PRINCIPAL’S PIECE

In response to the research to better prepare students to enter the workforce and be successful in their chosen careers, the updated list of 21 Workplace Readiness Skills was adopted by the Virginia Board of Education in April 2010. Teamwork is one of the skills. Teamwork, also called collaboration, may be defined by the ability to:

- work effectively and respectfully with a diverse group of people;
- exercise flexibility and willingness to make compromises to accomplish a common goal;
- assume shared responsibility for work, and value the individual contributions made by each team member; and/or
- work with others, to have social-emotional control, and to form communities.

During January’s PTO meeting as part of the Becoming Brilliant book club conversation we discussed the four levels of collaboration as defined by the authors. They are:

- Level 1 - On My Own
- Level 2 - Side by Side
- Level 3 - Back and Forth
- Level 4 - Building It Together

While students experience all four of these levels by choice and through intentional lesson design by teachers, our goal is to ensure that students have the necessary skills for success at the highest level. This year, Red Hill teachers are helping students to develop students’ competency as team members and collaborators. In particular our upper grade teachers are including elements of productive group work, 1st/2nd grade teachers are teaching listening and speaking skills, while preschool and kindergarten emphasize purposeful play throughout the school day. In addition to these classroom, collaborative activities, we are looking at ways to promote collaboration during recess.

In recent years, the amount of time children spend in unstructured play has been declining. Instead, children spend far more time watching TV, playing video games, and using mobile device apps than engaging in child-led, creative and improvised activities. In addition, the increase scheduled, structured activities that today’s children are involved in such as after school clubs and team sports compete with time children can be playing imaginatively with siblings and friends. In a recent presentation to our teachers by Wildrock’s Carolyn Schuyler, we learned that creative, outdoor play helps children develop self-regulation. Self-regulation is necessary for successful collaboration. Later this month Carolyn is coming back with “Pop Up Play” sets for Red Hill students to try out. We are curious to see which objects inspire Red Hill students to engage in imaginative play. Once we see what the children are drawn to, we plan to add some options to our outdoor playspace for students to play with at recess.

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Jan 28: Kavounas Field Trip
Jan 29: Marshall Field Trip
Feb 4: Parent Portal opens to view report cards (after 4)
Feb 9: Chili Cook Off
Feb 12-13: Jump Rope for Heart
Feb 13: Wear Red/Pink Day
Feb 14: PK Friendship Day
Feb 22: Kindergarten Field Trip to Discovery Museum
Mar 4 - 22: Food Drive
March 6: 1-2 Music Program
March 8: PK Field Trip to Wildrock
March 13: PK & K Field Trip to Paramount
March 20: Honors Choir
March 28: Team Day
April 2-6: Spring Break
April 12: 5th Grade visits Walton
April 24: Walton Orientation for 5th grade families
FROM the COVESVILLE CORRIDOR  
Sylvia Jenkins, PK Teacher

Preschoolers and adults were excited about the early snow and we spent many days outdoors. The children enjoyed playing in it, throwing it, listening to it crunch beneath their feet, and making tiny snow people. Playing outdoors is an important part of our school day. Children engage in self-initiated activities and look forward to exploring in our beautiful outdoor play areas.

Friendships grow and flourish each day as children discover common interests with peers. Playing and working together for hours on end may also lead to conflicts. Preschool children are encouraged to work through conflicts and to find a resolution to where everyone feels they are still an important part of our classroom community. It is a typical day in our pre-kindergarten classroom to observe children playing joyfully together, arguing over one red Lego, laughing hysterically over blocks tumbling over, crying hysterically over blocks tumbling over, and learning empathy as we all take care of each other. Through the Zones of Regulation, we are learning that expressing our emotions is a healthy way to release how we are feeling inside and to take the steps to get ourselves back to feeling calm and steady.

FROM the SOUTH GARDEN ROOM  
Beth Kavounas & Chris Marshall, Kindergarten Teachers

