

December 1, 2017

Upcoming Dates...

Thursday, December 14: Family Potluck

Wednesday, December 20: ½ day

Thursday, December 21- Tuesday, January 3: Winter Break



*Our new theme is right on the money!*

It's all about the Benjamins in the Novice room, as we've dived right into our Economics Theme! The Novices have been hard at work creating their own businesses, and we are so excited to get started manufacturing our products. Our four companies - Toys Garage Sale, Cookies!, Colorful Flowers, and Happy Clothes Dinery have logos, advertisements, commercials, and business plans. Now all we need are our goods to sell! We will be working on these over the next couple of weeks as we prepare for the school-wide Market Day, during which the other classrooms will have the opportunity to browse each others' products and choose things to buy! It's a good thing the Novices have been learning about money; from our morning calendar pattern to math groups, we've been counting money, creating patterns with money, and budgeting for shopping trips. It's no surprise that the Novices LOVE working with money!



It's a good thing the Novices have been learning about money; from our morning calendar pattern to math groups, we've been counting money, creating patterns with money, and budgeting for shopping trips. It's no surprise that the Novices LOVE working with money!



NOVICES

It's been said that the more money we come across, the more problems we see... luckily, the Players love to solve math problems, especially when there's money involved! Emily and Taylor have been so impressed with our ability to work through any problem they've given us. We'll continue to practice our money-counting skills throughout the year, but for now we're excited to move on to a new challenge: geometry!

As we've delved into our new Economics theme, we've discussed needs and wants, how we get the things that we need, why we use money, and what factors come into play when we decide how we spend our money. We also learned about how businesses work- how they earn and spend money and how they attract customers. Then, using our newly acquired business acumen, we decided to start our own businesses! We're creating a variety of products to sell at our school Market Day in a few weeks.



After finishing their novel, the *Riding Freedom* group decided to create dream catchers to represent the main character's steadfast determination to follow her dreams. They are enjoying the project so much that they wanted the rest of the class to make them as well. Thinking about our own hopes and dreams made for a very inspiring Fun Friday morning!

There's been a lot of *business* keeping the Apprentices busy over the past few weeks! Our new Economics Theme opened up with a really fun activity where we traded cards that represented cows, chickens, seeds, farm equipment, wood, and other "essentials" in a bartering system role-play. This led to a truly exciting discussion about the shortcomings of that type of system and the importance of money in our economic system. Then we had three awesome visitors come and talk with us about what it's like starting and running a small business: Aaron from *Diablo Seed Farms*, Mary from *Save Room For Dessert*, and Michael from *Tarot Bean Roasting Co.* The Apprentices were full of questions and learned a ton! In Math, to tie into our Economics Theme, we've moved from fractions into studying decimal numbers! Both groups have started out by attacking place value from a new perspective: the Base Four system! This has been a lot of fun to explore, and everyone's making great discoveries. In Literacy, one of our novel groups finished their book and the other three are making great progress. Even more thoughtful discussions and fun, creative final projects are sure to follow! And while we're not reading and discussing our novels, we've been doing lots of awesome writing with Delaney, including thankful letters to our classmates and haiku poetry. What a month!



Even though we had a short week, the Voyagers sure were busy. We started the week with a discussion of unit prices in preparation for our grocery trip. On Wednesday, we took the CATA bus to both Aldi and Giant Eagle to record prices and quantities for our recipes. The trip was very informative. We followed up with a great discussion about how retailers keep prices low and how stores target certain groups of consumers through their marketing. In literacy, we practiced our proofreading skills with wildly creative stories. We wrapped up the week with small group work. Our groups worked to design a pulley system for our new curtains, make items for our community market, and finish our final curtain. We're looking forward to sharing our work with the school community!



The Apprentices and Voyagers enjoyed an afternoon of papermaking using recycled paper pulp and cattail fiber.

