

## Atlantic Avenue Board Brief

Jan 2- Feb 13

### Preschool Laura Goodfriend

The preschoolers have been busy learning about community helpers and getting ready to celebrate Valentine's Day with a special someone. We began the month learning about the Mail Carrier. The children learned about letters, stamps, and home addresses. They were given a chance to explore with objects found in a post office. The children were instructed on how to address an envelope before it is ready to be mailed at the post office.

At the writing center, the children created Valentine Cards for their family. As a follow up activity, the children took a trip to the Haddon Heights Post Office and used their knowledge of money to buy a stamp. They also were given a tour. The children enjoyed learning about what happens to a letter after it is put in the mail.

On Thursday, February 13th, the children will host a Very Special Person Valentine Celebration. The children invited a special person in their family as their Valentine Guest for the day. The children will play games, make a special craft and share a special snack with their guests.

### Preschool Reach Jennifer Gallimore

Students began the month of January learning about the winter season. Reading the book, "The Jacket I Wear in The Snow" by Shirley Neitzel, students learned how to appropriately dress for winter weather. Over the course of the month, students worked on many skills using adapted books centered on a winter theme. Students worked on identifying color concepts and winter clothing items using the adapted book, "What is the Snowman Wearing!" In our dramatic play area, students followed a set of picture directions on how to build a snowman using white play-doh. Students also began to label the parts of the snowman once decorated. At the sensory table students worked on letter recognition and letter sounds. At the math center, students worked on developing number awareness. We finish the month going on a community outing to We Rock the Spectrum!!

February was a short but busy month! Students worked on a community helpers unit this month: Mail Carrier/Post Office. Taking a walking trip to the post office, we applied our knowledge by writing and mailing Valentine's Day cards to our friends and family. Students also joined A.M. Inclusion Preschool class to generalize skills. Students participated in many activities which included skills such as turn taking, waiting and sharing during our Favorite Person/Valentine's Day celebration.

### **Reach 1 Brittany Johnson**

The REACH 1 class has been working hard in January and February! They have been working hard in ELA, focusing on reading poems, and learning about rhyming words. We have also been working on sight words, and practicing them with some multisensory activities. In Math we are working on our number concepts using TouchMath! We have also been working on sorting coins, and naming them. Social Skills have been a blast! We learned about the library, and how to put together a research project, all about community helpers! The students presented to one another, and we practiced whole body listening! We also took a trip to Ralph's Pizza, where we practiced greeting, ordering, and conversational skills. To end the month of February we took a trip to the dollar store to pick out a card, and pay for it. We wrote in our cards, practicing letter formatting. We then practiced typing our addresses and pretending to purchase stamps to mail the card. We also did some really fun things for the 100th day of school including how we would look at 100 years old and using descriptive words to tell what we would look like. We celebrated Valentine's Day and the 100th day of school by rotating through ELA and Math themed centers with our friends from Reach 2.

### **Reach 2 Michele Perrin**

Reach 2 kept busy during the months of January & February with our regular academics, including daily ELA centers, Math, Writer's Workshop, Sensory/SEL, Social Skills, and STEM/Life Skills. We also focused on learning about the public library and taking a walking trip to check out books about a specified topic. After collecting resources, the students spent a week working in pairs to complete a research project about a pre-selected community helper. The students prepared a slideshow, answering WH questions about their topic complete with images and a quiz for the class at the end. We also went on a community outing to Ralph's Pizza, where we practiced life skills such as ordering from a menu, money skills, and appropriate restaurant behavior and manners. In February, we focused on Love & Kindness. We took a trip to the Dollar Store to purchase Valentine's Day cards for a special someone, learned how to write & address a card, and purchase stamps from the post office to mail them. We celebrated Valentine's Day and the 100th day of school with educational and fun activities as we rotated through ELA and Math themed centers.

### **Kindergarten Erica Doyle**

We have been moving right along with our learning! In reading, the students learned about various reading strategies and how to use them when faced with an unknown word while reading. They have been practicing using them in reading groups. In math, the students learned about addition and subtraction. We have been learning about plus and minus signs and when to use them. They have been practicing writing many addition and subtraction sentences. In writing, we have been writing personal narratives. This includes drawing a picture, labeling their picture and writing a complete sentence to go with it. They have been focusing on the structure of a sentence and where to place capitals and punctuation as well. The students were also introduced to using a graphic organizer to write a story. For the 100th day the students rotated through various activities based around the

number 100. Finally, for Valentines day we wrote about what we love about our family and sorted and graphed candy hearts.

### **First Grade Alissa Grace**

First graders have been working on reading, writing, and counting numbers to 120! Our little mathematicians have also been working on comparing numbers and using language like: greater than, less than, and equal to. In Reading, the children worked on making connections like: text-to-text, text-to-text, and text-to-world. They also worked on making reasonable predictions. The students are really getting quite good at identifying spelling patterns and rules like the fszle and ck rule. In Writing, the students studied the famous author, Jonathon London and emulated his writing traits. They wrote numerous "Froggy" inspired stories. Each story had a recipe of: ellipses, ALL CAPS, sound words, and transition words. They also worked on telling the setting in a strong opening/lead sentence. Finally, they wrote endings with a question and with feelings. They look forward to the next exciting unit, opinion writing! First graders studied community helpers in Social Studies. They loved learning about all of the important helpers that make up our wonderful community.

