

Atlantic Avenue Board Brief December 2017

Preschool Laura Goodfriend

This month's theme revolved around the *Gingerbread Boy*. This theme taught students about *Stranger Danger*. After reading the story the students discussed how you can't trust someone you don't know and should always look for a trusted adult before interacting with a stranger.

As a way to help students internalize the lesson learned from the story, the students were given an opportunity to act out the story for their parents during our *Gingerbread Celebration*. Additionally, acting out the story gave the students practice in retelling a story which worked on developing their comprehension skills and helped them identify basic story elements.

At the Math Center the students used mini gingerbread cutouts to measure classroom items and build towers to illustrate how many gingerbread tall an item was. This activity gave students a opportunity to use math vocabulary to demonstrate awareness of the measurable attributes long, short and tall.

Preschool Reach Jennifer Gallimore

Reach Preschool began the month of December learning about the season getting ready to change from fall to winter and how the colder weather affects the animals outside. After reading the story, "Going on a Bear Hunt" by Michael Rosen, students acted it out by listening to the song on CD. Over the course of the month, students worked on many skills using adapted books centered on a holiday theme. Students worked on color concepts, number concepts, and different candy items using the adapted book, "Let's Build a Gingerbread House!" Students continued to work on prepositional concepts, "above", "under", "beside", and "on," by placing the present in the correct location while targeting some seasonal vocabulary terms in "Where is the Present?" The final adapted book, "What is Santa doing?" focuses on identifying different action verbs which describe the Santa picture. For this book, the students have to listen to what Santa is doing such as "dancing to music" and find the correct Santa picture to match the description. Making gingerbread ornaments were a huge hit in Pre-K with Mrs. Goodfriends' AM class. REACH students did a wonderful job following directions and staying in a small group with peers. Students ended the month participating in holiday festivities including the winter concert and Christmas caroling at Stanfill Towers. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year from REACH Pre-k!!

Reach 1 Dana Grasso

REACH 1 focused on several holiday social skills during the month of December. We worked on learning about various holidays that are celebrated including Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. We also practiced making holiday greeting phone calls to our loved ones using visual prompt cards. Our class created holiday ornaments to decorate the Atlantic Avenue tree and decorated Menorahs and Dreidels in our classroom. We learned about "giving" and went on a community outing where we purchased a gift for a peer by following a list, greeting community members and paying for purchase. We wrapped the gifts, created greeting cards and exchanged gifts. We also practiced various social skills associated with family events. We're so excited for the upcoming holiday!!

Reach 2 Jessica Demkiw

This month Reach 2 enjoyed reading about the holiday season and we are getting excited to celebrate Christmas! We really enjoyed reading *Snowy Day* and *The Bear Stays Up For Christmas* where we learned about prepositions and what bears do in the winter. We created holiday cards for members of our armed forces and sent them overseas to spread joy! This week we are taking a trip out in the community to 5 Below where we will practice finding items and making purchases for our friends. Happy holidays from Reach 2!

Kindergarten Erica Doyle

Tis the season! Our Elf "E.G." has arrived and brought a friend with him! We have been learning about different holidays celebrated around the world. We continued our handwriting by practicing the sounds and formation of lowercase letters. We completed math chapter 4 and have begun our chapter on adding. The students love the new addition games they are learning! The students are doing a great job at logging in independently on the Chromebooks and have been having a great time on Reading Eggs and Think Central. We shopped for our loved ones at the Holiday Shop with our buddies. Finally, we ended our month with some hot chocolate and a viewing of "The Polar Express" with our 6th grade buddies. Happy Holidays!

First Grade Alissa Grace

First graders have been enjoying various holiday activities in their classroom. They have been participating in a "December Days of Fun" event calendar. They learned about different December holidays, decorated gingerbread houses, made winter crafts, ornaments, and even watched and read *The Polar Express*. In writing, the class has been zooming in on small moments and even created a small moment story map. In math, the students are writing related facts and practicing their fact power.

