

HCE School Report to PTO

November 16, 2021

Early Childhood: We have finished our unit on fall and the students are beginning a unit about food. We are learning basic food vocabulary (fruits, vegetables, and other foods, plus action words such as cook, stir, mix, cut, and eat!). We will make fruit salad with our pretend fruit and then make a real fruit salad for our class to eat for a snack. We are using our kitchen set, toy shopping cart, and play food to practice turn-taking, sharing, and using language to request items, make choices, and ask/answer questions. For art projects we have been exploring with finger paint, foam stickers, and more!

K4: Wow! Our K4 Friends have done such a great job adjusting to rules and routines of the classroom and school. We have been working on making friends and being safe, respectful, and responsible. We have learned 5 letters and their sounds since the beginning of the year. We finished our Fall unit and everyone loved going on a fall walk to Hales Corners Park. We are now in our "Foods" unit and we have been pretending to be Chef's in our dramatic play area, using menus, and foods.

K5: We just began new units for Reading and Writing Workshops! In reading, we are learning to use super powers to help us read new words! In writing, we started our Show and Tell unit! The students began drawing items that they brought in from home and are practicing labeling with words that describe their objects. In math, we are working on pattern block puzzles, more and less, number racks, and are starting to learn how to count by 2's. Currently in Social Studies, we are learning about jobs that people have within our school. We had the chance to have Mrs. Anderson and Mr. Frye as guest speakers and they explained their jobs to the kids.

First grade:

Reading: We are in full swing of practicing reading strategies in our Word Detective Unit. Students are adding strategies to their toolkit to solve tricky words.

Writing: We are working on writing How-To books. Students are making sure they write exact words, step by step so readers can follow their directions.

Math: We are developing strategies to add and subtract single digit numbers, counting by 5s and 10s, and understanding that the equal sign is a sign indicating equal value (not a symbol that means the answer is...).

Science/Social Studies: We completed our Earth Systems: Sun, Moon, and Stars Unit and have just begun our Social Studies Unit on Communities.

Phonics: We are working on digraphs (sh, th, ch, wh), initial consonant blends, and short and long vowel sounds. We continue to read and write letter sounds and words daily.

Second grade: November continues to be a very busy time for second graders. We have finished up our second units in reading and writing and are nearing the end of unit 2 in math. Now we are working on reading and writing nonfiction. The kids are excited to begin learning nonfiction strategies. For reading, please continue to fill out the reading checklist and hand it in on the first of the next month. Don't forget your children should be reading at home using Raz-Kids, library books, books from your house, and any other way you can find to keep them reading. We completed our first social studies unit about our community. We are now working on our first science unit of the year: Earth Systems. The students are really enjoying thinking and acting like scientists.

Third Grade: Third graders are off to a great start! They have quickly adjusted to the new procedures this year has brought. In reading, students are learning to be detectives during our mystery reading unit. They are paying attention to clues, and thinking about how all mysteries go to make predictions about the solution. In math, the students have worked hard to learn and use different strategies to solve multiplication. In writing, the students are working on writing persuasive speeches. They are working on generating ideas and reasons to support their ideas in hopes of convincing their audience to agree with them. Don't be surprised if they bring these speeches home to try to persuade you to change your mind about something! In science, we collected data about the weather to look for patterns and make predictions. They are also researching Hazardous Weather to prepare a script on how to stay safe during a storm.

Fourth grade: Our fourth graders are learning so many new things this school year! Students are doing a great job navigating curriculum in Canvas with their Chromebooks. In reading, we are "Following Characters into Meaning" by identifying their internal and external traits, focusing on visualizing their actions, and empathizing with them as they experience events. Our students just finished writing fictional stories, working on showing the reader how the characters act, look, and feel through descriptive words, dialogue, and actions. Our new writing unit that we have just begun is focused on persuasive essay writing in which we are learning how to make a claim, provide various evidence to support that claim, and follow an essay structure. In math, we are focusing on identifying factors, prime, and composite numbers, using ratio tables, and multiplying multi-digit numbers. In Social Studies, students are exploring maps, utilizing their map skills and learning about the first people of Wisconsin! Our fourth graders are really demonstrating a strong understanding of ways to be safe, respectful, and responsible at HCE!

