

# The Plymouth Center School Connection

December 2023

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## MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL KIM LOVELAND

November has been a busy month at PCS. Students learned about Veterans Day and Thanksgiving and are immersed in new learning across all content areas. Students practiced their first Lock Down Drill after having experienced Fire Drills in the previous months. We sponsored a food collection and Pajama Day, allowing us to donate 401 pounds of food and \$263 in cash donations to purchase turkeys. During professional development, teachers focused on what makes a “Thinking Classroom” as well as how to support multilingual learners with support from EdAdvance. Through our staff dress downs, we have been able to raise \$200 for the Rotary Club of Terryville’s Fuel Fund and \$350 for the CHH Pink Rose Fund. As we head into the winter months, we look forward to learning about the many holidays, NHS guest readers, and Parent Teacher Conferences.

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.

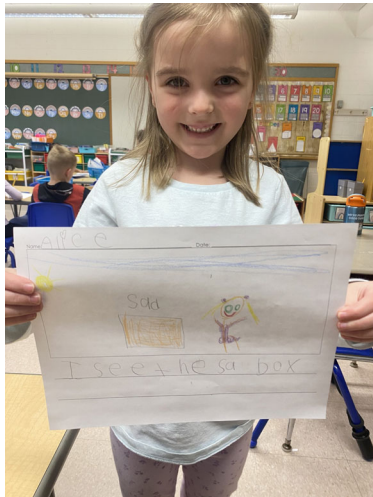
### STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

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Students continue to grow as mathematicians at Plymouth Center! Our kindergarten students have learned to write, read, and count up to 20 and are beginning to learn the basic principles of addition. These basic skills build the foundation for all math concepts as students progress through the grades. First graders are continuing to strengthen their understanding of addition and subtraction strategies and are becoming more flexible math thinkers! Second graders have worked hard to solidify strategies to add within 100 and are now transferring these strategies to subtraction. In both first and second grades, while students learn multiple strategies for addition and subtraction, they are encouraged and taught to check their work with the strategy that resonates most with them as a math learner.



In reading, Kindergarten students continue their work in decodable texts. They are learning new phonics skills and then practicing those skills in connected text. It is exciting to see our younger students growing into readers. Grade 1 students are using their word detective skills to solve new words. Although teachers prioritize phonics, students are also learning to use other strategies to decode tricky words. Grade 2 students are focusing on learning several strategies to solve multisyllabic words. In addition, these students are working on reading text fluency which ultimately aids in comprehension.



In writing, students are finishing their first units. Kindergartners were proud to share their Show and Tell writing where they learned to draw a picture, add labels, and write a simple sentence using sight words they have learned.

## ENGAGEMENT

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In library, students read the book Balloons Over Broadway by Melissa Sweet. They were then provided with a variety of materials where they were challenged to make their own marionettes in a STEM Challenge.





In music, students have been working hard to learn rhythm and apply different tempos to familiar songs. While Mr. Ostar is playing the guitar, students are listening to tones and matching them with their voices to sing them back. They are working hard on matching just the right pitch and applying it to lyrical songs!

## WELL-BEING

Students spent Veterans Day learning about the different branches of the military, recognizing those who have served, and exploring ideas of honor, liberty, and freedom. They engaged in read alouds such as Veterans: Heroes in Our Neighborhood by Valerie Pfundstein and learned vocabulary words such as armistice, peace, honor, and veteran.



We celebrated our Bucket Filler students who have been role models by filling buckets with respect, kindness, and empathy. Students have been working hard to apply these skills in all areas of the school such as PE, art, music, in the hallways, at recess, and during lunch. They are proud of their leadership and look forward to continuing inspiring others in our school community.