Second Grade Jennifer Ellis

Second graders began their first science unit studying Matter and are exploring the properties of materials all around. In math, they wrapped up 2-digit addition with and without regrouping and have shown tremendous progress lining up their numbers according to place value. These blossoming readers are able to identify story elements in books, including setting, problem, solution, important story events, and main characters. They are showcasing their new knowledge by presenting their second book talks of the year.

Third Grade Kim Cordner

The third grade mathematicians in Mrs.Cordner's class learned to solve multiplication problems by using various strategies. In Writing, the students are crafting personal narratives and zooming in on small moments. In Reading, the children are citing evidence in the text to support their answers. In Science, the boys and girls completed investigations to learn about electric and magnetic forces. They made a large donation of paper towels and dog and cat food to the Animal Welfare Association for their service project. The class is also learning how to stop bullies in their tracks.

Fourth Grade Leslie Ruffalo

In ELA, 4th Grade celebrated finishing their novels with a culminating project that focused on identifying different points of view and providing text evidence to support their views. Each student selected two different characters from their novels to exchange "gifts" during this holiday season. The gifts had to symbolize or reflect the character's personality trait or a significant event

or scene involving the characters. Students created gift tags to explain the gifts from the perspectives of the chosen characters.

Fifth Grade Brenda Baals

The fifth graders have finished their second Research-Based Opinion Writing pieces, and have made giant steps in the Writing process! We are now focusing on organizing (friendly) debates in our class on important topics like, "Should Animals Live in Zoos?" The mathematicians in 5th Grade have just finished a chapter on multiplying decimals, and we are jumping head first into dividing decimals! Many students have also breezed through Xtra Math-Multiplication, which is super exciting! We've finished our first Science investigation on Living Systems where the students have been observing their redworms in a habitat created by them. We are moving ahead now to study another live species, the ladybug larvae.

Sixth Grade Becky Costello

The sixth grade writers have started implementing effective structure for organizing argumentative writing. The readers have launched a new unit of determining importance of informational text with a focus on ancient civilizations. The archaeologists are exploring ancient civilizations of Asia and The Americas. The scientists are enjoying a study of body systems with Mrs. Gravener. The mathematicians are converting between fractions, decimals and percents to solve real-world problems. Most importantly, our sixth graders have been very busy giving back this holiday season! They successfully met their class goal to raise \$400 through the sale of student-created bracelets to donate to two adopted sixth grade classes in Houston, Texas. The sixth graders have also been busy collecting donations from the Atlantic Avenue school community for many of the community helpers who make our school so special; these outstanding people will be honored with gifts of gratitude and a presentation from the sixth graders at a school-wide Holiday Giving Assembly before Winter Break. The sixth graders continue to stand out as leaders in our school!

Math Specialist Tara Morgan

During the month of December, the first graders solved subtraction problems utilizing various strategies, including using a related addition fact and making a ten. The second graders used place value to add 2-digit numbers, made an addend a ten to help solve an addition problem, recorded the steps when adding 2-digit numbers, and added 3 and 4 numbers. The third graders continued with their study of multiplication facts, with a focus on using smaller multiplication facts, place value, and properties to solve multiplication facts. The fourth graders discovered various strategies to divide by 1-digit numbers, including using remainders and estimating quotients. The fifth graders focused on solving decimal multiplication problems. The sixth graders used ratio reasoning to solve percent problems.

Reading Specialist Kiely McAnulty

In the month of December, Kindergarteners have shown how much progress they are making in their reading by moving up in book levels and demonstrating their knowledge of letters and sounds. The first graders have been practicing responding to reading in their reading notebooks. Second graders have been retelling fictional stories focusing on story elements. Third graders have been participating in individual reading conferences to set goals for reading, while fourth graders are

working on reading fiction and identifying different points of view, all while expanding their vocabulary. Fifth graders just finished reading autobiographies of famous authors, and will now start reading their fictional pieces looking for inspiration from the author's life.