

The Plymouth Center School Connection

November 2024

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL KIM LOVELAND

We have had a wonderful fall with our students! Students have been transitioning into their Wit and Wisdom program, which is our new reading and writing program. The focus of the program is to utilize knowledge building as a means to teach reading and writing skills. Students have enjoyed some of the new strategies such as Four Corners as well as activities such as analyzing paintings to then relate the topic and emotion to what they are reading. We are also seeing great growth with our math program from previous years and a positive impact of the great foundation we have set with basic skills such as place value, one to one matching, and basic addition and subtraction. The staff also raised over \$800 to give to the United Way of Florida Fund for Hurricanes Helene and Milton the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund through dress downs to help those in need and who were impacted by the hurricanes. We look forward to starting our after school clubs and honoring Veterans Day as well as highlighting and celebrating being thankful and caring for others as we approach Thanksgiving.

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



In math, Kindergarten students are working on counting and cardinality. Students are learning how to write the numbers 0 through 20 and matching the count to the number objects. They are answering questions about how many objects there are when they are arranged in a line, in a rectangular array, or scattered about. In first grade, our young mathematicians are extending their knowledge of addition and subtraction to word problem applications and understanding the language of adding to, taking from, putting together, taking apart, and comparing. They are using objects, drawings, and equations to represent an

unknown number and solve problems accordingly. Our second graders are also extending their addition and subtraction to be within 100 and with solving one and two step word problems by using similar strategies such as drawing and writing equations.

In ELA, we have just introduced our first unit within Wit and Wisdom. Our Kindergartners are learning about our five senses and how people use them to learn about the world and exploring literacy through books like Last Stop on Market Street and Rap a Tap Tap. Our first graders are learning about how books change lives around the world. They are exploring how people get books, what role libraries and librarians can play in their lives, and how books can impact their lives. They are looking forward to their upcoming field trip to the Terryville Library to make their learning come to life! Lastly, our second graders are learning about weather and how it impacts people and nature. They are learning about the cycle of seasons, changes of their environment such as leaves in the fall, and how animals change and adapt, like a chameleon through the books they are reading together. Our teachers are working hard in their team meetings with our literacy coach to identify engaging strategies and instructional routines such as acting out the literature and having students participate in a Mix and Mingle within Wit and Wisdom as well as how to make the lessons engaging and succinct.

Our students have also had their first Bucket Filler Assembly. Students have learned what it means to fill someone else's bucket by being caring, understanding, and seeking to help and uplift others as well as what it means to dip into someone else's bucket by making fun of someone, saying or doing mean things, or even ignoring someone. They have worked hard to be role models in this arena and have the opportunity to be

recognized by teachers across the building for their kindness, empathy, and respect. Students are then given an award in front of their peers, not only to highlight and celebrate the success of these students, but to point out to the student body students who are role models and exhibit these behaviors. By showing the students examples of who they can look to for understanding what it means to be kind, to be respectful, and to be empathetic to others, we hope to spread these wonderful behaviors and continue to positively impact our school community and climate.



ENGAGEMENT

Students in PreK have been learning about their 5 senses: touch, sight, hearing, smell, and taste. They have been exploring different textures with items in their classrooms and within the sensory table, listening to different sounds and identifying what they are, smelling different items and talking about if the smells are pleasant or not, describing what they are seeing and identifying colors, and finally, describing taste and having the opportunity to make ice cream in their classrooms! With parent permission and wonderful parent volunteers, students combined milk, vanilla, sugar, salt, and ice in a bag and shook it to make ice cream. They truly enjoyed being able to make and taste their creations!



Physical Education is off to an exciting start. First and second grade students are focusing on which foot to step with while throwing various pieces of equipment: non-dominant foot (as seen with the Hi-Li equipment) and dominant foot. They are also practicing stepping towards their target while throwing. All of these skills help to prepare our students in learning how to play baseball and basketball in upcoming units. Our Kindergarten students are exploring a plethora of ways they can use a hula hoop as they practice many different gross motor skills.

PCS had a visit from the Science Heroes program, courtesy of our PTA, where they participated in the Spook-tacular show! Students learned about the differences between solids, liquids, and gasses as well as physical changes between them. They discussed how much space they each take up because of their physical properties. Students learned about dry ice and its properties such as extremely cold temperature of -109.3°F and that its rapid conversion from solid to gas. They also learned about and observed evaporation, condensation, and sublimation! It was such an outstanding experience that sparked great curiosity and inspired our future scientists!



WELL-BEING

Our partnership with our PTA continues to grow this year! They hosted a BINGO night for families that had over 120 people in attendance. Community businesses and families donated items to be raffled such as gift cards to Plymouth Meats, kids craft activities, and welcome signs. This was a wonderful event that supported number identification within the game of BINGO and was motivating for our families and students as there were individual prizes to be won for the games such as books, fidgets, and games, refreshments such as pizza and popcorn, and raffles! This is our second year of this event and due to the incredible turn out and support, we will be hosting it again in the winter months to give parents an opportunity to come out in the cold and play BINGO with their friends!



The Terryville Volunteer Fire Department engaged in their annual visit to our school this month! Students learned how to prevent fires in their homes by being responsible with items such as lighters and careful of electrical items near water, to be aware of escape plans in case of a fire, and what to do if there is a small fire on their stove. They lit a small fire in a pot and showed them how to smother it with its lid. Students also learned how to stop, drop, and roll and were able to interact with a fully outfitted firefighter so they would be familiar with the type of gear a firefighter wears and not to be afraid if they see them during an emergency. Students also had the privilege and excitement of using the fire hoses, going into the fire trucks, and watching their teachers go high in the sky in the fire truck's buckets! It was an amazing and memorable day for our students and certainly inspired many to be firefighters!

