THE STORM REPORT

CAPE HATTERAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

Musings from Ms. Benton

Growing Capable Kids: Responsibility Starts at Home
Last month, we began our Growing Capable Kids series by talking about stepping back and allowing children to do the things they are capable of doing for themselves.

This month, we're taking the next step: **Responsibility starts at home.**
One of the most powerful messages we can give a child is:
"You are an important part of this family, and we need your help."
Children benefit from learning early that families-and classrooms-work best when everyone contributes. Having responsibilities at home isn't simply about getting chores done. It's an opportunity to teach responsibility, perseverance, time management, and pride in contributing to something bigger than ourselves.
Even young children are capable of much more than we sometimes realize. Depending on their age, children can help make their beds, put dirty clothes in the hamper, pack or unpack their backpacks, feed pets, clear the table, put away laundry, take out trash, help prepare lunches, keep their rooms organized, or complete other age-appropriate household tasks. The specific job matters much less than the habit of being responsible for something.
And here's the hard part for us as adults: don't expect them to do it exactly the way you would.
A six-year-old's made bed probably won't look like an adult's made bed. That's okay.
If we redo every task because it isn't perfect, children can quickly learn, "Why bother? Mom or Dad will just do it anyway." Instead, we can teach, model, encourage, and gradually expect more as they become more capable.
It's also okay for children to have responsibilities they don't particularly enjoy. As adults, we all have things we must do simply because they need to be done. Learning, "I don't really want to do this, but it is my responsibility," is an important life skill.

At school, we want our students to take responsibility for their belongings, their work, their choices, and their learning. Those habits become even stronger when children are practicing responsibility at home, too.
Our children don't need us to do everything for them.
They need us to teach them that they are capable of doing things for themselves—and capable of contributing to others.

🌊 THE STORM CHALLENGE

This month, give your child one consistent responsibility at home that belongs completely to them.
Choose something appropriate for their age, teach them how to do it, and then resist the temptation to take it back over.
Instead of repeatedly reminding them, begin asking:
"What are you responsible for?"
Then give them the opportunity to remember, act, and experience the pride that comes from knowing:
"My family counts on me, and I can do this."
Growing Capable Kids — one small step at a time.
Building independence today for the challenges of tomorrow.



THIS MONTH AT A GLANCE:

11 Veterans Day/No School
12 Fall Concert
13 Interim Report Available
25-27 Thanksgiving Break
30-Dec 4 PTO's Elf Shelf

Building Leaders, One Habit at a Time

Last month, CHES began our Leader in Me journey by introducing Habit #1: Be Proactive. Students learned that they have the power to choose their responses, take responsibility for their actions, and focus on the things they can control. This month, we have built on that foundation by exploring Habit #2: **Begin With the End in Mind!** If Habit #1 teaches us that we have the power to make choices, Habit #2 reminds us to think about where those choices will lead us. Being proactive means taking action, while beginning with the end in mind means having a goal or vision that helps guide those actions.
Students are learning that successful leaders think about what they want to accomplish and make a plan to get there. Some of the tools, strategies, and language we have been teaching our students to begin with the end in mind include the following:

- **Start with a Vision!** – Before you begin, think about what you want to accomplish. What does success look like? Having a clear picture of your goal helps you make choices that move you in the right direction.
- **Set Goals and Make a Plan!** – Big goals become more manageable when we break them into smaller steps. Ask yourself, “What do I want to achieve?” and “What can I do today to get closer to my goal?”
- **Think Before You Act!** – Our choices have consequences, and the decisions we make today can affect our future. Before making a decision, ask, “Will this choice help me reach my goal?”
- **Keep Your Eyes on the Prize!** – Learning something new or working toward a goal is not always easy. When things get challenging, remember what you are working toward and keep going!

An important way we are putting Habit #2 into practice at CHES is through our Student Data Notebooks. These notebooks help students take ownership of their learning by keeping track of their progress, reflecting on their strengths and areas for growth, and setting goals for what they want to accomplish next. Rather than simply being told how they are doing, students are learning to look at their own progress, recognize their accomplishments, and identify the steps they can take to improve. This is what it looks like to begin with the end in mind: students develop a vision for their success, create a plan, monitor their progress, and take responsibility for their growth. These skills support academic achievement while helping students become more independent, confident, and capable learners.

Try This at Home! Begin With the End in Mind!