### **Second Grade Jennifer Ellis**

Happy New Year and Gung Hay Fat Choy to all! Second graders celebrated both American and Chinese new years by making resolutions, eating celebratory foods, and studying cultural norms. In science, change was all around- changes to matter! The children studied the three phases of matter and observed their properties. It was exciting to see how slime took on the properties of both solids and liquids, making it a polymer. In math, the children worked toward basic fact mastery, which proved to be a big help when adding and subtracting multi-digit numbers. During reading, the children analyzed texts to predict and infer story events and identified the cause and effect of various events.

### **Third Grade Becky Costello**

Our third graders have started the new year by setting personal intentions and working hard to uphold monthly character traits. Our mathematicians have made great gains with multiplication and division fact fluency. Our writers are exploring the Art of Information Writing; they have researched topics of their choice and are now writing informational texts to teach an audience of peers about a topic through well-structured paragraphs of information and nonfiction text features. Our historians are now able to articulate the significance of American symbols, important historical documents, and contributions of historical figures throughout our country's history. The scientists are delving into the topic of Weather and Climate and will collect data to analyze weather patterns. Our readers culminated a unit on point of view this month and are now diving into a fascinating unit on biographical subjects- stay tuned for upcoming biographical projects- the students' creativity and enthusiasm for the project is amazing! Our hearts are full of kindness in

third grade- every student in the class participated in The Kindness Challenge- we are so proud of the children's acts of kindness on a daily basis. The third graders are off to a wonderful start for the new year!

#### **Fourth Grade Caitlyn McCullough**

Fourth Grade has had a busy month. Our writers have been working on a persuasive piece. In Math, we are now adding and subtracting fractions. We are looking forward to learning to multiply fractions in our next chapter! In Reading, we have started our Author Study where each literature circle is reading an Andrew Clements book. We are discussing the characters, theme, and plot development in each story. In Social Studies we have learned all about the Northeast.

#### **Fifth Grade Brenda Baals**

Fifth grade mathematicians are busy adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers! They are having fun applying their understanding of common denominators and equivalent fractions through a fraction art project. The question they are solving is, if "this square" is the one or the whole, what is the total number of fractions included in my project? They are designing nature, sports, food, and all types of themed artwork using fractional parts of the whole! These scientists are also busy investigating the properties of mixtures and solutions. They have been using different types of solutes/powder to observe how they act in solvents/water. They are studying mixtures and solutions to understand ideas such as dissolving, evaporation, concentration, and saturation!

#### **Sixth Grade Regina Lord**

Here are a few highlights from our class for 2020:

According to students, one favorite activity, was iPod and YouTube inspired lessons pondering whether individuals have the ability to change the world with *their own two hands*. By analyzing, evaluating, and comparing song lyrics and videos, meant to persuade, students assessed arguments of various positions judging the validity of the reasoning along with the relevance of the evidence. Students then took a stance on the question of whether they thought they could change the world. Students then tried their *hand* at persuasive lyrics. In addition, the end of January marked the arrival of our first clue in a global game of Hide-and-Seek with 10 mystery classes around the planet incorporating S.T.E.A.M activities. The highlight, however, was the truly heart-felt messages we wrote identifying the goodness that we see in one another. We all took home a bag full of positive, feel good messages as a reminder of the goodness and talents others see in us, but we sometimes forget we possess.

### **Math Specialist Tara Morgan**

The first grade mathematicians have been working to gain a deeper understanding of place value. They focused on how to use place value to model, read, and write numbers up to 120. Then they explored how to use place value to compare 2-digit numbers. In addition to mastering their addition and subtraction facts, the second grade mathematicians discovered various strategies for adding and subtracting 3-digit numbers, with the primary focus on regrouping. The third grade mathematicians have been working daily to build their fact fluency for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division by using Reflex. Not only do the students look forward to Reflex each day, they are building their fact power at an amazing pace. They have just begun their study of fractions, with the focus on using fractions to describe how much or how many. The fourth grade mathematicians are also learning about fractions, but their goal is to add and subtract fractions with like denominators. The fifth grade mathematicians are also adding and subtracting fractions, however, they are given fractions with unlike denominators. Not only do the students need to find common denominators, but they also need to regroup and simplify the sums and differences. And finally, the sixth grade mathematicians have started their study of algebra, with an emphasis on writing, interpreting, and using algebraic expressions.

### **Reading Specialist Kiely McNulty**

We have strong readers here at Atlantic making excellent progress with the start of the new year! All of the students in grades Kindergarten through sixth have set personal goals for themselves, shown perseverance, and worked with stamina while taking the Winter MAP assessment. They have shown lots of progress in the areas of reading and language and should be proud. Kindergartners are starting to put all of their decoding strategies to work when sounding out tough words, and are busy making connections, predictions, and asking questions before, during, and after reading to help strengthen their understanding of texts. In first grade we have been using touch spelling and tracing strategies to read and write about fiction and nonfiction books during Guided Reading. Students are taking off with their sight word knowledge and are recognizing their personal sight words in the texts we have been reading. Second graders have been making predictions, inferences, and identifying cause and effect relationships in a variety of texts. Our third graders are experts on first and third person point of view, as well as comparing their perspectives with the author's perspective on certain nonfiction topics. Currently they are diving into biographies and finding out information about the subject's character, struggles, and the time period that they lived in. Fourth graders have been involved in an author study of Andrew Clements, while visualizing, inferring, and

identifying character traits using evidence from the text. In 5th grade, students have been exploring different points of view with three amazing books, and completing fun selfie projects to represent the main character's thoughts and feelings along the way! Many students are reading and logging 6 hours at home to earn a free Six Flags ticket. Way to go readers!