

HCE School Report to PTO

May 2021

Early Childhood: The EC class recently completed our unit on spring/nature. We are learning about farm animals now, and the last few weeks of school we'll be learning about water and fish! We integrate our new vocabulary into our work on individualized student goals in speech/language, readiness, social, self-help, and fine/gross motor skills. All of our students will be moving up to K4 next year, so we are working hard to reinforce the PBIS expectations of being safe, respectful, and responsible! We hope that all of our students continue to read, talk, listen, play, share, dance, sing, and laugh throughout the summer! Thank you to the HCE PTO for taking such good care of our staff all the time, but especially last week for Teacher Appreciation. We are so grateful for you!

K4: The K4 classes finished up our unit on Nature and started a new unit about Water. We are learning about water and its many uses and will perform experiments (sink/float), play with boats, and have fun stories and songs about fish and sea creatures. We have a fishing pool in our room and can catch fish. As we are doing our last round of Pals and math assessments, we can really see the amazing growth the students have made this school year. They have grown dramatically in reading, math and writing readiness, but most of all they have developed great social and school behavior skills that will help them be ready for Kindergarten and life! At the end of the month we will take a trip to the Whitnall School Forest. The students are super excited as most of them haven't ever ridden in a bus!

Thank you PTO for the wonderful surprises during teacher appreciation week and for all that you do!!

Kindergarten We are beginning to wrap up our Kindergarten year! We have started our last units for Reading and Writing. We are teaching the students ways to read trickier words and more difficult texts. We are also beginning our opinion writing for Writer's Workshop. In math, we are learning about weight and completing activities on comparing weights. We are also working on adding ten and some more. In science, we are working on learning about living and non-living things. We are excited to go on our first field trip to the Whitnall School Forest at the end of May! Thank you PTO for an amazing Teacher Appreciation Week! We love all that you do for us!

First grade First Graders have just finished our science unit on the structure and function of plants and animals. We studied plant and animal adaptations with lots of hands-on activities. Your child recently brought home a sunflower plant that we started from seeds. Help your child plant and take care of this plant and enjoy watching it grow this summer. A big thank you to the PTO for supporting our virtual videos from David Stokes about plants and animals. We are starting our Social Studies unit called World of Work, where we learn about Families, Needs vs. Wants, Goods and Services, and Entrepreneurship. We are finishing up writing our Realistic Fiction series and will be designing a boxed set to put our stories in. It has been great to read about the adventures that the students characters go on. In reading we are working on making our voices match the emotions of the characters. We have enjoyed practicing and performing reader's theater plays in our classrooms. In math we have been working on counting by 1s, 2s, 5s, and 10s. Thank you to the PTO for showering the staff with gifts of appreciation every day during Teacher appreciation week.

Second grade Please make sure your student is working to complete their monthly reading calendar. They should be utilizing our subscription to "Raz Kids" towards their minutes. Please remember to keep practicing addition and subtraction facts at home as well. We are very much looking forward to our first and only field trip this year. We will be going to the school forest in June. This is perfect timing for our science unit on Ecosystems. In writing the kids are enjoying writing realistic fiction stories. We are wrapping our final unit in math that covers geometry. We will be ending the year in reading by revisiting nonfiction.

Third Grade In third grade, students have been learning how to work cooperatively in nonfiction research clubs while reading books about animals. In writing, students have learned how to write an imaginative fairy tale adaptation based on an original, classic version. Geometry, fractions, and larger multiplication problems have been a focus in math as well as basic multiplication fact fluency. In social studies, students have been learning about the making of Milwaukee and Junior Achievement. These units help foster a deeper understanding of how cities grow and thrive, as well as the importance of money/economics in our lives. Our last science unit of the year teaches students about animal life cycles and heredity. We are looking forward to using this knowledge on our first and only field trip of the year to the School Forest. It will be exciting to step outside HCE and explore our natural world!

Fourth grade We recently enjoyed a trip to the Whitnall School Forest where students learned how to identify trees native to Wisconsin, made mandalas from natural elements found in the forest, and even created their own bee hotels! In English Language Arts, we are reading historical fiction texts, focusing on different time periods throughout history. We are using the mentor text, Odin's Promise, written by the former Hales Corners Elementary teacher, Sandy Brehl! For Writing, students have researched a variety of historical time periods and gathered information about important events, people, technology, and transportation to help write their own historical fiction story. In math, fourth graders have been working on strategies for division and multi-digit multiplication. We are moving into a unit where students will deepen their understanding of fractions and decimals. Students finished a writing/science project where they wrote about a specific animal's structures and functions that help them to survive. In social studies, after learning about the branches of government, we recently went on a virtual field trip to the state capitol building. Thanks again to the PTO for everything you do for the staff and students. We appreciate all of your efforts!

Fifth grade: Fifth graders are finishing the Fantasy unit in reading. We really enjoyed our mentor text The Thief of Always and reading fantasy books with our book clubs. Next up we will be reading in benchmark books. In writing, after completing group research based argument essays, students are now writing independent research based essays. In Math, we just completed our unit on Division, and have moved on to the last unit of the school year. Our Geometry unit includes a study of triangles, quadrilaterals and graphing. "Ecosystems" is our topic in Science. Discussion of the importance of healthy and balanced ecosystems and how energy flows through ecosystems are some of the major points. Our Whitnall School Forest field trip on May 21 ties nicely to our studies. DARE Graduation took place on May 4, and the ceremony was recorded and shared with our families. We are so appreciative of the support from our PTO. Thank you.

