North Duplin Elementary School Newsletter

March 2019

Principal—Ms. Ann Hardy
Assistant Principal—Mrs. Trista Davis

STEAMA EDITION

Contents

Principal's News	1-2
Counselor's Corner	2
Pre-K	2
Kindergarten News	3
First Grade News	3
Second Grade News	4
Third Grade News	5
Fourth Grade News	5-6
Fifth Grade News	6
Sixth Grade News	7
Notes From Music	7
Art Creations	8
Staff Spotlight	8
PE News	9
Student Spotlight	9
EC Resource	10
ESL News	10
Calendar Reminders	10

Principal's News

The staff at North Duplin Elementary School recognizes the important contributions parents make toward a child's success in school. There is no question about it - success at school begins at home. Parents are the single most important variable in a child's schooling. Parents model both a silent and spoken language in front of their children daily.

One of the most important components of a good school is the partnership between the school and parents who work together for the best interest of children. I am so excited that our school has great parent involvement. We are very fortunate.

Throughout the year parents have the opportunity to develop a partnership in a wide variety of ways. Parents can volunteer in the classrooms, help with STEAMA activities, read with our students and help in many other ways. It is important to your child that you are involved in some way at school. It's a way to let your child know you think his or her school is important.

At home, it is important to provide routines. Many families build a daily "quiet time" when the television is turned off. This quiet time provides students the opportunity for completing schoolwork or for recreational reading if there is no homework. During this quiet time, a suitable place, somewhat free of other distractions, should be available. The routine of a daily quiet time provides an opportunity to develop self-discipline, stimulate imagination, and enhance reading skills.

Routines can also make completing chores easier for both children and parents.

Continued... Principal's News

If children are consistently expected to complete routine household duties at the same time on the same day in the same place, they soon begin to develop a responsibility for their commitment and contribution to the family.

Commitment to the best for our children on the part of parents, students and staff is the key to our success with the children we teach. It is the hope of the staff that all parents will help us fulfill this commitment to excellence on behalf of ALL children at North Duplin Elementary School. School and home can work together to build skills and knowledge, reinforce values, and develop a strong sense of self-worth. We must invest our time and energies in our nation's most valuable resource - our children.

Counselor's Corner

North Duplin Elementary will be hosting our third annual Career/STEAMA Day on March 29th. During the month of March, we focus on career and college readiness. Students will complete career interest inventories and learn about various career and college opportunities for the future. March 29th is devoted to learning about careers and inviting community members to present the careers that they love to our students. Students will be learning more about careers as they relate to STEAMA! We are looking for parents and community members to present to our students. If you are available to present, please contact Mrs. Danielle Ficken (dficken@duplinschools.net)

Pre-K

Ms. Hamm's and Ms. Barwick's Pre-Kindergarten class is learning about community helpers. The children make a community using available materials in the classroom. This STEAMA activity offered students the opportunity to build parts of a community and learn about them along the way. The Food Lion grocery store was created and students talked about how the food is planted, harvested, then taken to the stores to sell. The Fire House and the fire trucks were made with the help of all the children after a study of fire safety and having the firemen visit at the Pre-K parent meeting. The Police Department was made from Lego blocks. There is a garage for the police cars. The Bank for the Pre-K community was made from Lincoln Logs. The children told about going to the bank and putting money into their account. Students created a class graph to show their favorite cakes and pies while making the Bakery for their community. The Doctor's Office was a class favorite. Students read a book about going to the doctor and made stethoscopes with Styrofoam cups to listen to each other's heartbeat. The students in Pre-K loved incorporating the components of STEAMA while designing, painting, cutting and creating their classroom community!

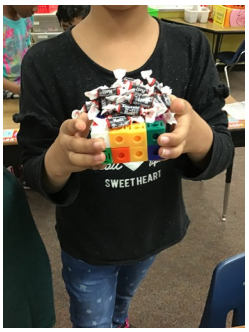
Kindergarten

Kindergarten is enjoying our focus on STEAMA. We have STEAMA bins filled with a variety of manipulatives and building materials that encourage hands-on exploration, creativity, and problem solving. Students have multiple opportunities throughout the week to work with a partner and use these bins to investigate many math, science, and engineering concepts. We are also very fortunate to have a representative from the NC Cooperative Extension/ Duplin 4H visit each classroom four times throughout the year as part of the "A Year at the Farm" series. Students learn what farmers are growing during each season and make a calendar booklet with pockets to take home pictures of livestock and animals discussed. We always look forward to the last visit when a live farm animal visits the classrooms!

