

February 5, 2021

Upcoming Dates...

Feb 11 —Share the Love Celebration & Early Dismissal

Feb 12-Feb15—Presidents' Day Break

March 12—No School



Looking forward to Sharing the Love next week!



It is so very lovely to be back together and wow have we been busy! The month of January brought much excitement as we celebrated the 100th Day of School and the joys of winter! The Novices have been learning all about how the needs of both people and animals change with the seasons. Our bear cave collages were just the thing to show off our knowledge of hibernation. We used magnetism to demonstrate the migration of the Godwit. And used our previous experience as scientists to explore how animals' bodies adapt to the cold weather.



Dana and Sarah truly enjoyed the creativity that each Novice put into his or her 100th Day project which were very proudly displayed in the TLC Museum! We learned much about the number 100 in January, counting out 100 popsicle sticks and 100 straws and measuring them out to see which was longer. We rolled dice 100 times to see which number came up the most. It was the number 1 by the way! We also managed to squeeze a bit of art and writing in. These 5 and 6 year olds are planning on looking pretty old when they are 100, with canes and white hair, but they sure are planning on accomplishing big things before they turn 100 years old!



We are also so very excited to announce that the Novices are now proud parents to a kinkajou! This South American mammal is usually found in the rainforest and is currently a resident of the Pittsburgh Zoo. Many thanks to Camden and the Pierce family for adopting Pequeno for us. We can't wait for our virtual visit!

Now that we are moving into February we are looking forward to sharing our love with a special Valentine's celebration and delving into the magical world of fairy tales. So much more learning coming our way!



NOVICES

PLAYERS



The Players are incredibly happy to be back together in school and have been having a blast! We have been enjoying the books of Roald Dahl, both in our reading groups (The Magic Finger, The BFG, and The Witches) and during read-aloud (Charlie and the Chocolate Factory). We're currently reading his autobiography, Boy, and seeing where in his life he's gotten inspiration for his fantastical stories. In math, we've been working on calculating area, perimeter, and volume as well as brushing up on our time-telling skills!



The best part of being back in school is our Wild Wednesdays! We have spent these mornings creating snow sculptures inspired by the work of Andy Goldsworthy, creating a snow tripod and pendulum painting in the snow, and learning about the Inuit people and how they build structures out of snow!



What a "stellar" week in the Apprentice Room! We wrapped up our Space Travel theme by mapping out our daily schedules on our planets, decided what to bring back to Earth from our planets, and drew the vistas outside our space base windows. We also had an awesome impromptu discussion about the relative sizes of objects in our solar system. We even mathematically figured out how many Earths would fit inside our unbelievably massive sun! Meanwhile, back on Earth, we wrapped up our dialogue study by dramatically performing our dialogues. As a class, we managed to brainstorm over 150 better words to use than "said"! Then we excitedly began our next round of Lit Circles. We have groups reading *Stone Fox*,



The Tale of Despereaux, *Bridge to Terabithia*, and *Tuck Everlasting*. What classics! And in Math, our groups are exploring fraction concepts, fraction multiplication, and decimal division!

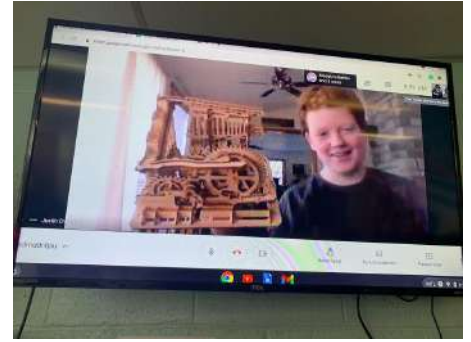


APPRENTICES

VOYAGERS



It's been a very busy time in the Voyager Room! In Literacy the Voyagers have finished reading our latest round of books. Our reading these past few weeks has focused on important moments in history: the Dust Bowl and the Cultural Revolution in China. Students are currently working on final projects that range from poetry and songwriting, to computer animation and making museum-style exhibits.



Our Writing Workshop classes have been busy, as well. The oldest Voyagers are finishing up their research papers. The students were asked to select a subject that related to the overall theme of "Transformative Change." With their usual enthusiasm, the Voyagers selected interesting topics ranging from apartheid to the Johnstown flood to factory farming. Final drafts are being completed this week. We can't wait to share all of the fascinating information we've discovered throughout this project with the other Voyagers.

In math class, the youngest group of Voyagers wrapped up their study of integers by making creative posters with rules for operating with negative numbers. The posters will serve as a helpful, and colorful refresher for all the Voyagers. The Bubble Guppies group has been working on all the different ways to represent equations and inequalities. We've used balancing scales, equations, tables, and graphs. The third math group is expanding their knowledge of operations to multiply and factor variable expressions. This week, we built expressions with Algebra tiles and digital representations.

The Voyagers, in their last stage of our Wellness Theme, have been taking a close look at nutrition. They spent the last few weeks creating slide presentations of various nutrients on the nutrition label. During this project, the Voyagers took the opportunity to practice their presentation skills. With a bit of extra practice, the Voyagers presentations were excellent, and had their fellow students fully engaged as audience members! Well done, Voyagers!! You never cease to amaze us!

