

September 4, 2020

Upcoming Dates...

Monday, September 7: Labor Day, No School



Third week and still going strong!

The Novices have had a great couple of weeks. Our younger Novices have begun to explore letters and numbers with playdough, dabbers, building blocks, crayons, and pencils. The older Novices are diving into letter combinations and the sounds they make by playing games, drawing pictures, and using their detective skills to find them in longer words. In math they have been building on what they know about place value to begin adding two digit numbers all



the way to 100! And everyone received their first homework assignment- a book to read! That's right, the Novices are reading! Meanwhile the Novice Authors are sharing their amazing stories, telling them both through pictures and words on Friday afternoons at our Author Share. It is a real treat for both the authors and their audience. And our Community Helper Theme has brought some interesting guests- like Sarah Mehler, a pediatric nurse, Gabrielle Morrow, a physician, and Becky Dawson, and an epidemiologist. A BIG Novice thanks to them! Today, we got to learn all about how important our friends at the post office are—we even got to write a



letter of our own and put it in the Novice mailbox! We will continue this exploration as we discuss police officers and firefighters. And who knows, we may even have some more special guests join us in Diamond Park! It has truly been busy. Sarah and Dana are so proud, and we know the Novices parents must be too!



NOVICES

PLAYERS

The Players have had a fantastic first few weeks! Simon and Emily were a little wary of the somewhat complicated new schedule they'd worked out for Reading Workshop Centers... but turns out that worrying was unnecessary- after two weeks, the Players have it down and know what they're supposed to do each day before Emily even has a chance to put it on the board! We started out by reviewing place value concepts in math and both math groups have started delving into addition as well. We enjoyed sharing our beginning of the year Best Writing Ever! pieces and got to hear stories about everything from WWII and family vacations to spaghetti fairies! We've moved on to personal narratives and have really enjoyed listening to published books in that genre as well as beginning to work on our own. We are also really enjoying our weekly excursions out



into the world. Our first Wild Wednesday was so much fun- we trekked to Shadybrook where we learned about the mapping and spent our morning drawing our own maps of the park, then played a game in which we worked with a partner to hide an orange somewhere in the park and then made a map completely out of natural objects and challenged another team to use our map and find our oranges. This week's Wild Wednesday turned out to be more of a wet Wednesday, and we ended up taking our adventure to Greendale Cemetery on Friday- we used maps to locate the gravesites of several important Meadville historical figures and learned about our local history from Emily!



The Apprentices are not wasting any time and are off to a terrific start already! We introduced Current Event Talk to Morning Meeting, and we had a great discussion this morning about what's going on locally, nationally, and globally. We also began our first round of Literature Circles this week to much celebration! We have groups reading such great novels as *Inside Out & Back Again*, *The Voyage of the Frog*, *Paint the Wind*, and *Al Capone Does My Shirts*. And through these novels we're having discussions about history, horse breeds, economics, immigration, nautical vocabulary, and much more. When we're not meeting with our group, we're having a blast with independent cursive, spelling, and typing activities! In Math, the French Fries and Smart Cookies are expanding our understanding of multiplication and figuring out more efficient methods of working with bigger numbers. Meanwhile, the Mathematics have been brushing up on finding equivalent



fractions to allow us to add and subtract. We even built a game that was a huge hit with our group! And in Theme, we've been exploring our nationwide "community" by looking at the features of the various regions of the US. This has also ended up being our first official research project of the year, so we've developed some very important skills doing that! Overall, we're having a blast and doing some awesome work!



APPRENTICES

VOYAGERS

The Voyagers are proud to have made it through the first three weeks of the school year. Each week has gotten a bit easier in terms of adjusting to our new schedule and managing logistics and internet issues. We're looking forward to an even smoother week four!

One highlight of this week was the introduction of Prodigy Math and Khan Academy during our independent work time. Some Voyagers are playing Prodigy and other are doing lessons on Khan. We want to give a huge shout out to our newest Voyagers who have really committed to progressing in Prodigy by slaying dragons and doing math. They've been playing during independent work time, but also during our early morning drop off time, in the few minutes after pack-up, and at home. Way to go above and beyond!



This week we also applied our knowledge of the elements by collecting information on a favorite element, drawing a Bohr's diagram of the element, and making a 3-D model.



On Friday we showcased our atoms, shared our knowledge, and then turned our favorite atoms into superheroes (or supervillains). Each superhero has certain powers based on the properties of the atom.



This week we also finished Seedfolks, our first book of the year. Seedfolks is told from multiple perspectives, so each student had a chance to be a different character. Next week we'll begin our Seedfolks-themed creative writing projects. With the levels of creativity in this year's Voyager class, our stories are sure to be amazing!

