

**Board of Education Report  
ATLANTIC AVENUE SCHOOL  
March 2017**

**Preschool**

**Mrs. Goodfriend**

This month has been a very busy month in the Preschool. We kicked the month off with a read aloud of the *Three Billy Goats Gruff*. After reading the story the students put on their little engineer hats and work together to design and build bridges that would support a very heavy Billy Goat. As the student's problem solved through the activity, they were introduced to nonstandard measurement tools to use to measure the width of their bridge. The students also had to figure out how to create a bridge that would not allow water to flow over it. Through further exploration, the students were able to conclude that the bridge needed strong supports with some height and a wide road to go on top of the supports. When they tested out this design, they realized that the water from the river was able to flow under the bridge as opposed to over the bridge.

At the Creative Dramatic Center, the students used classroom items to create a life size bridge, a river and a meadow. The students used Billy Goat masks and enjoyed using their comprehension skills to retell the story of *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*.

Later on in the month the students worked on their creative writing skills as they dictated and illustrated what they would do if they came upon a Troll on a bridge. This activity assisted in helping the students link the spoken word to the written words on a page.

At the Discovery Center the students enjoyed planting potatoes after reading the picture book, *Jamie and the Giant Potato*. Before planting the potatoes the students researched what a living thing needs to survive and created a list of living and nonliving things.

**Kindergarten**

**Mrs. Doyle**

This month we learned about the life cycle of plants. The students participated in a science project which we submitted for the Science Fair. We up-cycled some soda bottles and created sub-irrigated planters. In class, we began growing cypress vine, marigolds, basil and carrots. The students learned about "How-To" writing and wrote about the process of planting a seed. In math, we finished our units on number sense and have been exploring 2 dimensional shapes. The students continue to amaze with their reading growth and their use of our various reading strategies. Also, we have been working on comprehension by writing responses to our reading.

## **Grade 1**

### **Mrs. Grace**

First graders have been busy teaching each other through how to writing pieces. In math, the students worked on adding 2 digit numbers and modeling their adding through base 10 blocks. They even traded 10 ones for a 10! First graders read and identified text features and are working towards identifying main idea. In Science, first graders learned about the solar system.

## **Grade 2**

### **Mrs. Ellis**

This month, second graders have become experts on various animals for their non-fiction books. They have learned how to conduct research and put their findings in their own words. In addition, they drafted chapters that included topic and closing sentences and varied sentence beginnings. They have begun the editing and revising portion of their writing, working with partners to make their books the best they can be. We can't wait for our publishing party!

## **Grade 3**

### **Mrs. Cordner**

The third grade mathematicians have been using various strategies to compare fractions. In Reading, the children have identified the author's or character's point of view. They decided to agree or disagree and state reasons why. The third grade authors published informational books on many topics. They used the Chromebooks to create several text features in their books. The students have also been preparing for the PARCC by completing some practice questions online. It has been a busy month!

## **Grade 4**

### **Mrs. Ruffalo**

March Madness made the month magnificent as 4th Graders explored alliteration and other literary elements of poems, prose and drama. The class investigated and provided evidence to compare and contrast the different genres. Ruffalo's Rebounders rallied in our Random Acts of Fitness free throw tournament throughout the magical month of March!

## **Grade 5**

### **Mrs. Baals**

Fifth grader readers completed a unit on point of view this month. They read the following Newbery Medal Award winning books: *Number the Stars*, *A Single Shard*, and *Island of the Blue Dolphins*. As they read, they wrote selfies, capture key moments from the story from the character's point of view. These selfies included a photo and a caption with the characters thoughts and reactions to the event. Upon completion of the books, students assembled their selfies into an Instagram newsfeed and then commented on each other's selfies from the point of view of other characters in the text. Thier newsfeeds are hanging from ceiling to floor in the hallway and were a creative way for students to work on skills like summarizing, main ideas/key events, chronological order, point of view, and writing from different characters' perspectives! Fifth grader readers enjoyed this unit and these award winning books were a huge hit!

## **Grade 6**

### **Mrs. Costello**

The sixth grade readers have launched the Biography Research Unit; they are excitedly researching individuals of interest to present to their classmates in April. The writers have just culminated their argumentative writing unit by analyzing fictional characters and current issues by creating and supporting claims with strong evidence and data. The scientists concluded a study of *Weather and Climate* by creating travel brochures for a location of their choice. The archaeologists have just embarked on their journey back to *Ancient Greece*! The mathematicians are extending their algebraic knowledge by identifying independent and dependent variables in word problems and equations. The sixth graders are looking forward to a fun spring filled with exciting class trips, end of year activities and more opportunities for leadership roles.

## **Reach One**

### **Mrs. Gallimore**

Read Across America kicked off March bringing Dr. Seuss to entertain the Reach 1 classroom with a week full of fun and engaging activities. Our Reach 1 mentors helped with our St. Patrick's Day unit of activities including making a mosaic clover. Students are ending the month of March learning about our new season spring and the changes of weather! Reach 1 students are very excited to hop onto the month of April for warmer weather!

## **Reach Two**

### **Mrs. Grasso**

REACH 2 has been working on counting coin combinations and practicing to purchase supplies in our mini-store. We're working on generalizing this skill into the community at Lawnside Shoprite at the end of this month. We've also been doing fabulous with our coffee cart and our students have increased their independence with social interactions and exchanging money with staff members! We're so proud of the continuous progress that our students have been making!

## **Literacy Specialist**

In 1st through 3rd grade, students work in guided reading groups and continue to make progress while being exposed to many different genres. 5th grade students completed a point of view unit in which they read some great literature on a variety of topics from different perspectives. Mrs. Ruffalo's 4th Grade students have been having fun learning about and analyzing poetry, plays, and prose. Students at Atlantic Ave read Dr. Seuss books and did some fun activities in class celebrating Read Across America Day. 2nd through 6th grade students participated in a Dr. Seuss poster contest where they selected a famous Dr. Seuss quote and drew an illustration to represent the meaning of the quote. The students did a fabulous job interpreting Dr. Seuss's famous words and there were winners for best interpretation of the quote and most creative illustrations in each class! If you are a K-6th grade student, don't forget to fill in your Philadelphia Soul reading bookmark to earn a free ticket to a Philadelphia Soul game in April or May!

## **Math Specialist**

During the month of March, the first graders learned various strategies to add and subtract two-digit numbers. The second graders began their study of length in metric units, specifically focused on the methods and tools that can be used to estimate and measure length in metric units. The third graders began their chapter on time, length, liquid volume and mass. In fourth grade, the students multiplied fractions by whole numbers. Lastly, the fifth graders used line plots, coordinate grids, and patterns to help graph and interpret data.

**New students this month 0**

**Number of students who have left this month 0**

**Number of students referred to Child Study Team 0**

**Number of students suspended 0**

**Fire Drill/ Panic button - 3/23**

**Security Drill - 3/9**