First Grade

The first half of our school year has been packed with lots of learning! This year we have incorporated even more curriculum into our classrooms and have enjoyed seeing how much growth our students are making. Most of all, we have enjoyed seeing the smiles on their faces while they are having fun and learning all of the objectives our curriculum holds.

This year, our students have been learning more about the world around them through the use of STEAMA based activities. These activities incorporate Reading and Writing into Science and Math and allow students to let their creativity and imagination shine by using a variety of manipulatives. For example, each Friday is known as "Fun Friday" in our classrooms and students have the opportunity to engineer a variety of objects by using different manipulatives. We have also completed several experiments and challenges that go along with our weekly units of study/themes (holidays, seasons, etc.). Ms. Hope, Mrs. Raychel, and Ms. Alexis' classes had a blast doing an experiment with Pumpkins in October to find out whether they would sink or float and to also investigate what they looked like on the inside. Mrs. Rose's class had a great time making "butter" in November and completing the 'Candy Box Challenge' for Valentines Day. Mrs. Jessica's class enjoyed making models of "Penguins" in January. These are just a few examples of how we are using STEAMA activities in our classrooms. We can't wait to see what the rest of the year has in store for us.



Second Grade

Second grade has been going full STEAMA since we came back from the hurricane in October. Our classes have paired up and completed several STEAMA activities integrating math, science, arts, and agriculture.

Here is a list of some projects that have been completed in various classes so far:

Students showed their understanding of place value by doing base ten construction using marshmallows, pretzel sticks, and pretzel squares. They worked in small groups to design and construct something of their choice using the materials provided. They were able to explain what their number was too!

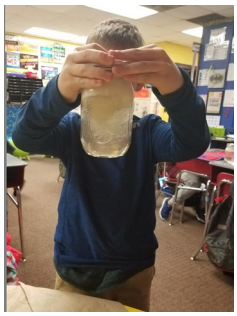
Around Thanksgiving students created a structure to hide their turkey. Again, they went through the steps of planning, designing, and constructing using various materials found in the classroom while working on their communication skills within small groups.

Many projects have been made as a result of reading books!! Students have enjoyed "Thunder cakes" after reading Patricia Polacco's book "Thundercake". Mr. Sautter's class has made lightening in a jar after reading another of Patricia Polacco's books. Mrs. Deaton's class created favorite scenes from the book, "A Boy Called Bat" after participating in Global Read Aloud. Ms. Edwards' class made Christmas trees using ice cream cones, icing, and candy after reading many books about Christmas trees. Lastly, Mr. Sautter's class also made tornadoes in a jar after studying weather, "Grinch Slime", and "reindeer doughnuts".

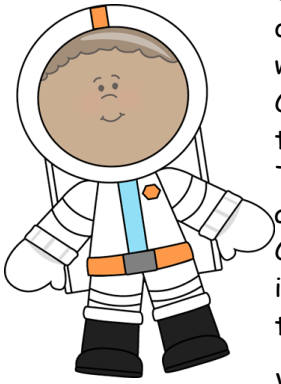
Recently, Ms. Edwards and Mrs. Taylor had their classes working on creating a polar bear habitat out of marshmallows. Students worked in small groups to plan and create a polar bear den. Students displayed great creativity and had fun working together and displaying their knowledge of polar bears.

We still have lots more fun in store as we complete the rest of this school year including a field trip to the Duplin County Events Center in March for DUPLIN GROWS. Students will be learning all sorts of things about North Carolina's rich agriculture!

We can't wait to see your child's creativity explode this spring! Thanks so much for your support and encouragement and we truck on Full-STEAMA ahead!!



Third Grade



Third grade has really enjoyed getting to use the STEM lab this year! During our weeks in the lab, students have worked in small groups studying; Plants, Changing Earth, Energy and Work, Motion and Force, and Body by Golly. These work groups build co-operation and responsibility. Each group has a Commander, Communications Specialist, Information Specialist, and a Materials Specialist.

