

## Atlantic Avenue Board Brief

### October 2017

#### Preschool Laura Goodfriend

The preschoolers kicked the month of October off with a unit of study on the community helper the Firefighter. In the Creative Dramatic Center the students role played real life situations for being safe in the event of a fire in their house or school. After reading the informational book *Firefighter*, by Michael Rex, the students took safety tips from the story and added them to their role playing ideas. At the art and math center the students worked on developing their fine motor skills as they cut out a variety of shapes to create a fire engine. As they worked the teacher asked each student to name or identify each shape they used to create their fire engine. As a follow up activity the students were asked to use their recall skills to dictate a fire safety tip they learned during our study on firefighters. We concluded the unit with a visit to the Haddon Heights Fire Station. The students met with Firefighter Joey and Firefighter Steve. The students enjoyed going inside the fire engine and seeing all the gear the Firefighters use. Firefighter Steve showed the children what he looked like dressed in all his gear. Students even got to see him with his mask on so that they would not be scared if a firefighter had to rescue them from a fire. Each student went home with a set of fire safety tips to review with their family members.

#### Preschool Reach Jennifer Gallimore

October was a busy month in REACH Preschool. Students began a unit of study on apples. As we read, "10 Apples on Top" by Dr. Seuss, students counted apples (labeled 1-10) on top of a picture of themselves. Using different colored apples labeled AB or ABC, students created patterns. During Fire Prevention week, students learned fire safety with our new monthly Scholastic magazine titled, "*Our Friendly Firefighters*". Students gained awareness through music, play, and print. Finally, we took a walking trip to the Haddon Heights Fire house. Students toured the fire house, explored the fire trucks and observed the firefighters equipment and uniform. To begin our leaf study, students went on a leaf hunt after listening to the story, "We're Going on a Leaf Hunt" by Steve Hunt. Using a magnifying mirror, students studied their leaves making observations of the color, texture and shape. Leaf rubbing was utilized to help students identify leaf parts and expand thematic vocabulary. Finally, students participated in an autumn leaves STEAM absorption art activity. Our engaged scientist observed fall colors transform white coffee filters into a work of art.

#### Reach 1 Dana Grasso

Reach 1 has been focusing on the season of fall and practicing safety in their school, home, and community. Our class has been studying current event articles from the News to You Program about fall and various activities that people participate in throughout the season. We replicated several of these activities including going on a leaf hunt, cooking an apple recipe in the high school REACH kitchen, labeling clothing that is worn in the fall, etc. We also practiced safety procedures and generalized the vocabulary that we learned about in the classroom into the community at the Haddon Heights Fire Station. We practiced street safety and then we toured the Fire Station, met a Fireman and sat inside of a Fire Truck. We're looking forward to working on our social skills for the upcoming Halloween holiday.

### **Reach 2 Jessica Demkiw**

REACH 2 has had a great time learning about community helpers this month! We discussed how different people in our community can keep us healthy and safe and we even got to take a trip to the Haddon Heights firehouse. We met Fireman Joe and he gave us a tour of the fire station and showed us the inside of the fire truck. We have been completing a lot of STEM activities that allow us to take nature walks to look at and study the changing fall leaves surrounding our school!

### **Kindergarten Erica Doyle**

Fall is here! The students have been working hard on our 2<sup>nd</sup> reading unit exploring the capital and lowercase letters and their matching sounds. They have also been having fun learning and practicing four components of our Daily 5: Read to Self, Listen to Reading, Word Work and Work on Writing. We finished up our 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter in math studying numbers 0 to 5 and comparing them using the terms greater than, less than or the same. We have been exploring the fall changes in our environment. We took our first class trip to Duffield's Farm to pick pumpkins! We used some scientific words such as hypothesis when we conducted our pumpkin experiments. Through our experiments we learned that pumpkins float! We will be finishing up our month with a Halloween party and singing to the residents at Stanfill Towers. What a fun month!

### **First Grace Alissa Grace**

First graders are adjusting nicely to Guided Reading routines. They have been working on decoding unknown words using the Eagle Eye and Lips the Fish reading strategies. The students are working on studying their short vowels. They have been busy writing small moment/personal narrative stories and even had their first writing celebration! The students are doing a great job stretching their stories across 3 pages! In Math, first graders have been modeling adding and subtracting numbers

within 10. They are getting so good at drawing out a math problem and explaining how they got their answers!

