

Atlantic Avenue Board Brief **February 2018**

Preschool Laura Goodfriend

This month the preschoolers have been busy learning about community helpers. We kicked off our month with a study of the letter carrier. The students enjoyed listening to informational books about the letter carrier and his/her role in delivering the mail throughout our community. At the Creative Dramatic Center the students used the knowledge they had gained from our informational read alouds to set up a Preschool Post Office. The students enjoyed participating with their peers as they worked on negotiating roles of postal worker and customer as well as using new vocabulary to communicate their ideas. Students also worked on developing their math skills as they used quarters to buy a stamp and pretend to mail a letter. At the Writing Center the students worked on developing their writing skills as they used a combination of drawings, scribble writing and letter strings to create a Valentine's Day card for their Parents. Students were given an opportunity to apply their knowledge during a trip to the Haddon Heights Post Office. Students bought a stamp for their Valentine Card, placed it in an envelope and placed it in the mail slot to be mailed home to their parents. The students also took a look at a working mail truck and learned how the letter carrier sorts the mail before he goes out on his route. Back in the classroom the students created a map of Haddon Heights and pretended to deliver the mail to houses plotted around the map.

Later in the month the students celebrated National Dental Health Month by reading informational books on the topic and using their new knowledge to create a dentist office in the Creative Dramatic Center. The students used their knowledge of letter formations to create dental records for their patients and learned how to look at a calendar to book appointments. At the math center the students worked on their classification skills as they created a Healthy vs. Unhealthy foods poster.

What a fun month!

Preschool Reach Jennifer Gallimore

February was a short but busy month! Students worked on a community helpers unit this month: mail carrier and dentist. Taking a walking trip to the post office, we applied our knowledge about the post office by writing and mailing Valentine's Day cards to our friends and family. For our dental unit, students were introduced to the benefits of keeping their teeth healthy through smart food choices, proper brushing, and flossing.

Reach 1 Dana Grasso

The REACH One class focused on Dental Health and the Haddon Heights Community this month. Our class created a model of the mouth and studied foods that are healthy for our teeth. We enjoyed listening to several songs that promoted the importance of eating healthy foods and brushing our teeth. Our class then studied various community helpers and their roles in our community. We then went to the Haddon Heights Post Office to see Postal workers and mail a special Valentine's Day card to our families. We're currently making a large map of Haddon Heights and rehearsing stating our personal information that we can recite to a community member in the event of an emergency.

Reach 2 Jessica Demkiw

The REACH 2 class had fun kicking off February by learning about Groundhog's Day! We created shadow boxes as a part of our STEM activities and witnessed our own groundhogs see their shadow the morning of February 2nd. For Valentine's Day, we read stories on friendship and how to show we care for others and mailed cards home to our families. We are now learning about healthy foods, how to prepare healthy meals and snacks, and practicing ways to keep our bodies active and healthy.

Kindergarten Erica Doyle

Kindergarten has been learning about various reading strategies and what to do when they are "stuck" in their reading. We have also been learning about how to make and write numbers up to 20. We have been writing stories with 3 sentences and using our "Word Wall" to help us during writing time. The students have become much more independent and using what they have learned during writing time! We celebrated Valentine's Day by inviting a "special someone" for each student to come into the classroom and participate in Valentine's Day themed math and science experiments, create a craft, deliver our Valentine's AND read and donate books to our service learning project BookSimles.com. We also celebrated the 100th day of school (already?) by doing various activities based around the number 100. We built towers with 100 cups, had 100 snacks, created a necklace with 100 fruit loops and much more. It was definitely a fun filled month in Kindergarten!

First Grade Alissa Grace

First graders put on a reader's theater production of The Hat, by Jan Brett. They did a fantastic job of entertaining their parents and family members. It truly was impressive how the students were able to memorize their lines and put on a wonderful play! In reading, the children have been asking questions before, during, and after reading a book. They also have been exploring cause and effect relationships. In Social Studies, the children learned about world cultures. First graders had a blast sampling food around the world and reading about each culture. They even completed a craft at the end of each lesson. Finally, in Math, the students worked on making a model to solve problems.

