

Atlantic Avenue Board Brief

May 2018

Preschool Laura Goodfriend

Spring has sprung in the preschool and our plantings of beans and sweet potatoes are going wild! This month the preschoolers learned about living and nonliving things. At the science center the students enjoyed listening to informational texts on what makes something a living thing. To reinforce their knowledge of the subject the students enjoyed creating a living and nonliving poster with pictures from magazines.

Once the students had demonstrated a good understanding of living and nonliving things, they applied what they had learned to grow lima beans and sweet potatoes.. The students enjoyed monitoring each plant's growth as well as tending to their needs. As a follow up activity the students learned about Van Gogh's Sunflower Painting. At the art center the students tried their hand at drawing and painting their own version of Sunflowers. We shared our creations with the Haddon Heights community at the art show.

What a fun filled month!

Preschool Reach Jennifer Gallimore

Ladybugs, beetles and bees, oh my!_Students dove deep into the dirt in May learning all about bugs and insects. From "The Very Quiet Cricket" to "The Very Busy Spider" ending with "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" using picture identification boards students explored the bug theme labeling or pointing to the items when prompted. Students worked on vocabulary and sequencing skills as they learned about the butterfly life cycle. Students also joined the inclusion Preschool to participate in the annual, "Mommy and Me Tea." Students took part in several small performances which included "Five Speckled Frogs," "Five Little Ducks" and "Three Little Fishes" and did an amazing job! We stood proud as we watched students generalize skills that were once challenging for them. Students are blooming with confidence in REACH Preschool!

Reach 1 Dana Grasso

The REACH One class focused on outdoor activities during the month of May. We learned about various new Amusement Parks and Campgrounds through the News 2 You Program. We researched vocabulary words associated with Amusement Parks and Campgrounds and created sentences about them. We also practiced generalizing our skills into the Haddon Heights community and went to Freshest Flowers to purchase Mother's Day Flowers and Cabana to order water ice. We're so proud of the continuous progress that our class is making!

Reach 2 Jessica Demkiw

REACH Two focused on various spring themes throughout the month of May. We completed a spring scavenger hunt where we used our five senses to observe the changes of the season. We discussed different places we can enjoy with the warm weather such as the zoo, amusement parks and camping. We got the opportunity to go out in the community to shop for Mother's Day and enjoy ice cream and water ice from Cabana. We can't believe how quickly this school year has gone and look forward to June!

Kindergarten Erica Doyle

The school year is quickly coming to an end. This month we finished our writing unit on opinion writing and began writing 3 sentence personal narrative stories. We started off our community walking trips with a walk and tour of the Haddon Heights Fire Station and will be visiting the Library this week too. The students will be mailing thank you letters during our walking trip to the Post Office. We are finishing our last chapter in math on shapes and concrete graphs. We have ended our month with our preparations for kindergarten graduation!

First Grade Tammy Mulroy (Alissa Grace)

The first grade class has been working hard and enjoying many fun activities. Last week the students began harvesting their barrel gardens and were very excited to take home different kinds of lettuces, mint, and basil to share with their families. Students planned, planted, monitored and recorded information for their own gardens. Thank you to all the parent volunteers who organized and helped with this wonderful gardening project. In writing, the first graders have been researching information for a nonfiction writing piece about an animal. Students are putting together an All About booklet containing specific nonfiction text features as well as information gathered about where the animal lives and what it eats. In reading, the class is practicing strategies to determine the main idea of a short passage. They are learning how to locate the details in a text that support the main idea. Recently, students also completed a science unit called Biomimicry which culminated in each student creating an invention that was inspired by nature, specifically an animal and its special ability. The students were very creative in coming up with nature inspired inventions that would help solve a problem for people.

Second Grade Jennifer Ellis

Even though the countdown to the end of the year has begun, second graders are as busy as ever. In reading, students are studying characters and creating Trading Cards to complete character analyses. This complements their opinion writing, which allows them to respond to their reading by describing their favorite characters and providing examples from stories to support their conclusions. In math, students are working on addition and subtraction fact mastery to help lay the foundation for multiplication and division in third grade. With the help of parent volunteers, students have gotten their hands a little dirty and have been working to clean out the school garden. They will be planting some perennials in the next week and we are anxiously awaiting a visit from a real beekeeper. These real life experiences are giving them first hand knowledge of what pollination is all about!

