

April 9, 2021

Upcoming Dates...

April 17 - Tree planting at the new building

May 1 - Spring Bling

May 25 - Last Day of School & Progress Reports sent home



We can't wait to see you at Spring Bling!



Spring has sprung in the Novice Room! We finally solved the Mystery of the Missing Cookies just before spring break. The Novice Sleuths followed the clues left all over the building to reveal a mysterious fingerprint. After conducting some fingerprint science experiments, we were able to narrow our suspects down from three to one - Simon! After drinking some truth serum, Simon admitted to taking the cookies and returned them. We all got to share some cookies as a reward—we even shared some with Simon!

To embrace the new season, the Novices have also begun learning measurement, plants, and how things grow. Dana's math group has begun tackling measurement by exploring how to measure objects with non-standard units. It's been so much fun taking a close look at everything from our slippers to our books to see their sizes. Sarah's math group has started measurement with telling time, and they are having so much fun with clocks! We've gotten to create our own clocks, play telling time games, and even play Bingo. It's a blast!



For Fun Friday, we took a close look at the parts of plants. We were surprised to see how versatile all the parts of a plant are - and how many things we eat that are different parts of plants. Our big project of the day was starting the process of sprouting our own bean seeds in homemade greenhouses. We are so excited to follow the journey our seeds take as they become plants!



NOVICES

PLAYERS



The Players just wrapped up a big project on economics that culminated with a classroom market in which our students were able to buy and sell products of their own creation. We put our math, writing, and artistic skills to use as we went through the process of designing, marketing, and manufacturing our products. We had shops selling sock puppets, pencil toppers, sun catchers, stuffed animals, dollhouses, notebooks, bookmarks, and lamprey face masks!



Our Wild Wednesday adventure this week was twice as fun, as we brought the Apprentices along with us! We spent the morning playing a memory/ scavenger hunt game. Then, after reading the book "Between the Earth and Sky," a collection of stories about sacred places, we showed the Apprentices our fort village in the woods, a spot that has become very special to us! We invited them to add their own structures, and we all had a blast building together!



It has been a jam-packed couple of weeks in the Apprentice Room! The "Stone Fox" Lit Circle group finished our book (there were tears!), and now we're excitedly planning our final project: a puppet show of the story! The "Bridge to Terabithia" and "Tuck Everlasting" groups are very close to finishing our novels and are having awesome discussions about all the big happenings in our books' climaxes. And the "Tale of Despereaux" group are about halfway through our book and enjoying all the new characters and storylines being introduced! In Math, our groups are making exciting new discoveries every day about fractions, decimal numbers, and calculating with negative numbers. We also returned this week to the Theme that we had started back in November before we pivoted to remote learning: Chemistry! Atoms, protons, neutrons, electrons, quarks, ions, ionic and covalent bonds, cations, anions, elements, acids, bases, and atomic numbers... Those are just a few of the terms we've learned this week! We also had a super special guest come in to do some awesome experiments with us:

Professor Chapp (a.k.a. Abi's dad)! We had a blast and learned a ton doing his activity and asking him questions!



Also, on Wednesday morning the Players invited the Apprentices to join them on their Wild Wednesday adventure. We walked to Cora Clark Park, where we worked in groups to reproduce an art piece using only natural items we found in the woods. Then we worked together to build forts in the woods. During this project, we found two salamanders, practiced our balance on logs, and found a creative engineering solution to breaking large pieces of wood. We even got to have lunch in our forts before heading back! Thanks, Players, for including us in your awesome day!

APPRENTICES

VOYAGERS



The Voyagers are loving this springtime weather! This week the class has been enjoying lunch, recess and some 'really relaxed reading time' outdoors. Many students have taken their literacy books outside for some extra reading. The students in Ellen's group who are reading about the fall of imperial Russia have moved from learning about the royal family to studying the Bolshevik Revolution.



Chris's students are now reading "One Crazy Summer" by Rita Williams-Garcia. The book details the Civil Rights movement in the late sixties from the perspective of an 11-year-old girl. Discussions have centered around the controversial role of the Black Panthers within the civil rights movement and their work in building a community of support for all minorities.

In math class all students are currently working on geometry themes. Some students are 'covering' the surface area of irregular shapes, while others are studying angles or properties of polygons.

In Theme the Voyagers have begun writing travel journals as Silk Road travelers. Among the students are bandits; caravan guards; traders of spice, silk, cotton, jade and gunpowder; a plague doctor; and a Mongol princess being

escorted by Marco Polo. To add a bit of fate to the mix, we have a basket of "scenarios" that a traveler can pull from if they need a bit of inspiration. As difficult as the Silk Road journey was, all travelers hope for the good luck scenarios, where they might reach their destination a day early or get a good price for their wares. Other scenarios aren't so lucky. So far travelers have chipped teeth on stale bread, or worse yet, were caught in landslides!

The Voyagers are continuing to improve their creative writing and technical writing skills. Ellen's group is focusing on poetry. This week students have honed their vocabulary skills by zeroing in on word choice and creating precise imagery.



Chris's students are continuing their work on their research projects. Many are wrapping up the note-taking phase and starting to write their papers. The students are learning about a wide range of topics from the invention of television to the history of football, as well as gaming consoles, from reviewing each other's notes. We can't wait to see how their work develops over the next few weeks!