Help your child practice Habit #2 by talking about goals at home! Ask questions like, “What is something you want to get better at?” “What would success look like?” and “What is one small step you can take this week to reach your goal?” Goals can be academic, personal, or related to helping others. Encourage your child to make a simple plan, check in on their progress, and celebrate their effort along the way. You can even share a goal of your own and talk about the steps you are taking to achieve it. When children learn to picture their desired outcome and work toward it one step at a time, they begin to understand that their future is shaped by the choices they make today!
Together, we can help our students build leadership habits that will serve them both in and out of school!

With gratitude,
Mr. Tiderman

Fire Safety DAy





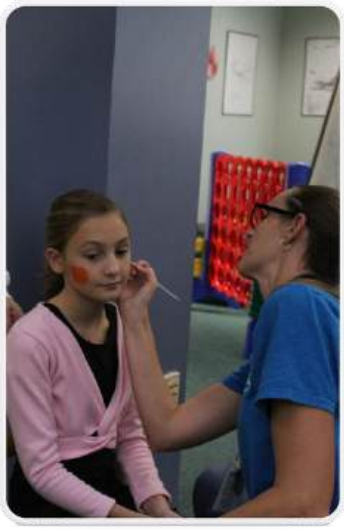
Fall Festival















Classroom Connections

Kindergarten

We rocked our first quarter of kindergarten! It was wonderful meeting with all of our families during parent-teacher conferences and sharing how much the children have grown.

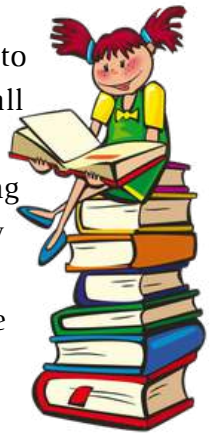
In English/Language Arts, we are continuing to work on letter recognition, letter sounds, and proper letter formation. Our students are also becoming more confident in sounding out words during writing time, and it is exciting to see their progress!

In Math, we have moved on to numbers to 10. We are learning different combinations of numbers that make 10, which will soon lead us into addition and subtraction within 10. Please continue practicing number writing at home and helping your child recognize and correct number reversals.

Everyone is looking forward to the upcoming holidays and celebrating together as a class! Be on the lookout for upcoming events and important dates. We are excited for all the fun ahead!

1st Grade

Hello, First-Grade Families!

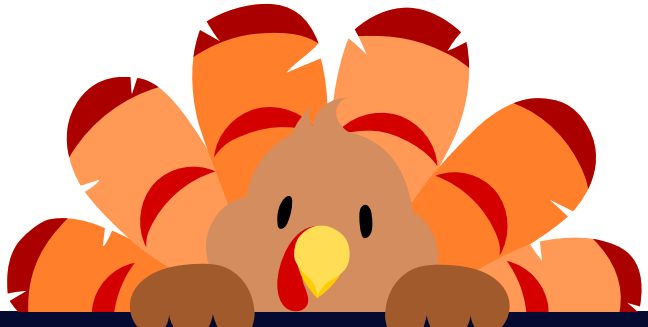


First grade has had a great start to the school year. Thank you for all of your support at home. We have been working hard, learning to show great character and how to be responsible first graders! They've been modeling how to be proactive and begin with the end in mind, using what they have learned about the Seven Habits of Happy Kids! During the second quarter, the students will learn the next two habits, Put First Things First and Think Win-Win. We will learn and practice to work first, then play; also, everyone can win!

Below are some suggestions for the skills you can work on with your child at home.

- Read with your child.
- Have your child read to you.
- Practice reading high-frequency words.
- Practice basic addition math facts.
- Practice letter formation when writing sentences at home.

Thank you for your support at home,
First Grade Team



Classroom Connections

2nd grade

Hello Second Grade Families,

We have made great progress so far this year! In math, students have been exploring place value, using base ten blocks to build amounts to 250, and practicing addition and subtraction with two-digit numbers using number lines and base ten blocks. Please help your child practice addition and subtraction facts at home to build fluency. In reading, students are building comprehension and vocabulary through Open Court. They use graphic organizers to identify main ideas, supporting details, plot, and make character comparisons. In writing, students are developing character narratives and descriptive poems. Science and social studies lessons have included an experiment on changes in matter and a study of school and community rules and laws. We're excited to continue supporting your child's growth in November.

