

April 5, 2019

Upcoming Dates...

Friday, April 12: Progress Reports go home

April 16-17: Conferences— early dismissal

Thursday, April 18: Snow Make Up Day – early dismissal

Friday, April 19-Monday, April 22: Spring Break



Spring Bling was a huge success!
Thanks for the support!

Money, money, everywhere! The Novices have been learning all about coins in math. The younger Novices have been learning to identify coins and their values, while the oldest Novices have been learning how to work with a variety of mixed coins. The Novices are all set to practice counting coins at home so they can be expert shoppers someday soon! In literacy we have been exploring the elements of fairy tales and reading many tales from different perspectives. Enthusiasm has risen, and now we are writing our very own fairy tales! We can't



wait to share them with our

parents at our upcoming Family Conferences! In theme, we have combined fairy tales with our current architecture theme and built houses much stronger than the three little pigs! Some of them even survived the big bad wolf hairdryer! Now that we have become expert builders we have started to study mapping so that we can plan out our dream city. The Novices are using their expert knowledge of geometry and using geometric shapes to design and build their city. Fun Friday was extra fun after we had our permits approved by the city. Now, we can start to design!



NOVICES

PLAYERS

The Players enjoyed getting back to a more normal schedule this week after all of the Spring Bling craziness! We finished our reading assessments and really impressed Emily and Simon with how well we are reading and comprehending! We have also been working on our free write projects and have a variety of great stories happening in our room! We were very excited to share them with the rest of the class on Friday. In Theme, we have been working on designing our dream school. We worked together to brainstorm a fantastic list of things we'd like to have at our school (a library, a pond, woods and trails, and a technology lab, to name a few) and are applying our knowledge of area and perimeter to figure out how to lay out a floor plan and draw blueprints. We're excited to share our final design when we finish!



The Apprentices have been up to a wild amount of awesome projects and activities recently! In Literacy, *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* have been working throughout the week folding paper cranes, hoping to get to a thousand! Meanwhile, *The Giver* folks are hard at work designing an in-depth role-playing adventure game based on the themes of dystopia and choice, which popped up again and again during our discussions of the book. The *Al Capone Does My Shirts* group just finished our book and is brainstorming ideas for final projects, and *Becoming Naomi Leon* is so close to the conclusion of our book that it's nearly

impossible to put it down! This week we also finished our magic spells, which we created by combining the Greek and Latin word roots we learned about in Spelling. Each final draft was beautifully scrolled on old-looking parchment paper, complete with instructions, cautions, and illustrations, and bound in a hard cover volume.

In Math, Mathematicians 1.0 and 2.0 have just started an exploration of decimals. Meanwhile, Rowan & the Girls have been stretching their understanding of algebra by graphing, interpreting, and calculating inequalities.

In Theme, we looked at interesting and iconic architecture from around the world and discussed history, elements of design, and whether it was functional or ornamental. We took inspiration from the design elements we studied to design blueprints for buildings based on our own elements. The structures we imagined are remarkably creative, innovative, and detailed! And finally, in anticipation of building these for real, we performed a series of experiments to explore how and why architects use foundations when constructing large buildings, as well as why the Tower of Pisa leans. These were a blast, and we're excited to apply our new understanding to our own designs!



APPRENTICES

VOYAGERS



The Voyagers have reached some amazing goals in the past few weeks! Last week we finished our podcasts and submitted them to NPR. As part of the competition the podcasts have been uploaded as public domain to the audio sharing platform SoundCloud. You can search by title to find your child's podcast. The project titles are: "Train Whistles, Zippers, and the Smell of Dog Food," "Podcast Dress Code Debate," "Social Media Voyager Class," and "Final Copy DID Podcast."

We also wrapped up all of our Spring Bling projects last week. We hope you enjoyed seeing all their hard work at Voodoo last weekend!

Today, the Voyagers went up to Allegheny College to participate in the Creek Connections Student Research Symposium. The students shared posters, listened to expert speakers in the field of environmental science, and participated in focus groups around the college campus. learning about watersheds or GIS mapping. It was a great day of celebrating the student's hard work, and learning from professionals!