Winter has brought many opportunities for seasonal stories, new explorations, and snow day fun! In math, kindergarteners have been counting and comparing. Students have opportunities to support mathematical thinking throughout the school day. Learning how to ask questions, plan, create, and improve are important skills for math and other academic areas. Building flexibility, cooperation, and persistence is an integral part of this work as well. These skills were certainly useful as students designed their new classroom centers. We have enjoyed the new camping center, pizza place, card station, theater, kindness spot, and building center. Some students have recently taken their interest in building with legos and blocks to the outdoors! We have a new fort building area in the making outside our classroom. Our current unit on measurement has provided hands-on opportunities for students to explore concepts including length, temperature, and comparing amounts. A huge mathematical focus all year is number sense. Helping students understand how basic numbers work will provide a solid foundation for mathematical thinking now and in the future. You can support our efforts by bringing math into your conversations at home. Here are some other ideas to get you started... Count together as you are riding in the car, see how high you can go! Count backwards from 20 as you walk down a flight of stairs. Pull out a collection of items (pennies, macaroni, toys) and have your child count them one by one or demonstrate simple addition and subtraction by adding more and taking some away. Make observations using mathematical vocabulary (more, less, fewer, equal, longer, shorter, greater than). For students ready for more in depth number practice explore patterns on the 100s chart or try counting by 5s and 10s. Ask open-ended questions that require students to think about numbers and amounts- How many snacks should we take to the park so we have enough for everyone this afternoon? Should be bring extra or will we share some? If there are 10 leaves on this branch, how many do you think are on the
whole tree? How many plates and cups will we need to get out for dinner tonight? At school, we play lots of math games to practice and review skills. Card games like Go Fish and UNO are great for number practice. We sent a card game home in the family math letter called COMPARE that you can extend to DOUBLE COMPARE to practice addition. There are also board games (like SORRY! or PARCHESI) and dice games (like TENZI) that are appropriate for 5-6 year olds to play with their family that involve recognizing numbers on dice, counting and combining, taking turns, and understanding more/less. If you haven’t yet incorporated family games into your play time at home, think about starting a weekly game night. Family game night is a fun way to practice math concepts, plus it provides a routine and tradition your child will enjoy! Your enthusiasm will help your child get excited about the skills they are practicing! For more ideas, please be sure to check out the family math letters and activities that we send home every few weeks.

FROM the NORTH GARDEN ROOM
Tina Bolen, Matthew Killham, Holly Shiflett: 1-2 Teachers

During the second quarter, the North Garden Room read the book A Chair for My Mother by Vera Williams which allowed us to discuss many components related to economics and kindness. Our learning community had the opportunity to lead the School Wide Morning Meeting to teach other classes about empathy. Many of our students shared skits and journal entries. Students were fortunate to have a Jamestown Outreach visitor come in November to share artifacts from the Powhatan way of life. Each student was given the opportunity to participate in the hands-on experience.

FROM the HEARDS MOUNTAIN ROOM
Veronica Brennan, Tyler Croson, Ali Summers, Susi Page: 3-5 Teachers

Between the holidays and the snow, we’ve managed to get in some good, quality learning days! The Beavers (¾) and Tulips (⅘) have been working hard in all subject areas and had in some great presenters and field trips!

On November 4th, we attended a play at the Jefferson Theatre on the downtown mall. Tomas’ and the Library Lady was inspired by true events of a migrant, farm family in the mid-west. The students learned about history and geography as well as friendship and empathy.

On November 9th, Palmer Sweet, a local geologist, met with students to share his knowledge of rocks and the rock cycle. He also shared his experiences working in the field and a little geography of the North Garden area.

On November 20th, all students showed their school spirit at the women’s UVA basketball game. Some 4th and 5th grade students even got the opportunity to sing the National Anthem on the court!
On January 15th, Dirk Prince, Jamestown presenter, came with his artifacts to share experiences of the Revolutionary War. It was interesting to hear the causes and effects of the war and how there were many different viewpoints of the people involved (British, colonists, and King George).

In class, the Beavers finished their focus on world geography and started learning about historical people and their cultures. In science, they finished their units on ecosystems and simple machines. In math, students focused on measurement. In writing, students have been working on personal narratives to share a significant memory in their lives.

The Tulips started a new book club of historical fiction and published a piece of writing on severe storms through the use of diary entries. They completed their units on geology and the solar system. In math, students focused on geometry, measurement, and data analysis. While some students increased their scores in ST Math and comprehension using Freckle.com, others created projects based on their individual science and social studies interests.

Students had a great nine-weeks! We look forward to Quarter 3!

- Be sure to get the most up-to-date information on the Heard’s Mountain website (link found on the Red Hill Homepage).

FROM the GREEN MOUNTAIN MUSIC ROOM

Tracy Brown, Music Teacher

I can’t believe it’s 2019! The fall and winter season bring us some great musical memories and new beginnings. Our Heard’s Mountain students performed the show “In the Groove” in December. First and Second graders are gearing up for their show “Squirm” on Wednesday March 6th. Our kindergarten students are playing partner singing games. Below are highlights of our Heard’s Mountain student performance:
Hello winter! It’s definitely come in with a cold, snowy “bang”! The library is warm and cozy though, so come on in and check out a new book to read. Our younger students have been creating “snowman traps” trying to catch a runaway snowman! Our primary students are beginning to research winter animals. What cool facts we will learn and share! We hope you saw some of our HMR research during the music performance. We know that research begins with wonder… All HMR students were able to “SKYPE” a real live scientist. We love to learn about germs, bacteria, infections, animals and the like.

