

The Plymouth Center School Connection

December 2024

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL KIM LOVELAND

November was an exciting month at PCS! Students learned about Veterans Day and Thanksgiving and were immersed in new learning across all content areas. Students practiced their first Lock Down Drill after having experienced Fire Drills in the previous months. During professional development, teachers focused on continuing to develop their expertise in reading instruction with a Wit and Wisdom representative as well as learned how to effectively plan for students using the different materials. Teachers were able to apply their learning the same day to begin examining their upcoming lessons, infusing strategies, and looking towards upcoming assessments. As we head into the winter months, we look forward to learning about the many holidays, NHS guest readers visiting, 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

Kindergarten mathematicians continue to grow! They have learned to sequence numbers 0 - 20 as well as represent numbers of objects with the corresponding written numeral. They have also begun adding and subtracting by using drawings, objects, and even their fingers within 10. First graders have been focusing on addition and subtraction within 20 and applying those strategies to word problems. They are also learning to use addition to solve subtraction. Second graders are adding up to four two-digit numbers and solving one and two-step word problems. They are working on adding to, taking from, putting together, taking apart, and comparing using drawings, equations with symbols, and manipulatives.

In ELA, students continue to focus on knowledge building through Wit and Wisdom and master phonics skills with UFLI. In Kindergarten, students are learning about their five senses through the book, *Rap a Tap Tap*. They are exploration illustrations and the connected text as they relate it to their senses. In UFLI, students are focusing on CVC patterns and consonants and short vowels. In first grade, students are learning how

books change lives around the world. They are examining characters' feelings and using evidence from the text to identify what is happening and support their ideas about why the character is feeling how they do. In UFLI, first graders are learning spelling patterns with a silent e and how this can change the sounds of their vowels. In second grade, students are exploring how change can impact people and nature. Through the literature, students are exploring details and main topics as well as problem and resolution. In UFLI, students are learning about ending spelling patterns such as -tch, -dge, or -le.

ENGAGEMENT



Veterans Day was a remarkable day as our school community came together to learn about and honor the brave men and women who have served. PCS students engaged in a variety of activities designed to deepen their understanding of the different branches of the armed forces and what it means to serve. Through presentations, hands-on projects, and interactive discussions, students explored the profound meaning of being a veteran.

They listened to inspiring stories from local veterans as well as created beautiful stars for family and friends that were displayed in our main hallway. This day not only fostered respect and gratitude among students but also ignited a sense of civic responsibility, encouraging them to honor and support those who have dedicated their lives to serving others.

A teacher from the Barnes Memorial Nature Center brought two turkeys to visit PCS' preschool classes! She shared interesting facts with students about turkeys. Students learned about the different parts of a turkey, what they like to eat, and where they live. They were able to hear the sounds that turkeys make and feel how soft their feathers are! It was an enriching and wonderful experience for our 3 and 4 year olds and a great way to tie their learning about their 5 senses and Thanksgiving together!





PCS has also begun our second year with Remy, a certified therapy dog, and his handler, Andi! Students get the opportunity to engage with Remy while they listen to a read aloud in each classroom this fall. Studies have shown that simply Remy's presence while they are learning can promote attention, concentration, relaxation, and motivation for students. Keeping this in mind, we look forward to our winter club experience where select students will have an opportunity to work on Lexia and in small groups with the Literacy Coach, Mrs. Mazon,

and have the opportunity to read to Remy as we target reading strategies and using decodable texts.

WELL-BEING

Since the month of November truly focused on learning to appreciate those around us, being helpers, and being thankful, PCS held a week-long dress down for staff as well as Hat Day for students to fundraise for the Plymouth Food Pantry. The generous families donated 178, weighing over 300 pounds, as well as four turkeys. Over \$150 was raised to provide to the pantry as well. This was an amazing opportunity to teach our students challenges other families may face and how we can help as a community.



We also celebrated our November Bucket Fillers. Students were excited to show their leadership in their classrooms through Kindness, Empathy, and Respect. This rewarding assembly brings our school community together where students from ages 3 to 9 can look to each other as role models and cheer for one another. At the end of each Bucket Filler Assembly, we sing our school song to build on our sense of togetherness, honor tradition, and have school pride. It is truly a magical moment to see all staff and students singing and dancing together.