

# The Plymouth Center School Connection

February 2023

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## MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL KIM LOVELAND

January has been an exciting start to 2023! PCS was lucky to have an author visit as well as had our last few sessions of our clubs. Our teachers engaged in our first round of Math Walkthroughs in the building, where classroom teachers, coaches, and interventionists observed math instruction to identify areas of strength, identify a target area for growth and create a plan. We look forward to measuring our progress in the spring!

As a reminder, The Plymouth Center School Connection will be shared monthly as a means of highlighting the good work being done at Plymouth Center School. You will find the information will be under three specific district goal areas: Student Achievement, Engagement, and Well-Being.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please contact the main office and I look forward to seeing everyone at our school events throughout the year.

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

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Students at Plymouth Center School continue to grow as mathematicians! Kindergarten students began the year by identifying and writing numbers up to 5 and they are already adding and subtracting! They are using objects and models to write and solve equations using both operations. First graders are strengthening their number sense by working on counting numbers up to 120! They are using a number chart to count by 1s and 10s, and finding patterns to help them build their number flexibility and prepare them for upcoming skills, like comparing numbers. Students in second grade are taking everything they have learned this year and applying it to multi-step word problems. Students are learning how to break apart word problems, choose which operations are needed to solve the problem, and check to make sure their answer is reasonable.

In literacy, Kindergarten students are using word parts such as at, in, an, and it to read and write new words. In addition, they are focusing on rereading to build fluency. Grade 1 students are reading and writing nonfiction books. Students are writing informational pieces and focusing on adding details and text features. In addition they are using comparison in their writing. In Phonics, students are focusing on looking at the beginning, middle, and end of words. Grade 2 students are also reading and writing nonfiction books. In writing, students are adding an introductions and conclusions. They are also learning how to

organize their writing into parts or chapters. In reading, they are focusing on using text features to better understand the text as well as working on naming the topic of a nonfiction text.

## ENGAGEMENT

Kindergarten students utilized Flashlight Reading to not only motivate students during independent reading, but to reinforce Pointer Power (tracking the words one-to-one).



Our PTA helped to sponsor our first Pep Rally for Reading to kick off Superstar Readers, our winter reading program. Joe Shandrowski, author of Huga Tuga in the Seashell Mystery, came to PCS to share his book with our students. He engaged them through conversation and movement, encouraging them to use their imaginations. Over the next month, students will be tracking their reading minutes outside of school. Students who have the most amount of reading minutes in their classroom will get bookmarks and the grade level class that reads the most each week will have a Super Reader Star on their door to display for the whole week!



## WELL-BEING

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In library, students read a biography of Martin Luther King Jr. and created leaves during their Maker's Space to create a Peace Tree of their own.

PCS Kindergarten and PreK teachers, alongside our Literacy Coach, collaborated with FRC, local daycares, the town library, and other community members such as a local author and mental health group to have a Winter Wonderland Night. Families with children ages 5 and under were encouraged to come and learn about programs in our town as well as experience early literacy activities such as name writing and letter drawing. Students were able to take home many crafts and books.



Our clubs wrapped up with their final meetings this week. We were lucky to have 58 students participate in our three clubs: Craft Club, Board Game Club (Chess was very popular!), and Cheerleading Club. We look forward to continuing to offer new and exciting activities for students in the spring!