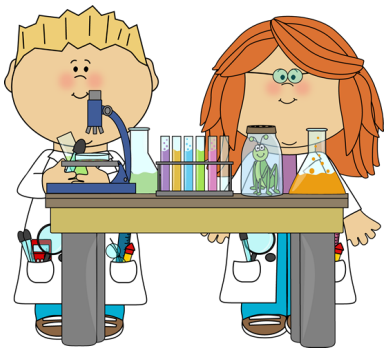
We have also enjoyed incorporating STEAMA with our Global Studies country, China. We have created ornaments for Christmas in China. Students have experienced virtual tours of the Terracotta Soldiers and the Great Wall of China. Our classrooms have read many of China's legends and traditional literature and designed tangram creations (following Grandfather Tang's Story) as an introduction to Geometry.

There are so many other ways we have also included STEAMA into our learning experiences! Just a few include: Science adaptation with celery; states of matter with a pumpkin; Snowstorm in a jar; hands on partner math games and building activities.

We are looking forward to the wide variety of ways we will be using STEAMA in our new unit on Space and Planets. Be sure to ask your child all about this!

Fourth Grade

Fourth Grade has completed many wonderful STEAMA activities this year that we are excited to share. Throughout the year we go to the STEM Lab, where students learn about different science topics while being hands on. There are six groups in the STEM Lab: 3D- Dinosaur, Animals, Space, My Body and Me, Magnetism, and Soil and Rocks. In the Magnetism group we get to play and learn about different types of magnets. In the Soil and Rocks group we get to make crystals and learn about different types of rocks. In the 3D-Dinosaur group we get to learn about many different types of dinosaurs and you get to build one. In the Animals group we get to make pictures of fossils and learn about them. In the Space group we get to study about the different planets and make different models to show the reasoning behind things such as day and night. Lastly, in the My Body and Me group we get to learn about the effects of drugs and how they are bad for your body.



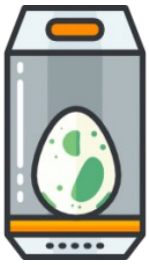
Around Halloween time, Fourth Grade students created Frankenstein replicas and were asked to compare and contrast them. We were creative and used different art and engineering techniques in order to create these.

Continued….Fourth Grade

During the holiday season, we were all able to build Gingerbread houses. We had specifications that we had to follow for each of our houses. We had to have a perimeter, two stories, a door, a fence, a walkway, windows divided into fourths, and we had to incorporate many different shapes and designs. We used things such as Graham Crackers, icing, sixlets, pretzel sticks, candy canes, crackers, ice cream cones, sprinkles, and cake boards.

While studying the Native Americans in Social Studies, the fourth grade students were very excited to design and make their very own dream-catchers. Along with making the dream-catchers, the students learned the significance behind them and looked forward to taking them home to hang and tangle up bad dreams so only the good can come through.

We are gearing up for our Spring STEAMA activity that we have planned. We will be working together to incubate and hatch chicks in order to recognize and understand the nutritional value of eggs. We will learn about ideal conditions for hatching eggs and for chicks once they have hatched.

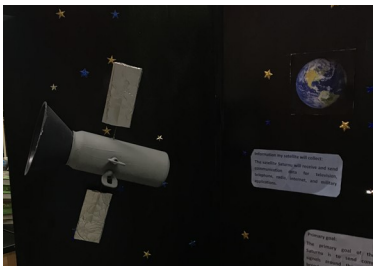


Fifth Grade

This has been such a busy and productive time for our Fifth Graders! We have settled down from our long hurricane break and are working hard! Staying active is important, so we have had many activities to integrate into our studies. We were visited by artist Leni Newell for 5 days to teach us the art of creating beautiful Batik pictures. We chose animals that are native to Australia to connect it to our Ecosystems Unit. We made some amazing creations! Mrs. Cruse's classes designed different Native American dwellings after studying about them. Science class has been very active in the STEM lab, creating and engineering in the early mornings. We also had a force and motion day to delve into Newton's Laws of Motion at 8 different stations! We will continue our STEAMA adventures next semester.

Sixth Grade

Sixth graders have been busy in all of our subject areas. In science, we incorporated the components of STEAMA to design a space satellite that would collect information about hurricanes on projected paths toward the USA. We shared an oral report



which highlighted facts about our space satellite. This information will benefit human society by helping scientists make earlier predictions about when hurricanes will hit so people we have more time to make better preparations.

