



## The March Recap!

Readsboro Central School 3/2024

March brought us some crazy weather, a field trip for grades 3-6 to The Latchis Theatre, birthdays, Science Fair prep, leprechaun traps, and State Testing! I think we are all ready for some warmer weather!

**Here's what has been happening throughout the school!**

### **Ms. R's Pre-K/K**

In March, PK/K students have been working on the following:

**In Math**, students finished a unit on composing (putting together) and decomposing (taking apart) by continuing to create number bonds, using math stories to show the total and parts, and describing their work to the class. They then started a unit on addition and subtraction, beginning with writing parts and totals in number bonds and then transferring the parts and totals into number sentences. The class also decided which number sentences belonged to which math pictures and explained their reasoning.

**In Writing**, students started an Opinion Writing unit. Topics written about include: choosing between wanting to visit a farm or a zoo, favorite TV Show, favorite sport, favorite ice cream flavor, favorite restaurant, favorite drink between the choices of hot cocoa and cider, and worst veggie. Preschoolers dictate their words (and work some on writing too!) Kindergartners work on sounding out words to write and looking up high frequency words on our word wall. Both groups add illustrations to their writing pieces.

**In Reading**, students worked on posing questions about the story A Big Mooncake for Little Star, practicing the reading skill of wondering. As a class we then went through the book to see if we could figure out the answers to the questions students wondered about. We also started a focus on nonfiction texts and shared with each other what we found interesting from the texts we picked to peruse during IDR time (Independent Reading Time). As well, students took turns pointing to the words on our poem chart and reciting the poems we have learned together so far

this year. Additionally, we worked together on putting sentences from one of our poems that were out of order into their correct places. Students also continued to work on finding “just right” books to read during IDR time. For Preschoolers, the focus is on naming letters they see, and talking about what is happening in the pictures. For Kindergartners, conferences happen where they read their selected books to me and we discuss why their choice may be a “just right” book or why it might not be. In order for a book to be “just right”, Kindergartners should be able to read most of the words with minimal support by an adult. Kindergartners also discussed their reading goals.

**In Science**, We have now started a unit on Motion-Pushes and Pulls, beginning with learning the definition of each and the difference between the two. As part of our learning, we have also been conducting experiments. Our first experiment was to try to knock down a wall made of cups with a small plastic ball, but not to push or pull so hard as to knock down paper houses past the cup wall. For our second experiment, we went into the gym to try to push a small plastic ball across the floor using a variety of materials (string, straw, marker, rock, crepe paper ribbon). Students made predictions and recorded the results.

**In Social Studies**, we completed a unit on Wants, Needs, and Why People Save. We also heard a story about St. Patrick’s Day, then wrote and illustrated about how to catch a leprechaun and finished with creating their own leprechaun traps!

Coming in April: We will prepare for our Science Night experiments, which will feature objects in motion, and we will investigate Spring and the changes it brings as well as ways to take care of our environment.

### **Mrs. Tatro’s 1st and 2nd Grade:**

#### **ELA**

In March, Students in grade one and two completed Unit 7 in the Being a Reader Program with the focus on stories about animals and their **habitats** and to continue to **wonder** about what may come next in the story and what new information will be learned. Students' word study focused on **suffixes** -ly, -less and -ful (hopeless, hopeful and hopefully) and the **prefixes** un- and re- (unread, reread). Students learned about **consonant blends** of pl, sm, gr and dr, as in plan, smog, grip and drip, and **r-controlled vowels** (car, more, stir, fern, burn) and **vowel teams** ee and ea (teeth, beach), that sound like long e. **Vocabulary words** learned were: glimpse, swoop, tirelessly, observation, variety, shelter, humid, stream, overflow, inflation, and camouflage and the idiom, catch your eye. In this last week of March and continuing into April, students will study Unit 8 in the Being a Reader Program with a focus on Text Features. In the Small Reading groups, both groups are finishing their sets and moving on to the next!

## **Math**

In March, students in both grade one and two completed Math Unit 3 in Great Minds Eureka Math.

Grade one will learn about Comparison and Composition of Length of Measurements and Grade two will learn about addition and subtraction within 1,000. In April, both grades will continue to work in Unit 4.

Math Intervention groups meet for half an hour, 3 afternoons a week.

## **Science**

In March students performed several science experiments in preparation for the Science Fair on April 11.

At the end of March the class will make a decision on what experiments to share and display for the Science Fair. In April, Students will prepare the art, information and displays that will be needed for the Science Fair.

Mystery Science Mini Lesson:

Why are four Leaf Clovers so rare?

## **Social Studies**

In March there were discussions of Leap Year, Daylight Savings Time, St. Patrick's Day, and Spring.

## **Ms. Bolio's 3rd and 4th Grade:**

March was a very busy month here in 3rd and 4th grade!

**Literacy:** We have been reading narrative nonfiction books about different types of artists. These are the books we have read so far:

**The World is Not a Rectangle: A Portrait of Architect Zaha Hadid** by Jeanette Winter

**Paper Son: The Inspiring Story of Tyrus Wong, Immigrant and Artist** by Julie Leung

**When the Beat Was Born: DJ Kool Herc and the Creation of Hip Hop** by Laban Carrick Hill

The students have really been enjoy reading these books and learning about biographies. The different parts of a biography include Orientation, series of events and evaluation. We are also learning about character traits and motivations. As well as, what the theme of the book is, so what the author is trying to teach us. It has been a great unit so far!

**Word study:** We have been continuing to focus on suffixes. Our main focus has been on the suffixes that mean “a person who” -ist, or, er, eer, ian. Students are doing great with these suffixes.

Book club and small group reading groups have been continuing to practice reading and coming together to have focused conversations about what they are reading and wondering about. They have also been writing summaries and questions they have while learning how to ask others questions and engage in conversation about their opinions. Great conversations have been had.