Third Grade Kim Corder

In Reading, Mrs. Corder's third grade class just completed a unit on the Rainforest. We compared two texts on the same topic. The students also learned how important the rainforest is because we get many products from there. In Writing, the students finished their information books. They published them on their Chromebooks, including many text features. The third grade mathematicians have been finding the area and perimeter of various rectangles. They recently planted potatoes in the school garden and had a lesson about the potato from two of our parents, Mrs. Kerr and Mr. Franke. We are grateful for all the support from all of our parents. We also enjoyed a lesson on Food Webs given by the high school A.P. Biology students. This was a special treat.

Fourth Grade Leslie Ruffalo

Fourth Grade enjoyed the culminating celebration of our unit on animals and adaptations with a field trip to the Philadelphia Zoo. Students were able to apply their knowledge of adaptations to the zoo population in the various exhibits. Our class had the great opportunity to interact with high school students from the AP Biology class. The guest teachers provided an interactive experience of designing and constructing boats out of aluminum foil to hold pennies to test buoyancy and floating/sinking.

Fifth Grade Brenda Baals

Though the end of the year is quickly approaching, fifth grade is still working hard. It's finally our turn to plant in the garden. We were lucky enough to have a few parents come in and teach us about the corn, beans, and squash we will be planting in the coming weeks. In Math, we've finished customary and metric conversions and begun our last unit on Geometry...the wonderful world of trapezoids, parallelograms and rhombuses is fascinating! The students have finished two nonfiction space-themed books in ELA, and are using them to create their own magazine as well as a Science research project. We're immersed in the world of planets, stars and the universe! Our last Writing pieces of the year, informational text, are covering amazing topics from the history of military tanks to the animals of the rainforest! The students are enjoying a change of pace and are continuing through the month of June with enthusiasm!

Sixth Grade Mrs. Amorosi (Becky Costello)

The 6th grade spent May working on a unit that incorporated many subjects. We started with our science unit where we learned about how we as humans affect the earth- our Human Footprint. The students worked in groups to research a topic of their choosing, planned how to present their information and presented it to the class. While researching the human footprint, guided reading groups worked together reading novels with a similar theme. Students were put into 3 groups and were assigned 2 novels that dealt with environmental issues such as polluting. We will finish those books this week. Lastly, the 6th graders have started working on a Teen Activism essay where they were to choose a topic that interested them, like stopping animal abuse or fair and equal education for everyone, boys and girls, throughout the world. In math we are continuing to discuss and practice the use of variability and distributions where we are reading and making box plots using our past knowledge of range, median, most and mean. The year is quickly coming to an end, but their enthusiasm for learning continues!

Math Specialist Tara Morgan

During the month of May, the first grade mathematicians discovered how to sort and describe two-dimensional shapes. The second graders named and classified two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes, and showed equal parts of shapes. The third graders focused on different ways to describe and classify two-dimensional shapes. The fourth graders used relative sizes of measurements to solve problems and generate measurement tables that show a relationship. The fifth graders utilized unit cubes to help build solid figures and understand the volume of a rectangular prism. Finally, the sixth graders described the shape of a data set using graphs, measures of center, and measures of variability.

Reading Specialist Kiely McAnulty

In the month of May, students have continued their hard work in reading as the weather gets nicer! Grades K-3 have been celebrating their reading and writing progress with a wide variety of topics during guided reading. 4th graders are reading up on biographies and autobiographies, while 5th

grade is finishing a text structures unit while studying our solar system and planets. They built up background knowledge at Red Bank on their field trip for their next unit on the American Revolution. End of the year fluency, sight word, and comprehension assessments are underway, and the students of Atlantic are showing how hard they have worked this year! Remember to keep up the great work over the summer!