

October 2, 2020

Upcoming Dates...

Thursday, Oct. 15—Letter Writing

Friday, Oct. 23—Progress Reports Go Home

Wednesday, Oct. 28 & Thursday, Oct. 29—Early Dismissal and Conferences

Thursday, Oct. 29—Fall Fest

Friday, Oct. 30—No School



Outdoor learning while the seasons change is fabulous—but chilly!



It has been a fun-filled few weeks in the Novice room! The Novices have been exploring both art and science through literature in the past couple of weeks, as we learn about different authors and illustrators. After spending a week reading the works of Denise Fleming, the Novices were able to create their own paper using a method similar to Fleming's. In art class, Emily showed the Novices how the famous author and illustrator creates her unique artwork. Then, using paper pulp, the Novices created their own sheets of paper and added designs. We can't wait to see them dry! We've also gotten the chance to study the artwork of Kandinsky and Simms



Taback so far. We were surprised to learn how many of our favorite books feature amazing artists!

Inspired by Lois Elhert's "Leaf Man," the Novices have embraced all things fall as we learned about the changing leaves. For Fun Friday, we became dendrologists and explored fall leaves in all their beautiful shapes, sizes, and colors, as we measured leaves, drew leaves, and sorted leaves. We then created leaf rubbing works of art. With these pieces and the leaf designs we created last week, the Novice room is ready for fall!



NOVICES

PLAYERS

The Players have been taking advantage of the beautiful weather by spending lots of time outdoors. They ventured to the Greendale Cemetery ravine to learn about geology from Judy, a visitor from the French Creek Valley Conservancy. We found fossils, identified different kinds of rocks, and learned how glaciers formed our landscape. We also visited the MARC Community garden and learned about how gardens can help provide fresh food for those in our community who might not have access to it otherwise. We also got some great ideas for what we can do to create our own garden in our new space someday. In the classroom, we have been adding and



subtracting up a storm, reading lots of great books and having very insightful discussions about our reading, and writing stories to share with our friends!



The Apprentices are fearsome creatures indeed! When we're not having awesome discussions with our Lit Circles, we're really getting into cursive, typing fingers, and spelling word scrambles. It's always a pleasure to hear one another's writing pieces and

offer feedback, too. In Math, we're tackling strategies for multiplying and dividing 2- and 3-digit numbers, as well as solving tricky mixed number problems. Sometimes these problems are so complex that it takes us all of our Math time just to figure out, solve, and share and discuss strategies for one or two problems!

One of our strategies for subtracting mixed numbers even led us to a conversation about negative numbers! Meanwhile, we just wrapped up a two-week Theme about "Fearsome Creatures,"

which was inspired by a book written in 1910, which in turn inspired Apprentice Silas's dad Doug Jurs and his musical composer friend Dan Temkin to write really cool pieces about the creatures in the book. Doug and Dan shared their approaches to writing thematic music with us and taught us a bunch of cool music terms like *motive*, *forte*, and *allegro*. Then we were inspired to create our own "fearsome creatures" in the style of the ones they shared with us. We created visual representations of them, wrote "field guide" descriptions, and even made "musical sketches" for our creatures. Finally, we shared our creatures, stories, and music with Doug, as well as a performance of the creature we created together: the Trunkolopious, complete with dramatic movement and instrumentation by us! What a blast!



APPRENTICES

VOYAGERS



Despite the unique challenges we face this year, the Voyagers are speeding through the weeks with their usual creativity and excitement. Each day is filled with a lot of great ideas and inspired thoughts and discoveries.

In math the Voyagers are in the process of wrapping up several units. One group has finished their work with the Distributive Property, and other groups are almost finished working with ratios. This week some students wrote potential quiz questions for their group and another group. The Voyagers are pretty creative with their questions!

In literacy students finished sharing their Seedfolk writing, then jumped right into new novels. One group is reading *Somewhere in the Darkness* by Walter Dean Myers with Chris. The second group is reading H.G. Wells' *Time Machine* with Ellen. As always the Voyagers are excited to start brand new books.

In Writing Workshop the Voyagers are finishing up a word tree project to build vocabulary. After learning about the influence of Latin, Greek, Anglo-Saxon and French languages on the English language, each Voyager selected 10 prefixes, suffixes or roots. For each, the students listed a definition, related words, and sentences with accompanying illustrations. Collectively, we have created 180 pages for our classroom prefix, suffix and root reference guide! We ended our study with a tournament challenging our vocabulary knowledge. Well done, Voyagers!

In Theme, the students finished up our unit on chemistry by investigating the elements that make up our world. Some students investigated the elements that make up the human body and our emotions. Others put together presentations detailing the elements that make up trees, grass, ocean water, and other parts of our natural world. Yet others looked at the elements that make up human-made objects: candy, tires, fishing poles, and even chewy chocolate brownies with walnuts! We learned that, while we have 118 elements on our periodic table, much of the world that we interact with are made up of only 4 elements: hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen and carbon. What an interesting investigation!

This week we began our new Theme, "Theme.gov," focused on the levels of government and the elections! We can't wait to see all of the creative thoughts and ideas that the Voyagers come up with in this new Theme! We'll keep you posted!