We encourage you to work with your child at home to help them be even more successful in the classroom! Here are some ways that you can help your child at home:

- Practice reading and spelling UFLI Irregular "Heart" words.
- Count collections of items at home, making groups of 10s and 5s.
- Practice reading time on an analog clock (hour, half hour, to the nearest 5).
- Practice addition and subtraction math facts.
- Read daily (books, recipes, magazines, song lyrics, etc.)
- Have your child write 3-5 descriptive sentences about a person, characters, and animals in a journal.

Thank you for supporting your child at home!
Second Grade Team (Mrs. Jones and Ms. Taylor)





3rd grade

3rd Grade will be learning.....

Phonics: Students will be reading words with /m/ spelled _mb, /n/ spelled kn_, /r/ spelled wr_, /f/ spelled ph, and /w/ spelled wh_. Review will consist of long vowel sounds and spellings for a, o, i, u. They will also be learning about long e /e/ spelled ee, ea, _ie_, _y, and ey. In addition to phonics, they will also be learning about irregular plurals (ie: deer, women, cacti), contractions (don't, can't), and possessives (ie: Ms. Julie's, Kevin's).

Reading: Students will be reading "The Prairie Fire", a historical fiction story. They will use summarizing and clarifying comprehension strategies. They will also be reading "Storm Chasers," which is our first informational text. We will be looking at elements of informational text (captions, text boxes, pictures, labeled diagrams, etc). Comprehension strategies will include visualizing and asking/answering questions about what they are reading.

Social Studies: After Science (States of Matter) is completed, we will begin our unit on Economy, specifically local economy. We will learn about supply and demand, advertising, and different types of businesses in our area (fish market, lodging, franchises, etc). How these businesses contribute to our specific area. This will culminate with our annual field trip to local businesses, so the kids can learn from local business owners and how they are supported and affected by our local economy. That will be in late November, possibly early December; look for information prior to that time frame.

Science: We are currently still working on States of Matter (solids, liquids, and gases). After our Social Studies unit on the economy (local, regional), we will begin the next Science unit on Landforms (volcanoes, valleys, mountains, plains, etc.).

Exciting and fun activities coming.....

Classroom Connections

3rd DLI

Third Grade: Learning, Growing, and Exploring!
We are excited to continue seeing our third graders grow as learners, teammates, and independent thinkers! Every new month brings opportunities to strengthen our skills, discover new ideas, and challenge ourselves to do our very best. We will continue building a classroom culture centered around **hard work, respect, empathy, and perseverance**, remembering that every small step forward is a reason to be proud.
Math: We will continue working with the **Bridges Math curriculum**, developing our mathematical thinking and strengthening our problem-solving skills. Students will practice different strategies, explain their reasoning, and build confidence as they tackle new challenges.
Spanish: Our focus will be on **communication and describing personal information**. Students will practice expressing themselves in Spanish, sharing information about who they are, and developing their vocabulary and speaking skills through meaningful activities and conversations.
Science: We will explore the states of **matter: solids, liquids, and gases**. Students will investigate how these states differ, observe their properties, and connect what they learn to objects and materials they encounter in everyday life.
Social Studies: We will discover more about the **economy of the Outer Banks**. Students will explore how people earn a living, the goods and services our communities provide, and how local industries and natural resources contribute to the region's economy.
We are looking forward to another month full of curiosity, collaboration, and meaningful learning! Remember, progress comes from effort, a positive attitude, and the willingness to keep trying. Together, let's continue helping our students reach their potential and celebrate everything they accomplish!

4th DLI

Fourth Grade: Exploring, Learning, and Growing!
We are excited to continue guiding our fourth graders as they develop new skills, strengthen their independence, and discover more about the world around them! Every new challenge is an opportunity to grow, and we want our students to keep approaching their learning with curiosity, responsibility, and a willingness to do their best. Together, we will continue building a classroom culture centered around **hard work, respect, empathy, and perseverance.**
Science: We will explore **energy and how it is transferred**. Students will investigate how energy moves from one object or place to another and discover examples of energy transfer in everyday life. Through observations and activities, they will develop a deeper understanding of the role energy plays in the world around us.
Social Studies: We will focus on **geography**, exploring the features of Earth's surface and how geography helps us understand places, regions, and communities. Students will strengthen their ability to interpret geographic information and make connections between people and the places where they live.
Math: We will continue working with the **Bridges Math curriculum**, building on our current learning and developing stronger mathematical reasoning and problem-solving skills. Students will practice strategies, explain their thinking, and work toward greater confidence and independence when tackling mathematical challenges.
Spanish: Our focus will be on developing productive language skills, especially **speaking and writing to provide personal information**. Students will practice expressing themselves clearly in Spanish, organizing their ideas, and using appropriate vocabulary and sentence structures to communicate information about themselves.
As we move forward, we encourage our students to stay curious, ask questions, support one another, and remember that learning takes effort and practice. We are here to guide them, celebrate their progress, and help them overcome challenges along the way. Let's make this another wonderful month of discovery, teamwork, and growth!