Music-K5: Ms. Nowak: Kindergarteners have been working with Spring themed music. We have worked with songs about animals, weather, Earth Day, and Mother's Day. Through our music, we are

working to reinforce concepts of a steady beat, rhythm, melodic direction, and tempo. Some of the songs the students worked on were "Rain, Rain" and "Ame, Ame"- which is a song in Japanese about rain. The students were able to see and hear a rain stick that can be used to accompany songs. They also were asked how they could create something that sounds like rain using their bodies. They had a lot of fun identifying the melodic direction of "Rain, Rain," and creating an accompaniment for the song. With our final push towards the end of the year, the students will start to focus on identifying different instrument sounds. It has been a lot of fun working with the kindergartners. Thank you PTO for all you do to support both staff and students (:

Music - grades 1-5: Ms. Hekenberger:

First and second graders have been learning songs doing activities themed around weather and reviewing musical concepts like beat, rhythm, and tempo. So far we've done rain and sun. In the next few weeks we'll do rainbows and storms too! Third graders have been intermittently working on note naming and reading. We've taken some breaks to do mini units on Earth Day, George Gershwin, and Movie Music. Since we are unable to play recorder this year, fourth graders are learning some basics on the ukulele with the hopes of being able to play recorders next year. They are doing a wonderful job! Fifth graders have been playing ukuleles for a few months now and have made tremendous progress. We've played everything from traditional Hawaiian tunes to The Beatles. We've been doing some *very light* singing and those students who wanted to have recorded a few tunes to celebrate their fifth grade completion. Those will be shared out with families at the end of the year.

Physical Education-K5 & Grade 1: Mrs. Baumgart:

Kindergarten and 1st grade participated in many activities that incorporated the fitness components muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility and cardiovascular endurance. After various games, students were able to identify which particular exercise would be best for each component. They had a lot of fun playing Fitness Super Heroes and Couch Potato in which we also discussed how its ok to play video games and watch TV some of the time, but it's very important for your mind and body to move around and get your heart rate up each day. We just started our baseball/T-ball unit and our current focus is on throwing and catching. Coming up we will move onto swinging and baserunning activities, all skills that will be put into play for our T-ball game. During the last few weeks at the end of the class period, Kindergarten and 1st grade took part in Yoga and Mindful Meditation. Here I played calming music and read from a script that told a short story and they were to imagine themselves in that scenario. After students were able to respond that they felt relaxed or calm and how they could use some of these practices that would be beneficial during times of feeling stress, angry or upset. I plan on continuing these every few days as it's also an excellent transition to lining up for the next class. As you can see a lot going on, and thank you PTO!

Physical Education - Grades 2-5: Ms. Brossart:

Since returning from Spring Break, we have been learning about Physical Fitness and the Fitness Components. Students in grades 2-3-4-5 have been participating in a variety of Fitness Tests- the Shuttle Run (tests speed and agility); Pull Ups, the Flexed Arm Hang, and Curl Ups (Sit Ups)-these three measure muscular strength and muscular endurance; the Sit and Reach Test (tests Flexibility); and the Fitness Run (tests Cardiovascular Endurance). To finish off the school year, students in Grades 2-3-4-5 will be participating in Indoor/Outdoor games related to base running. These games include Wiffle Ball, Tee Ball, Kickball, and Throw Ball. On Wednesday, May 5th all HCE students participated in the A.C.E.S. walk during their grade level Specials time. Grades 3-4-5 walked 1 mile which is 4 laps around the HCE

building; Grades K5-1-2 walked 3 laps around the HCE building and the K4 students walked 2 laps around the HCE building. Coming up on Friday, May 21st, we will have a modified Field Day event at HCE. With the assistance of the Specialists teachers (Art, Music, PE & Library/Tech) each grade level will participate in some fun Field Day activities during their scheduled special's time. The rain date is Monday, May 24th. It is amazing what the staff and students have overcome and accomplished throughout the school year. It has been an honor to work with the students and staff at HCE. And thank you to the PTO for providing support and activities for the students and staff through the years. It is greatly appreciated. ;)

Art - K5: Mrs. Tentoni:

Kindergarten has been having a BLAST launching their rocket sculptures using paper towel tubes, paper and paint! We've been talking about different ways to create sculptures and 3D art, and are exploring model magic and creating creatures to go with our rockets. The kindergarteners continue to enjoy guided practice drawing, and our most recent drawing of Grogu from Star Wars Mandalorian was a huge success! As we build our drawing and cutting skills, the kindergarteners have taken great pride in experimenting with new media including tempera paint, "big kid" detail brushes and "big kid" Elmer's glue. They have grown so much this semester in their observation skills and creativity and I am always impressed with the quality of their work and how well they can focus.

Art - grades 1-5: Mrs. Gelhar:

First and second graders are creating art themed around the music songs they are learning about. We are continuing to focus on techniques used to create art with different materials. Third graders are learning about creating marker prints with a line pattern. The fourth graders are also learning about marker prints but they are focusing on radial symmetry and learning how artists use patterns in the South Pacific. The fifth graders worked on a clay creature. They were learning how to join pieces of clay together. They also have been working hard on choice art, where they come up with the idea and choose the material and technique to focus on.

Principal's Report - Mrs. Komar

As the school year began we had so many questions about what the days ahead might bring. After the emergency closure in March 2020 it became clear that nothing is for sure and that life can change in the blink of an eye. As we can see the final days of the 2020-21 school year in sight it is important to celebrate the successes of the year and there are MANY! We offered students learning opportunities in person or virtually and let them select the instructional delivery model not just at the beginning of the school year but again at semester. This "choice" helped everyone feel not only respected but heard. We wanted to focus on student achievement as we do each year but not by measuring losses due to closure or lagging skills but by understanding where students were at as learners and planning for instruction with intentionality. We wanted to meet each day and each challenge with the courage to say that we will do what it takes to be "here" for our students and families. Maybe I feel particularly nostalgic but I can honestly say that this is another year I won't forget. It was a year of appreciation for being "stronger together".