mean to rotate? Children will model the pattern of day and night. Next, we will work with sunrise, sunset, and the seasons. The focus is what are the seasons and what causes them. Then, we will talk about the moon and its patterns. The children will learn about how the moon appears to change and its patterns. Finally, Our Place in Space. The children will describe the Sun, Earth, and Moon's connection. Special event of the month will be our **100th day celebration**. It is planned for **February 7** if we don't have any snow days. We will spend the day discovering and enjoying what makes 100. Please don't forget to read with your child every night!



## **Grade 2**

Even though this month is going to seem short with February vacation, it will be packed with learning! Our readers will be taking a closer look at how text features will help them gain a better understanding of the non-fiction texts they are reading. We will also be working on the main idea and details of non-fiction texts. Students will be working on two digit addition problems, with regrouping, using a variety of different strategies. Please continue to practice math facts at home and read every night to increase fluency in both subjects.

## **Grade 3**

Do you think Punxsutawney Phil will see his shadow on February 2nd, Groundhog Day? We hope not! Although our hallways are decked out with winter themes, aren't we all really looking forward to an early spring? Third graders are springing into action this month. Mathematicians are continuing to practice multiplication, while they explore time. Connecting these skills is important to further their understanding of third grade math. Scientists will continue to investigate water and climate. Our third grade writers will be sharpening their skills by writing opinions, using text evidence to support their reasons. In ELA, our focus is on asking and answering questions using text-based evidence to help better comprehend text. Lastly, in social studies we are exploring the Pilgrims and their journey to the New World. Happy Valentine's Day!

## **Grade 4**

Our 4th grade mathematicians have been hard at work reviewing the difference between factors and multiples. They also have been examining lines, rays, angles, and quadrilaterals in their Geometry unit of study. As scientists, they are discovering the effects of erosion and deposition through the use of several hands-on activities involving stream tables.

We are continuing to build our reading and writing stamina. Readers and Writers are focusing on writing about reading and responding to text. We are also working on strategies for revising our work.

In Social Studies, we are continuing to work our way across the United States and studying states, capitals, landforms, history, and indigenous people along the way.

## **Grade 5**

In Math, the students have completed a unit on division and addition and subtraction of decimals. They are currently working on various methods of multiplying decimals, which include the standard algorithm and drawing models. The students work hard to become fluent in all math operations by mastering a variety of methods to demonstrate their understanding. If your student would like extra practice with Math some useful sites are Reflex Math for math facts and Go Math for content videos. All students have a Reflex Math and Go Math account which can be accessed at home and is a great tool to help them learn their Math.

In Science, we finished up our unit on learning about mixtures and have begun our Earth and Sun Module. The driving question for the module is how do Earth's geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere interact to create a sustainable environment for life? The Earth and Sun module is our first topic in our new FOSS curriculum.

In ELA, we continue to analyze and discuss a variety of texts. Our focus this month is the expository genre, which is quite exciting because we are reading about many different Science concepts and Social Studies events. This helps the students increase their background knowledge, which in turn helps with their comprehension of other texts. The students are working hard to pen their own expository text and are proud of their work so far. They enjoy sharing their writing progress with their classmates and look forward to reading their finished work to their families. As always, we continue to encourage all students to read at least 20 minutes nightly.

# ART

From the Art Room...

Happy New Year! Students have been busy creating art inspired by the season of winter and celebrations of the New Year. We are looking forward to learning more about art history as we begin studying various artists and art works.



Fifth graders creating their 2020 resolution word designs

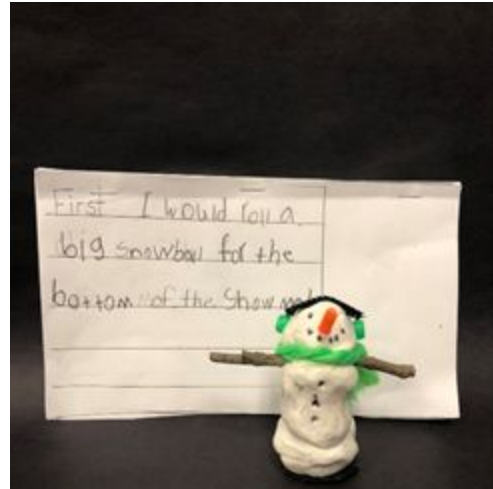


Pre K students creating their 2020 firework paintings



Art & ELA Collaboration

Grade 1 Snowman sculptures with sequential writing.



Grade 5 Chinese New Year Dragon collages.





In process: Grade 3 Chinese inspired mixed media vases with plum blossoms



Grade 2 cityscape New Year collages

## Physical Education

*Get Ready for Kids Heart Challenge!*

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It's time for Kids Heart Challenge! This program teaches heart-healthy habits and helps the American Heart Association raise money for research and education that saves lives.

Students will learn about the importance of taking care of their hearts. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in America, but 80% of the risk factors are preventable. As part of our program, your child will learn

about making healthy choices and can share lifesaving tips. There is also a parent corner online with tips on keeping your family healthy at home.

Students can help others through this educational community service project. Your child has received his/her fundraising envelope. Start by setting up a personal online page.

Students will make a difference in people's lives! Ask family and friends if they'd like to donate. Also, their donations can help us earn certificates for PE equipment so we can keep our students moving!

*Thank you for your support!*

Event Date: February 24- March 6<sup>th</sup> in PE Class

Envelopes Due: Anytime before March 6<sup>th</sup>

Mrs. Munce