Classroom Connections

4th Grade

In this ELA unit, we will read about scientists, inventors, and astronauts who have made important contributions to the fields of science and to humanity over hundreds of years. Students will learn about the kinds of qualities it takes to be an innovator, a great thinker, or even a risk-taker who brings great discoveries to light. They will also come to understand what motivates these exceptional people—the desire to make or find something new that will help us live better, be more productive, and know more about the world around us.

In our math classes, students are working with whole numbers up to 100 to find factor pairs and determine whether numbers are prime or composite. They're also mastering division with larger numbers using place value strategies and visual models. A significant portion of our time is dedicated to understanding fractions - comparing them, finding equivalent fractions, and learning how to add, subtract, and multiply them. For example, students are learning that 2/4 is equivalent to 4/8 by understanding how multiplying both the numerator and denominator by the same number creates an equivalent fraction. These skills are essential for future mathematical success and real-world problem-solving.

This month in science, your children are exploring fascinating concepts about light. Through hands-on experiments, students are discovering how light reflects off objects and enters our eyes, allowing us to see the world around us. They are also learning about the moon and its phases. There will be a November Calendar sent home with them to track the moon and its phases.

This month, our fourth graders are exploring North Carolina's rich cultural tapestry! Students are learning how different groups have shaped our state's development. Through these lessons, students are gaining a deeper appreciation for how diverse perspectives and experiences have made North Carolina the vibrant state it is today.



Classroom Connections

5th Grade

This month, our 5th-grade students will engage in exciting units designed to spark their curiosity and enhance their learning.

In **Science**, students will explore various global weather patterns, understand what causes wind, and learn how weather influences our daily lives. Through hands-on experiments and engaging videos and discussions, they will discover the significance of weather forecasting and its impact on the environment.

In **Math**, we will focus on fractions and decimals. We will use money and clocks to represent fractions. Students will use models to solve fraction-related problems. This unit aims to help students apply math concepts to real-life situations, making learning both enjoyable and practical. Encourage your child to practice these skills at home.

Additionally, our **English Language Arts** Students will focus on strengthening their reading comprehension and grammar skills. They will practice identifying the main idea using key details from the text, understanding the author's purpose and tone, sequencing events, comparing and contrasting, and identifying cause and effect. In grammar, students will learn about parts of speech, including nouns, verbs, and adjectives, as well as prepositional phrases. Students also practice reading fluency daily by partnering up to read a passage for one minute at a natural pace. Afterward, they count the number of words they read correctly and graph their results in their data notebooks. This allows students to track their progress, build reading speed and accuracy, and develop confidence in their reading abilities. We look forward to an exciting month of learning and growth. Thank you for your continued support!

5th DLI

November Learning Highlights!

During November, our fifth graders will continue building their skills across Math, English Language Arts, Social Studies, and Spanish Language Arts. Here is a look at what we are learning in Quarter 2!

Mathematics

Adding and Subtracting Fractions: Students will work on adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers with unlike denominators. They will be practicing rewriting fractions using equivalent fractions and common denominators.

Visual Math Models: Students will use visual models such as clock faces, money models (cents and dollars), double number lines, and ratio tables to develop a deeper understanding of fractions.

Problem-Solving and Estimation: Students will practice estimating sums and differences to check whether their answers were reasonable. They will also apply these skills to solve multi-step word problems.

English Language Arts & Social Studies

Social Studies Focus: Students will explore the Middle and Southern Colonies, learn about the historical impact of forced migration, and examine the growing tensions that led to the American Revolution.

Writing Project Informative Article and Presentation: Students will choose a colony, research what life was like during colonial times, and write an informative essay. They will share what they learn through a Google Slides presentation.

