

January 11, 2019

Monday, January 21: No School

Thursday, January 24: Family Meeting

Friday, February 1: Progress Reports go home

Saturday, February 9: Family Tubing Event

Thursday, February 14: Share the Love Celebration/ Half Day

February 15-18: Presidents' Day Break



2019 is off to a great start!

The Novices are off to a great start this winter! Math has taken an exciting turn as our focus has moved to geometry. Our younger Novices have been reaching into the “magic purple bag” to use their sense of touch to identify shapes. They have been using geoboards and pattern blocks to explore even further. Lots of two-dimensional games and projects happening here! We can’t wait to reach our hands into the “magic purple bag” next week and begin feeling three-dimensional shapes! After finishing a quick review of our 2D shapes, the older Novices have begun exploring 3D shapes! We had so much fun hunting around for things we see and identifying what shape they are. We are really excited to dive into composing shapes and fractions next week!

This week, the Novices have been reading the works of Jan Brett. We loved seeing her intricate water color illustrations and really enjoyed getting that special sneak peak of what is coming on the next page now that we know what to look for! We even got to become some of her characters during our Fun Friday activity when we acted out "The Mitten." We spread a big white sheet on our rug to represent the mitten in the story, then acted out all of the animals crawling inside. It was hilarious to pretend to fly back out once the bear sneezed! Many of Jan Brett's books were inspired by her trip to Norway, so the Novices decided to visit there too during Theme. We hopped on our Novice airplane and were in Norway in no time! While we were there we learned lots of interesting facts about Norway, got to see the Northern Lights, and even created Viking shields with our own runes on them. What a great trip!



NOVICES

It's been an exciting first week back in the Players' Room! In Theme, we spent the week learning about Japan. After learning about the four islands that make up the country, we learned to introduce ourselves in Japanese and how to write our names in *katakana*, one of the three types of characters used in their language. We also learned about Children's Day and made colorful *koinobori* (carp kites). Finally, we practiced our origami skills and made sushi!



In math, we've switched gears to geometry. We've been reviewing our polygons- their names, numbers of sides and vertices, how shapes can be combined or broken apart to form other shapes, and where we see examples of these shapes out in the world. We are excited to move on to 3-D shapes next week!

We've been reading and writing a lot of poetry this week. We practiced our descriptive writing by using all of our senses to describe popcorn. We drew a lot of interesting parallels between the popcorn and the thunderstorm that was happening while we were eating it!

After a long and restful break, the Apprentices returned to school raring to go and as excited as ever to get to work! In Math, the Mathematicians have been reviewing some of the trickier, more complex concepts from the school year. They've done a terrific job cementing their understanding this week, which will be hugely helpful as we continue to explore new concepts! Meanwhile, Rowan and the Girls(es) have begun exploring negative numbers! In Writing, many of the Apprentices have been brainstorming ideas for what we could write about this year when we get stuck as well as some new spelling activities. And in Literacy, we've been wrapping up our Lit Circle projects from before break. We've seen 100 awesome drawings, watched hilarious skits about how to survive Camp Green Lake, gone on a scavenger hunt that culminated in a trip to Terabithia, and made traditional Vietnamese food to celebrate Tet! Finally, in Theme, we're getting started on our first major independent research project of the year. Each student has chosen a country to research and brainstormed all sorts of information to find about it. What a fun way to get back into the swing of things!



The Voyager class is off to a great start in 2019! We are continuing our Creating Landshapes theme into the new year, but now we have wrapped up our study of physical geography and maps, and we are beginning a study of government representation. We started by exploring the purposes of government and then moved onto the branches of government in the United States.

Our novel groups spent the week working on our final projects which are due next Thursday. Student projects include a paper about women in the military, historical stories with animal characters similar to Animal Farm, newspaper articles, presentations about military weaponry, a model sled with paragraphs about its symbolism, and many more projects!

We've been working on just as wide of a variety of topics in math. Students in the LCM math group have either been working with the Distributive Property or solving systems of equations through elimination and substitution. The M&Ms have been simplifying some very lengthy expressions using order of operations. It's amazing that a string of numbers so long can be simplified into something so simple!

The biggest new development in the Voyager room is the unveiling of Google classroom! This new platform will allow us to organize our digital files in a more secure way. Everyone is very excited about our new platform. The student comment section on Google Classroom was especially interesting.