Thanks for all your support with our holiday book fair. The students were happy to receive new materials and so were the teachers! I appreciate your help. BOGO book fair will occur in April!

The second robotics club will begin soon. Students will have the opportunity to stay in at recess and come in at lunch to learn to program various robots and work with coding programs. The HMR students show positive excitement about using coding and robotics. We are fortunate to have help from Mrs. Spring and Mr. Squires. 😊

Upcoming in third quarter: VA Festival of the Book authors, Dr. Seuss Read Across America, and literacy month (March). If you have ideas or suggestions, please let me know.

FROM the COUNSELING OFFICE

Cindy Payne, School Counselor & Sarah Leisersohn, School Counseling Intern

We are continuing to focus on the CARES traits in Core Curriculum. In November we focused on Respect, December was Responsibility and in January the focus was Empathy. We’ll be looking at Self-Control in February.

Kindergartners discussed Respect when we looked at the Silly School and the Super School. We all agreed we want Red Hill to be a Super School! We read the story of Responsible Rascal. And we looked at the characters Murray and Lightning McQueen as we discussed how they demonstrated Empathy.

1-2 students have been looking at these traits through Problem Solving with Wagner the Dog. We have practiced Stop & Think and looking at consequences, as well as handling frustration.

3rd 4th and 5th graders also discussed Goal Setting. Each student has set a personal goal and during our classroom time we have worked on choices that help us reach those goals and supporting others in achieving their goals as well.

5th graders also got to pick their exploratory classes for 6th grade. Parents, Information will be coming home soon regarding Language Arts and Math recommendations. Watch for that info. You’ll be able to log in to your parent portal later in the month to view those. Students will get to visit Walton on April 12th and then there will be an Orientation Night for parents and students on April 24th.

For more details on these lessons, I invite you to visit my blog at counselorpayne.blogspot.com.
FROM the DUDLEY MOUNTAIN ART/MAKER SPACE
Christine Kelly, Art Teacher and Gifted Resource Teacher

The Art room has been a flutter with new projects and techniques for each grade level. Kindergarteners have been working on coloring techniques using markers to create uniform patches of color and scissor skills. You will soon be seeing the fruits of your children's labors. First and second graders worked with clay before the winter break, but due to the humidity in the air our projects didn't survive the kiln drying process. First and second graders will be creating another clay project in the late spring to ensure adequate drying and "survival" of the pieces. Students in the Beaver Den and Tulip Garden have been creating paintings using different techniques. They created beautiful line and color pieces inspired by the music of the winter program they presented in December. Currently, they are experimenting with the creation of faux, stained glass using bleeding, tissue paper. Many thanks to our PTO for the purchase of new Tempera Cakes along with watercolor, tissue paper. Our DonorsChoose grant items arrived and we have new paintbrushes, more paper to experiment with and watercolor tissue paper. We will be starting the Square One projects in a few weeks. Your orders will be delivered before Mother’s Day.

FROM the BUNDORAN GYM
Matt Ewen, PE Teacher

This quarter in physical education the kindergartners are continuing to practice locomotor skills like running, skipping, and galloping in tagging games and in obstacle courses.

The first and second grade classes practiced dribbling and passing basketballs. They also practiced the underhand roll, and used this skill in a game called Pin Guard.

The third, fourth and fifth grades completed units in volleyball. We practiced the skills of the serve, bump, and set in volleyball games. The three grades also practiced basketball skills, mainly dribbling and passing. This year C’ta DeLaurier, an instructional coach, has been working with me to incorporate 4th and 5th grade measurement science standards into physical education.

Jump Rope for Heart will be February 12th for K-2, and February 13 for 3-5. We are looking forward to this fun event.

Pre-School Enrollment

The Red Hill Bright Stars/Title 1 preschool program is now accepting applications for the 2019-2020 school year. To be considered, a child must be 4 years old by September 30th, live in the Red Hill school district, and have low family income or other stressors that may make other preschool options difficult or present challenges for a successful preschool experience. For an application and/or more information, please contact Maria Williams, the Bright Stars Family Coordinator, at 434-293-5332 or mwilliams2@k12albemarle.org.