Spanish Language Arts (SLA)

Grammar and Mechanics: Students will learn about coordinating and subordinating conjunctions and practice forming compound sentences.

Students will also continue strengthening their Spanish reading and writing skills while exploring connections between language and culture.

Connecting with Essentials

Music

Happy November! We have been very busy in the music room. Kindergarteners and first graders are working on becoming Tuneful, Beatful and Artful. We having been singing songs about pumpkins and Halloween. We have learned rhymes about leaves and pretended to be Frankenstein's Monster. We got to meet our new friend Sir Boos Alot and sang to him in ghost language. Second through fifth graders have been working on learning their concert songs. They are already sounding great, and will be ready to perform for their families.









P.E.

We are continuing to build teamwork, cooperation, and sportsmanship in PE! Students are learning the importance of encouraging one another, following directions, and giving their best effort during activities. As we finish out November, remind your child that success in P.E. isn't just about being the fastest or strongest. It's about trying, improving, and being a great teammate.

We are also always accepting snack donations for our Fuel and Wellness Station to help keep our students fueled and ready to learn! Individually packaged, relatively healthy, nonperishable snacks are greatly appreciated. Thank you for helping us take care of our school team!



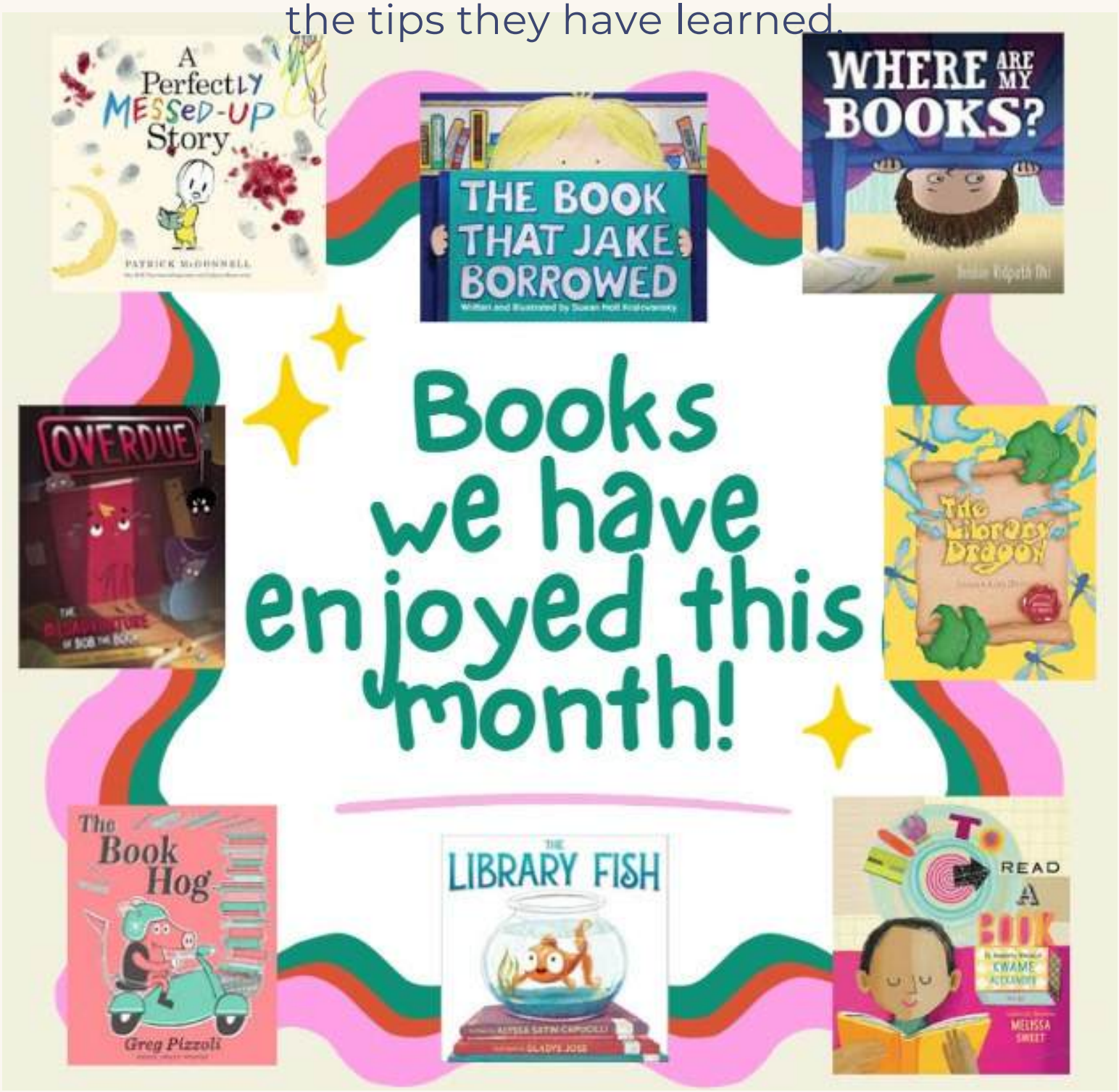


Media Moments

Ms.Jenn& Ms.Hooper

November 2026

Students in kindergarten through second grade have been listening to books about book care during library visits. Talk with your students about the tips they have learned.



Media Moments

Ms. Jenn & Ms. Hooper

November 2026

Upper Elementary students are reading novels during library visits. Talk to your student about their favorite part of the story.

Novels we are reading together!

3rd-Grade Read Aloud: Growing Home by Beth Ferry



With elements of adventure, mystery, and magic, our 3rd graders are enjoying this new addition to the Library.

4th-Grade Read Aloud: The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate



In "The One and Only Ivan," a gorilla named Ivan, who has lived in a shopping mall for years, discovers the power of friendship and art to transform his life and help him find a new place to call home.



5th- Grade Read Aloud: Wildfire by Rodman Philbrick

In this gripping survival novel, a young boy named Sam navigates the treacherous landscape of a rapidly spreading forest fire, testing his courage and resilience to their limits.

Connecting with Essentials

Art

In Kindergarten, our artists are focusing on creating visual texture. After reading Owl Babies by Martin Waddell, students discussed how illustrator Patrick Benson used line and pattern to create visual texture in his illustrations. Kindergarteners created a rough texture for their tree branch by tearing paper and practiced using basic shapes to draw their owlets. Next, they used round paintbrushes to stamp white paint, giving their owl babies soft, fluffy down feathers!