In math, we have been studying unit rates and percentages, tape diagrams, dividing fractions and decimals.

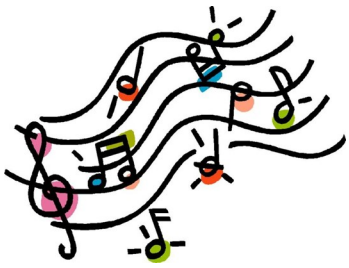
Some of the Social Studies activities include, making Greek Hoplon, which is a symbol that represented students. We also created a PowerPoint presentation about our town and community. Earlier, we made sarcophagus clay mummies and pyramids.

In Language Arts class, we have been celebrating love, since it is close to Valentine's Day. We have been celebrating by doing good deeds. We have also been bringing in poems, love songs, scripture verses about love and famous love quotes such as "If you judge people, you don't have time to love them" by Mother Teresa. We have just finished reading "Oliver Twist" and learning about Victorian London. We are currently reading about Parzival and King Arthur the knights of the round table. On March 22, 2019 we will be going to Medieval Times in Myrtle Beach.

Notes From the Music Room

The first semester has really flown by and we have learned a lot in the music classroom. A special thanks to all students who performed and participated in our annual school Christmas program. It was amazing and would not have been possible without dedicated students who worked so very hard.

Now it's time to look ahead to the rest of the school year. There are lots of plans in place for students to be exposed to STEAMA even more than ever in the music classroom. Students will be able to use our Music in Education keyboard lab. They will create their own music and explore sound, rhythm, melody, and composition through the use of these instruments.



Students will also be using interactive lessons on the Smartboard from the Fun Music company. They will be singing, playing instruments, listening, arranging music, and learning about essential elements that allow us to create music.

STEAMA is a wonderful way for students to see how music is integrated into other subjects. It is going to be a very exciting second half of the school year and I cannot wait to see our students learn and grow as well-rounded musicians.

Art Creations

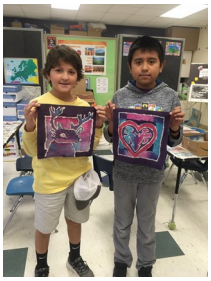
Art has been up to a lot this school year! Students are having a blast learning about the Art component in STEAMA! We recently displayed three exhibitions in the school for all to enjoy.

The first is 3rd grade circle weaving project. Student's received a thick paper plate that they painted in bright designs; the plate serves as their loom. Students cut 19 slots for the warp and then put the warp on in the slots in the colored yarn of their choice. After the warp was on the loom, students could then begin the weaving process. Some added beads and other decorations until they were finished. Each weaving was then put up on display by class. Voting for the best is fiercely underway with the winner to be announced at the end of this week.

The second exhibit is a 4th grade project that focuses on color and design principals. Each student randomly chose a color and a design principal from a box. Students then cut and collected their color from magazines. We talked about creating art from recyclables. After enough of the color was collected, students then created a design to fit whichever design principal was chosen. All of it was glued down and then glued into a large compilation.

Lastly, each student in the entire school was given a bus to color as a display of appreciation for the wonderful bus drivers. Each of the buses was then glued to a "road" under their bus number. Each road was then hung filling the entire hallway. Bus driver appreciation week has a large colorful display of art from the students showing how thankful we are for all the hard work that the bus drivers of NDE do.

Stay tuned for more amazing exhibitions as we get closer to our next parent night in April!



Staff Spotlight - Grant Recipients

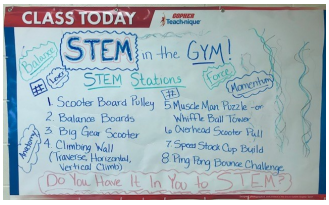
We are proud to announce that eight of our teachers have received a total of 12 grants through Tri-County Bright Ideas and Donors Choose! Teachers purchased STEAMA related materials to supplement their classroom instruction and boost student engagement. Funded materials included math manipulatives, supplies needed for a raised garden, puppets, hands-on engineering toys, a monarch butterfly migrating station, and much more! Congratulations to these teachers! We can't wait to see your students using these new STEAMA additions!