Fifth grade: Our fifth graders are completing the JA BizTown Social Studies curriculum. Students have been working in units like Financial Literacy, Community and Economy, Work Readiness, and Business Preparation. They are working in business groups to open and run "real" businesses at JA BizTown. About 40 volunteers are attending to help make the December 10 simulation day successful. Thank you to the PTO for the funding (from 2019-20) to help pay for the trip. A Kohl's Cares grant completed the funding.

We are working in our third math unit this year - Place Value and Decimals (a welcome break for many from a very intense fractions unit of study, recently completed:)

Music-K5: Ms. Nowak:

Hello! Our Kindergarten music students have been working on a few of our musical opposites: fast/slow, sound/no sound, and loud/quiet. We have been singing many songs and playing musical games to help reinforce these ideas. In addition to musical concepts, we work on songs that connect us to following directions, being good friends, and being kind. In the coming months, we will begin to work on identifying high sounds and low sounds.

Thank you very much for all you do!

Music - grades 1-5: Ms. Hekenberger:

First grade students have been playing Orff instruments, working with Sol and Mi, and reading quarter and eighth notes. Second grade students just started a unit about Saint-Saens *Carnival of the Animals*. Third grade students are learning about the principles of sound and the instrument families of the

orchestra. Fourth grade students have been practicing note reading on the staff. Fifth grade has also been working on note reading as well and reviewing ukulele skills we began last year in fourth grade.

Physical Education-K5: Mrs. Baumgart:

Kindergarten and 1st graders took part in many activities and games that had us practicing throwing and catching. A skill that is widely used in so many different sports and games. Emphasis has been put on stepping with your opposite foot as your throwing arm and when throwing to a partner, always making sure they are ready first with their hands up and looking at you. Between units was a good time to review our school PBIS expectations and ones specific to P.E. class. Here we can remind and discuss as a class what it looks like to be responsible, respectful, and safe everyday. Next up is our soccer unit where much focus is on dribbling, trapping and passing. Thank you PTO!

Physical Education- Grades 1--5: Ms. PB:

Students spent all of September learning the routines and expectations of PE while enjoying a few cooperative games! It was fantastic to see students communicating with each other and working through different problems towards a collective outcome, especially in the class favorite game "cross the river." October then kicked off our throwing and catching unit. Students explored underhand and overhand throwing with various sized objects. Now that we're in November, we have started the soccer unit.

Art - K5: Mrs. Schwichtenberg: Kindergarten art students are learning the basics of how to make art and explore many different art materials. Students created shooting stars which allowed students to learn the basics on how to paint, cut, glue, draw different kinds of lines, and paint with watercolors. We also did basics on oil pastels, crayons, and markers. We are currently learning about using Art for the purpose of scientific observation by drawing insects and then diving deeper into painting.

Art - grades 1-5: Mrs. Gelhar:

First grade students have been exploring different painting materials and correct use of them. They have tried tempera cakes, liquid tempera, and watercolor crayons. We have focused on the correct use of materials while painting. Most recently we are working on a larger self portrait and drawing the facial features. Second grade artists are working on the steps to create choice artwork. This is how they truly become an artist. It all starts with an idea from the student. They choose what to make and also what material they want to use. Third grade students are also working on choice artwork and they are also really focusing on techniques to use with the materials they choose. The fourth and fifth grade students are also working on choice artwork. In between choice artwork we focus on building our toolbox of techniques by creating skill builder artwork. For instance we worked on blending with watercolor crayons for a silhouette.

NEW Instagram page:

Please follow the district INSTAGRAM Art Page.....#wsdartdept

Principal's Report - Mrs. Komas

As our first quarter has ended we were able to meet with parents and guardians to share student achievement data at the recently held Parent-Teacher conferences. Please check your child's Canvas regularly (use their login) as well as Infinite Campus to stay on top of your child's progress. Thank you for your continued partnership.