First grade artists learned about the traditions of Día de los Muertos, focusing on the symbolism and craft of calaveras de azúcar (sugar skulls). Students learned how these decorative skulls are crafted to honor and remember loved ones on traditional family altars. Practicing basic proportions, students sketched their skull outlines on paper using white chalk and carefully defined features like oversized eye sockets, nose cavity, and teeth. Finally, they used white tempera paint to complete their skeleton structures, adding details like neck vertebrae, collarbones, and ribs to bring their Día de los Muertos creations to life!

Second grade artists explored the vibrant work of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, focusing on her final painting, "Viva la Vida," which features bright red watermelons. Students learned about symbolism—how artists use objects or colors to represent deeper feelings and ideas, such as joy and celebrating life. Combining art and math, second graders created collages by painting sky backgrounds, using texture plates to create tactile tables, and cutting paper circles into halves and quarters to craft whole watermelons and juicy slices, finished off with tempera stick details.

Third Grade artists are looking at Anatomy—the study of the bodies of living things—and discussing the form and function of our skeletons. We discussed how understanding anatomy is important not only for doctors and scientists, but also for artists. Students looked at the anatomical drawings of Italian Renaissance master Leonardo da Vinci and discussed how his love of science and experimentation helped him become a better artist. To create their own pieces, students cut out and assembled human skeleton shapes into interesting poses, traced white glue along the bones to create a tactile relief, made rubbings on background paper, and used construction paper crayons to highlight and add emphasis to the bones.

In Fourth grade, students explored the traditional Japanese design concept of Notan, which focuses on the harmony and balance between light and dark elements. Fourth graders analyzed how positive and negative space interact in art, using paper-cutting techniques to reflect and expand shapes outward from a central square. By carefully mirroring their cutouts, students created striking, symmetrical compositions that highlight contrast and spatial balance.

In Fifth grade, students created "spooky selfies" inspired by the distinctive style of contemporary artist and filmmaker Tim Burton. They explored how Burton's work connects to art movements like Expressionism and Surrealism, specifically drawing inspiration from artists like Edvard Munch, Vincent van Gogh, Salvador Dalí, and Alberto Giacometti. Students analyzed how mood, value, and shading can transform a portrait, applying black and white colored pencils to build depth and dramatic contrast.