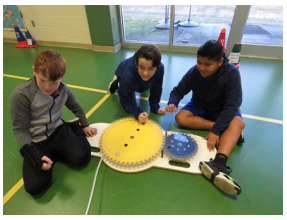
P.E. News

North Duplin Elementary students have developed a whole new perspective of Physical Education!!!! Through STEAMA (or as our program is called, STEM in the Gym), students participated in stations that incorporated the various components into our PE curriculum! Students were able to discover and learn how even the simplest exercises have a STEAMA foundation!
Some of the stations included:
Overhead Scooter Pulls (using WHEELS and AXELS, as well as PULLEYS and FORCE over large distances)
Gear Scooter Pulls (Large GEARS that students used to pull their scooter-riding classmates!)
Climbing Wall (TRAVERSE, LATERAL, HORIZONTAL, and VERTICAL movements using our climbing wall and their own body WEIGHT)
Ping Pong Challenge (BOUNCING a ping pong ball onto a target using a limited amount of FORCE and the proper ANGLE)
Whiffle Ball Towers (BALANCING a poly spot onto golf tees, then attempting to BALANCE and ENGINEER a tower made of whiffle balls)
Cup/Speed Stacks (ENGINEERING different designs with stacking cups, using BALANCE, concentration as well as SPEED, watched YouTube instructional videos for different ideas on what to ENGINEER)
Balance Boards (BALANCING HORIZONTALLY on balance boards while also creating different movements variations)
Scooter Pulley On Wall (using PULLEYS attached to the wall, students pulled each other and/or themselves on scooters)

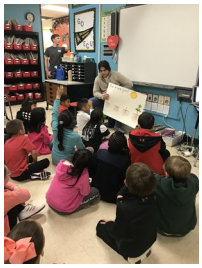
Students completed their "STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING and MATH) in the Gym" with loads of excitement and friendly competition. They not only challenged themselves in a variety of activities, they had to form partnerships and co-operation with other students to accomplish their goals. We are proud of ALL of our students for taking on the challenge of STEM in the GYM!!!!!

Follow NDE on Twitter @nde_pe



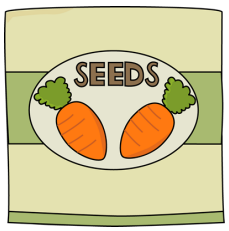


Student Spotlight - Ag in the Classroom



Our first grade students received a treat when the ND Jr./Sr. FFA students brought Agriculture to their classrooms! FFA students taught first graders the process and importance of planting seeds and growing crops. Each student had the opportunity to plant their own seed in a cup and watch them grow in the classroom. One FFA student even brought her bunny, Peanut Butter, and explained a rabbitry and how to care for rabbits. First graders had a blast learning about FFA and different aspects of agriculture!

EC Resource News



The students in the EC Resource classroom are learning about hydroponic gardening. The students are growing basil and thyme in a hydroponic container that is called a Herbie. They started the plants from seeds in a seed pod. They have to make sure there is enough water and fertilizer for the plants to grow. Herbie has two windows so the students can observe the roots of the plants. It also has a built-in light to provide the proper lighting. They are taking care of the plants for twelve weeks. At the end the students will harvest the plants and make pizzas for a pizza party. "Full STEAMA-head" is our motto in the EC Department!

ESL News

The ESL Department has had an exciting time completing a STEMA project with our third and fourth grade students. To begin the unit of study, small groups of students read various books about farming and agriculture. Two of the leveled texts that students read prior to completing their farm project were, Thank a Farmer and Life on the Farm: Farm Crops. The third grade students created three dimensional shapes to build different buildings and shelters that can be found on a farm. Then, they used these buildings and shelters as well as different farm animals to create a replica of a farm. Fourth grade students went to the Maker's Space area in the Media Center, to construct various farm scenes of their choice. The students thoroughly enjoyed the project and gained a deeper understanding of the importance of agriculture in our area.

Calendar Reminders

- Friday, March 22: Kindergarten Registration
- Friday, March 22: Elementary Battle of the Books Competition
- Friday, March 29: STEAMA/Career Day
- Saturday, April 6 (10a.m.-2p.m.): Duplin County Reading Festival at NDE
- Tuesday, April 16 (6:30 p.m.) : EPIC Meeting and Coding/Global Night
- Friday, April 19 through Friday, April 26 : Easter Holiday and Spring Break