Second Grade Jennifer Ellis

Second grade has spent the last few weeks learning about our government, as well as our past presidents. We have decided to create our own plays about various presidents' lives and are excited to perform them soon. In Math, we began learning how to count and sort coins and tell time. In Writing, we have chosen topics to write informational 'All About ...' books. We have also been reading many informational texts and learning to compare and contrast texts using a Venn diagram. We held our very own Winter Olympics during this month, where our 'countries' have competed in various competitions reviewing material that we have been working on within each subject.

Third Grade Kim Cordner

Mrs.Cordner's third grade class has been learning about fractions in Math. In Writing, the students have been planning their informational books.. In Reading, the children are learning about the non-fiction text features . In Science, the boys and girls dug for fossils and learned about animals that lived in the past and what their environment was like and how it has changed over time. In Social Studies, the class has been studying maps. They have been using the cardinal and intermediate directions to locate places on a map.

Fourth Grade Leslie Ruffalo

Fourth Grade completed an Author Study in ELA on Andrew Clements. Students selected a novel by the author to read in depth focusing on literary elements for realistic fiction. Then, students read other titles by the author to compare and contrast characters/character development, setting, plot, theme, etc. Andrew Clements "placemats" sharing a "taste" of each novel designed by the students will be on display. In math, the 4th grade students learned how to add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers using models and equations.

Fifth Grade Brenda Baals

Fifth Grade is knee-deep in the world of fractions! Students completed learning how to add and subtract fractions, and are now learning to multiply them using different strategies. In ELA, we moved from fiction texts by a specific author to a new novel, where the topic of discussion will be point of view. The students are enjoying the change of pace! In Writing, they just finished their first Narrative Writing piece and shared them with the class. Their characters were so believable and well developed. Students voted on each other's writing to win awards such as "Best Hook," "Most Interesting Character," and "Best Use of Dialogue." We finished our Science unit on Living Systems, and are now studying the Colonies in the Americas in Social Studies.

Sixth Grade Becky Costello

The sixth grade readers have culminated the Determining Importance Unit with an Ancient Civilization Celebration; students worked in groups to research various aspects of ancient civilizations, then presented mini-lessons on the research subtopics. The presentations were well-planned and executed and enjoyed by all- Mr. Ormsby even joined us for a yoga practice during the India presentation! The writers spent weeks revising argumentative essays to analyze a literary character to include strong text evidence, careful explanations, as well as universal lessons we can draw from literary characters. The finished essays are on display in the sixth grade hallway and are certainly worth a read if you are walking by our classroom! The scientists have started to explore Earth Systems. The mathematicians are fully immersed in the world of Algebra and have moved from writing expressions to represent mathematical situations to writing equations and solving them! The sixth graders continue to set a great example for the Atlantic Avenue School community through strong leadership and the implementation of character traits.

Math Specialist Tara Morgan

During the month of February, the first grade mathematicians used place value to compare 2-digit numbers. The second graders used the values of coins and bills to find the total value of a group of money. The third graders have begun their study of fractions, and used fractions to describe how much or how many. The fourth graders learned how to add and subtract fractions with the same denominator. The fifth graders multiplied fractions, and fractions with whole numbers. Finally, the sixth graders have begun their study of algebra, and used equations and inequalities to represent situations and solve problems.

Reading Specialist Kiely McNulty

Lot's of reading happening in February! Mrs. Grace's 1st grade class continues to meet in guided reading groups each day to work on decoding, fluency, comprehension, and responding to reading. In 2nd grade students have been busy reading nonfiction books and are also learning how to strengthen their comprehension by asking questions and comparing what they already know to their new learning. In 3rd grade we are reading nonfiction texts and looking closely at how text features add to the reader's learning. Mrs. Ruffalo's 4th Grade students are conducting an author study of Andrew Clements with the following books: *Lost & Found*, *Lunch Money*, and *Frindle*, and are working

to compare and contrast them. Students also did a fabulous job with their Red Carpet Book Talks. The 5th graders are starting a unit on Author's Point of View, and are challenging themselves to consider exciting stories from multiple points of view in their book club books. Students have also been busy reading at home, and many will be getting a free Six Flags ticket for completing their Read to Succeed Reading Log. Students are getting geared up to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss and Read Across America Day!