### **Second Grade Jennifer Ellis**

Reading and Writing workshops have been fully implemented into the second grade routines and the kids were certainly up for the challenge. In reading, students have learned how to access their prior knowledge before reading a book and to build upon that knowledge. They are making connections to their reading and preparing for their first book talks of the year! In writing, the children are studying authors as mentors and beginning to craft powerful openings for their small moments.

### **Third Grade Kimberly Cordner**

The third grade mathematicians in Mrs.Cordner's class have been solving problems using frequency tables, tally tables, bar graphs, and picture graphs. Language Arts is a busy time for us too. The children have set goals for themselves as readers and are practicing strategies to improve their comprehension, accuracy, and fluency. They have also learned two of the Daily 5 activities to strengthen their reading and writing skills. The students have been reading to self and recording their thoughts and questions in their Reader's Notebook. They have examined their minds to create lists of writing topics. In Science, the children are completing investigations to learn about forces. In Social Studies, the third graders are researching the U.S. symbols.

### **Fourth Grade Leslie Ruffalo**

**The 4th Grade class has been** identifying text features to improve comprehension in reading nonfiction text. The students read books about the Regions of the United States. Comparing and contrasting the varied texts gave the class the opportunity to use critical thinking and other higher order thinking skills in class discussions and in responding to open ended questions. They have also started using ReadWorks.org to incorporate nonfiction articles and paired text to improve reading comprehension and compare and contrast texts.

### **Fifth Grade Brenda Baals**

Fifth grade mathematicians are working on their operations. They finished multiplying whole numbers and this month they focused on dividing whole numbers. These mathematicians worked on

division of three and four digit numbers with one and two digit divisors. They also tackled using compatible numbers to estimate quotients, interpreting the remainder, and problem solving. They are growing in their math skills and are seeing lots of problems that relate to real life situations!

### **Sixth Grade Becky Costello**

The sixth grade writers are learning to enhance their writing through the use of figurative language and various ways to implement risk specifically in narrative writing. The readers are launching the next unit of study with a focus on inferring fictional text with group novels. The scientists will explore concepts of weather and climate by creating models to simulate various cycles and patterns. The archaeologists completed a study of early people by writing diary entries from the perspective of a hunter/gatherer, a herder/farmer or an early settler. The sixth graders, in celebration of Respect Week, created and presented age-appropriate presentations for the younger students at our school; they are truly showing their colors as the leaders of our school.

### **Math Specialist Tara Morgan**

During the month of October, the first graders discovered how to model subtraction from 10 or less and write the corresponding subtraction fact. Strategies they used included taking apart, taking from a group, and subtracting to compare. In second grade, the students used place value to model a 3-digit number with blocks, write a 3-digit number in different ways, and compare 3-digit numbers. The third graders learned how to represent and interpret data, including bar graphs, picture graphs, and line plots. In fourth grade, the students used various strategies to multiply by 1-digit numbers and they used estimation to check the answer. The fifth graders utilized a variety of methods to divide by 1 and 2-digit divisors. Lastly, the sixth graders used the relationship between multiplication and division to divide fractions.

### **Reading Specialist Kiely McAnulty**

Guided reading groups and individual reading conferences are underway in each of the classrooms here at Atlantic. Our Kindergarteners are learning so much about letters and sounds, and are showing off their independent skills during Daily 5 practice. In first grade, students are doing an excellent job with the Daily 5, and as of now are independently reading to self, reading to someone, working on writing, and listening to reading while groups are meeting in guided reading! In second grade, the students have been very busy making connections during reading, as well as using decoding skills to attack unknown words. Third graders are getting practice selecting a variety of different genres in their

independent reading as well as thinking and responding to reading in their reader's notebooks. The fourth graders are busy reading informational texts about the regions of the US as well as building stamina during Daily 5. Fifth graders are wrapping up a unit on the book Wonder and have been practicing sharing thinking through book club conversations. Students in 1st through 6th grade who turned in a summer reading log also got to enjoy a Mister Softee ice cream treat! Great work Atlantic Ave students!