

March 5, 2021

Upcoming Dates...

March 12 - No School

March 26 - Progress Reports go home

March 30-31 - early dismissal and family conferences

April 1-5 - Spring Break



Check out our new website!  
[www.learningcenterk8.org](http://www.learningcenterk8.org)

Man have the Novices been busy, busy, busy! This week pulled double duty as we wrapped up our Fairy Tale unit and celebrated Dr. Seuss week! Our adventures began last week as we explored many of our favorite fairy tales through literacy and writing. After reading "Cinderella," "Puss in Boots," "Jack and the Beanstalk," and "Pinocchio," we got to analyze the stories and take a closer look -not only at story elements like character, setting, problem, and solution but even look for examples for magic and relate what happened in the stories to moments from our own lives (Did you know that some of the Novices may have fibbed a time or two just like Pinocchio?!). Reading these stories even inspired us to design a castle, create royal and evil characters, and create our own fairy tales, which we shared during author's share!



We kept our fairy tale learning going through STEM projects in math this week! We challenged ourselves to build a bridge for the Three Billy Goats Gruff, create a basket for Little Red Riding Hood to carry her apples, make an indestructible house for the Three Little Pigs to evade the Big Bad Wolf, and create sturdy chairs for the Three Bears. We had so much fun collaborating and problem-solving together!

But don't think that didn't leave us time to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday! In addition to the whole school's theme days, the Novices made their own Horton the Elephants, created Seuss creatures to hide around the room like "The Wocket in my Pocket," and made our own Cats in the Hat!

NOVICES

# PLAYERS



The Players enjoyed another lovely, sunny Wild Wednesday. We listened to *The Lorax*, and then found a quiet spot to sit in the woods and described our surroundings using as much alliteration as we could. We saw twisting trees, sudden steep slopes, and a current cutting through a cold creek.



After watching *Flora & Ulysses* last week for our tally mark day, we were inspired to create our own animal superheroes. Now we're hard at work, writing their origin stories. We can't wait to share them with each other next week!

In math, we're all working on money! We have been solving lots of problems, calculating change in transactions, and identifying coins. We even built paper bridges and counted the amount of change they could support before collapsing. One held \$45.26 in loose change!



The Apprentice room missed Dan this past week, but was thrilled to have him as a guest for our Dr. Seuss Jeopardy Tournament on Friday! This capped off our wacky Seuss week filled with Dr. Seuss stories, mad libs, raps, crazy outfits, and amazing hair sculptures! Next week we will be returning to our Economics theme and continuing to create our own currency, which is based on the number 64 instead of 100! In math, everyone has now taken their first test and even survived it! We have lots of fractions and decimals work on which to keep building. In Literacy, our groups have now fully dived into the wonderful worlds of "The Tale of Despereaux," "Stone Fox," "Bridge to Terabithia," and "Tuck Everlasting." The Apprentices have also had extra time this week to devote to creating their own worlds in their own stories. They are remembering their work with dialogue and are keeping things as vibrant as ever!



# APPRENTICES

# VOYAGERS

It's a new month, and the Voyagers are beginning several new projects. In Morning Meeting the Voyagers finished locating Asian countries and began exploring South American countries. The Voyagers really have a knack for geography. As we explore different countries, we also map out the population and the population density.

In Theme the Voyagers are focused on researching the Silk Road. So far we've looked at the geography, climate, flora, and fauna of the region, as well as the many hazards a traveler would face on this dangerous route. We've also started researching the travelers themselves, including some famous colorful characters such as Marco Polo and two Buddhist monks who stole the secret of silk from China. All of this research will help the Voyagers as they assume the character of a Silk Road traveler and create travel journals.

In Writing Workshop, Chris's group is starting their research papers. We have very interesting topics including the invention of the television, the biology of the wood frog, and women's liberation movement. The students are still in the note-taking stage, but we've already learned a lot about our topics. Ellen's writing group explored what makes a poem a poem. Students listened to several different examples of metaphor in poetry, and practiced using metaphor to set the tone of their poems.

In Literacy, Chris's group is reading "Through My Eyes," the story of Ruby Bridges. At the same time, the students are creating timelines of the Civil Rights Movement. We've all learned a lot as we've covered topics such as the Little Rock Nine, the Jim Crow Laws and the NAACP. Other students are reading "Family Romanov, Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of Imperial Russia." Discussions have centered on everything from royal genealogy and government, to religion and medicine.



The Voyagers have been working on a wide variety of math skills this week. The Quarantiners group is getting so good at following the order of operations that they were able to solve some tricky twin puzzles by using all the operations. The Bubble Guppies are masters at solving two-step equations and are now working on inequalities and word problems with all kinds of algebraic representations. The Die Mendes group is extending their knowledge of operations with numbers by applying that knowledge to operations with variables. These past few weeks the group added and subtracted polynomial expressions and devised some rules for operating with exponents. Ellen read a goofy children's book about big numbers and the group wrote out the scenarios in the book using scientific notation and various operations.