**Math:** We continue to learn multiplication, skip counting and grouping numbers into arrays to help us solve multiplication problems. We have also continued to learn about fact families and how multiplication can be flipped to division problems. In addition to that we have been learning about writing large and small numbers in standard, expanded and written (word) forms. We have also started learning about the metric system.

**Writing:** We have been continuing to work on writing complete sentences, creating paragraphs, using punctuation appropriately, and adding as much detail as possible to our writing pieces.. Summarizing has been another focus of ours using main ideas and supporting details. Students have begun using a typing program. They love learning how to type! I think it will be helpful as they get older. They will be able to produce more writing. The program we have been using is [www.typingclub.com](http://www.typingclub.com) it is a free program and can be used anywhere.

**Social Studies:** We learned about Black History month in February and have been learning about Women’s History this month. We have also been learning a great deal about different artists in our literacy program.

**Science:** Our main focus this month has been Science Fair projects. I have been trying to give them time whenever possible. We have also been learning about plants found in Vermont. Each student chose a plant and did some research. They wrote up a short story and drew their plants. Check out our bulletin board!

**Social Emotional:** We continue to focus on community building, working together, being kind to one another, and respecting others feelings and opinions. We have also worked a lot on positivity in an attempt to make each day a great day and learning experience for all.

Coming in April, we will wrap up our literacy unit. We will use questioning and make inferences to deepen comprehension. We will focus on Narrative Nonfiction. We will focus on character traits and motivations. We will learn more prefixes and suffixes. Continue to work on spelling, analyzing and defining polysyllabic words. In math, we will continue on with mastering multiplication facts and working with larger numbers. As well as grade related work in our math program. In Science we will work on Science Fair projects and wrap up our unit on Forces and Motion. I also plan to discuss a bit about the upcoming Solar Eclipse that will take place on April 8th. We will learn about the state of Vermont and some of its history. Spring in Vermont is such a

beautiful time of year! As always we will continue working together, being positive, respectful and kind to one another as a continued social and emotional practice.

### **Ms. Whelpley's 5th and 6th Grade:**

Grades 5-6 have been working on the following

**In Math**, students have been working on grade level concepts such as fractions rates and place value, as well as core math mechanics. Together we worked on positive and negative integers and how operations work with each kind of number. Students also worked on converting and comparing improper fractions and mixed numbers. Students completed Vermont's COGNIA exam. During Extra math students worked on various concepts with their walking math teachers.

**In Science**, students have been working on Science fair and the aspects of the project which have been done at school. We are working on Cross-cutting concepts as defined by the Next Generation Science Standards in preparation for Science night in March.

**Social Studies:** Students have continued to delve into the events of the American Revolution and will continue to do so in April. We will focus on primary documents from that time.

**In Reading**, students have finished the "Night Diary" and we may move onto the Second book as it was such a hit. They've worked on phonetic spelling with Ms Ashley and have done word work with Ms Whelpley. Students have worked through at least two book group books. Students continue to write in their readers notebooks when they read.

Coming in April we have our upcoming Science night including Science fair preparation as well as in School Presentations.

### **P.E.:**

March...All students participated in Jump Rope Ninja to help support healthy hearts for the Kid's Heart Challenge through the American Heart Association.

PK/K additionally participated in activities focused on the ABC's of movement.

1st/2nd also practiced many different ways to use hula hoops and jump ropes.

3rd-6th learned, practiced and participated in activities relating to dribbling, passing and shooting a basketball as well as game play.

Coming in April...All students will be incorporating fitness activities in preparation for those that attend Fitness Day at TVES in May.

PK, K, 1st, 2nd - Continuing to work on our movement concepts, which can include body awareness, spatial awareness, effort awareness, and relationship to/with objects, people, and space.

3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th - exploring all aspects of soccer.

### **Guidance:**

During the month of March, Readsboro students in grades P/K- 4 continue to strengthen their ability to work with others, as well as improving friendship skills. Empathy and active listening have been major components of working with partners, small groups and the class as a whole. Using various tools such as books, classroom discussions and collaborative games students have been able to practice and show what they know.

Grades 5-6 worked with Jen Nielsen from DVCP regarding tobacco, alcohol and other drug prevention. Students are also working on empowerment, assertiveness and self esteem.

### **Art:**

Small change in schedule, I decided to do the Sculpture Unit first for the sake of having more time to complete the sculpture projects. In art class students have been creating paper sculptures!

-**PreK/K** students have been learning about the difference between Shape and Form and turning the letters of their name into **3D Name Sculptures!** First they color in large block letters of their names, then they cut them out, and then they twist them and fold them and glue them onto a paper so they pop off the page!

-**1/2 and 3/4** students have been learning about Balance and Symmetry and creating **Radial Design Projects**. Students create a design on a piece that is then repeated and colored in identical, and then assembled into a cool pop-out circle design.

- **5/6** students have also been learning about Shape versus Form, as well as Unity & Harmony. They have been working on creating **Puzzle Cubes**. The students create 6 square drawings that they then cut up and assemble into 4 cubes, so then those 4 cubes can be rearranged to create 6 different puzzles.

Coming after April Break...

A **Color/Collage Unit** where all classes will learn more about color theory and use collage techniques to create projects based around color! Projects include: **Collage Rainbows** and **Roy G. Biv Caterpillars**, **Color Poems**, and **Color Wheels**.

### **Upcoming Dates to Know:**

4/3/24-Early Release Day-Teacher Development (11:30 dismissal)

4/8/24-Early Release Day-Solar Eclipse (11:30 dismissal) **\*\*This is new-please take note!**

4/11/24-Science Night!

4/15/24-4/19/24-April Break