Connecting with Essentials

STEM

Respecting Creators: Why Digital Ownership Matters

As our students use technology to create projects, write stories, and build presentations, they have access to millions of photos, songs, and videos online. With so much available at their fingertips, it's the perfect time to talk about copyright piracy and why respecting digital content matters.

What is Copyright Piracy?
Think of copyright like a signature on artwork or a name tag on a toy. When someone creates a video, writes a story, or draws a picture, they own that creation. Copyright piracy happens when someone copies, downloads, or shares that work without permission or paying for it—like taking a book from a bookstore without asking!

Why Does It Matter?
It might seem harmless to download a song or copy an image from Google, but piracy has real-world effects:

- Hurts Creators: Artists, writers, and programmers work hard to make the things we enjoy. Piracy means they don't get paid or recognized for their hard work.
- Security Risks: Unofficial downloads and free media sites often carry viruses or malware that can harm family devices and school networks.
- Loss of Quality: Pirated files are often low-quality or incomplete, missing out on the full experience the author intended.

How We Practice Respect Online
In class, we teach students how to find free-to-use media, give proper credit to authors and artists, and use creative works responsibly. You can support this at home by encouraging your child to ask before downloading media and talking about the value of original ideas. Thank you for helping us build a community of respectful digital creators!

AIG

- ELA Readers:
  - 1st Grade: Reading The Knight at Dawn (Magic Tree House Book 2).
  - 2nd Grade: Reading a biography of Louis Braille. In October, students had the memorable experience of meeting a 3-year-old blind child and discovering how to communicate with him.
  - 3rd Grade: Reading Frindle by Andrew Clements.
  - 4th Grade: Enjoying Ruby Holler by Sharon Creech.
  - 5th Grade: Exploring a Greek Mythology unit while studying The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan.
- Outstanding Math Achievers:
  - Grades 1–4: Engaging with Math Stars, a program designed to challenge and inspire our advanced math students with complex problem-solving.
- 5th Grade: Finishing the final unit of Hands-On Equations before transitioning to Math Stars alongside the rest of the grade levels.



ESL NEWS

Ms. Steph!

Dear Families,

November is a wonderful time to celebrate learning andgratitude!This month, we will continue building vocabulary and practicing listening, speaking, reading, and writing in English. At our Sweet Learning Bakery, every little step helps us grow! Thank you for supporting your child and sharing your family's language and traditions with us.

English Fun at Home

- Kindergarten: Find fall colors! Name or point to something red, yellow, orange, and brown. Say: "I see ___."
- 1st Grade: Draw something you are thankful for. Finish the sentence: "I am thankful for ___."
- 2nd Grade: Choose a food you enjoy. Describe it with three words, such as sweet, crunchy, or soft. Say: "It is ___."
- 3rd Grade: Help prepare a snack. Explain the steps using first, next, and last.
- 4th Grade: Read a short story. Tell the main idea and two details that support it.
- 5th Grade: Ask a family member about a favorite tradition. Write 3–5 sentences explaining what it is and why it is special.

A few minutes together can make a big difference!

Motivation

Every new word is something to celebrate! Encourage your child to try, ask questions, and keep practicing. Mistakes are part of learning. Speaking more than one language is a gift, and we are thankful for the languages and experiences each child brings to our classroom!

Remember!

A few minutes of practice each day can make a BIG difference! Talk, read, and tell stories in your home language, too. These moments help your child build language skills and confidence. Thank you for helping our sweet learners grow!



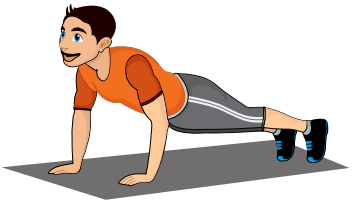
Artist of the Month
Riley Henley



Spotlights & Recommendations



Exercise of the Month - Push Ups



- Get on all fours. Place hands slightly wider than shoulder-width apart.
- Extend your feet back so you are balanced on your hands and toes.
- Tighten your abs and lower yourself until your elbows are at a 90-degree angle. Then push back up to the starting position
- Make sure you keep your body straight from your head to your toes. Your back should not sag or arch up.

What can you keep after giving it to someone?
Your Word

Riddle of the Month