

APRIL NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

The children have continued to enjoy teaching the class about topics of interest. This month, Jaida taught us about basketball and Thomas shared a lesson on skiing and snowboarding.



Math

In recent weeks we have continued our exploration of fractions. The children learned how to add and subtract fractions with like and unlike denominators. They also learned about the relationship between mixed numbers and improper fractions, including how to convert from one to the other. The students practiced simplifying fractions and comparing fractions. We had fun with our *Fruit Snack Fractions* activity. The students especially enjoyed snacking on this sweet treat upon the completion of their fraction work. We also learned about math agamographs. These unique works of art were invented by artist Yaacov Agam, who is known for his "kinetic"

creations that involve movement and viewer participation. **Move from one side to the other to see which mixed numbers and improper fractions are equivalent!**



Reading

How is a story's theme like a cupcake? We have used the image of a cream-filled cupcake to help us understand the concept of **theme** in a text. This work has been built upon our knowledge of inference and characterization from previous lessons this year.

**A story's theme
is like a Creme-
filled Cupcake!**



**Just as Creme can be
hidden inside a
cupcake, a theme is
hidden in a story!**

The reader must INFER the theme.

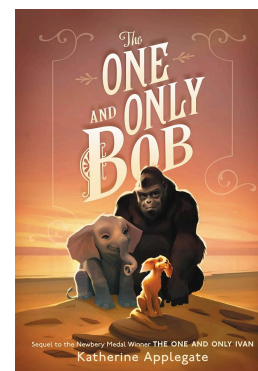
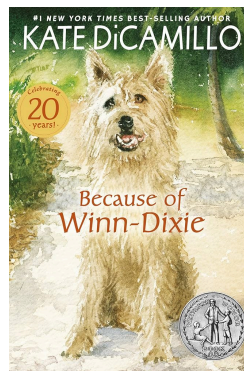
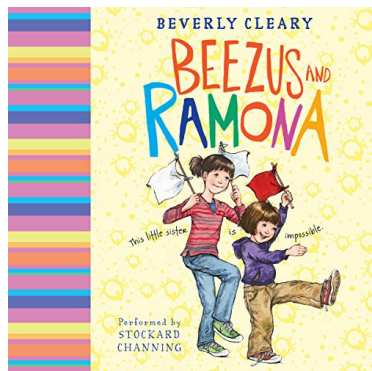
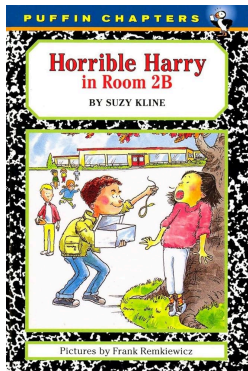
Themes in Fiction

- Respect others' opinions, even if you don't agree.
- Challenges can be overcome with hard work & patience.
- True friends stand by you when life is difficult.
- Keep an open mind about others. First impressions can be deceiving.
- Adjusting to change takes time.
- Treat others with kindness and respect.
- Accept the differences of those around you.
- Accepting responsibility for your actions is a mark of maturity.
- Mistakes are okay, as long as you learn from them.
- Perseverance is key when facing life's challenges.

Themes in Fiction

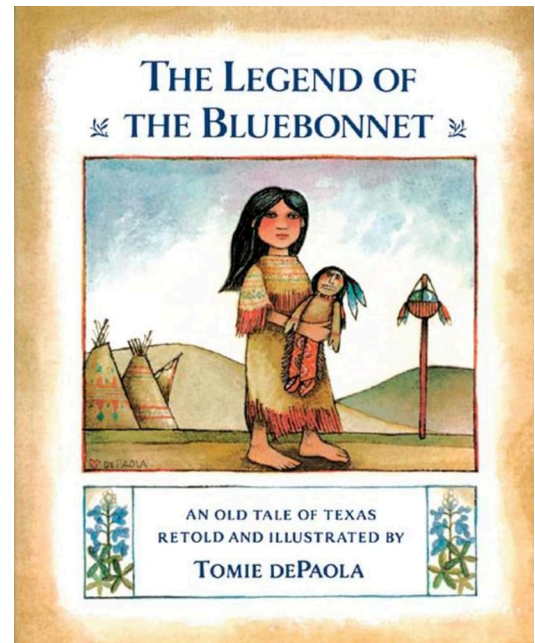
- Growth can come from failure.
- Appreciate what you have.
- Stand up for what you believe in.
- Help others in their time of need.
- Friendship can come in forms you do not expect.
- Don't judge the actions of other people.
- Find your talent, and share it with others.
- Selfishness can lead to negative consequences.
- Families face adversity together.
- More can be accomplished when people work together.
- Always try your best.
- Be true to yourself.
- Value your family (friends).

During our literature circle discussions, we have begun to identify the major themes in the chapter books we are reading. In Because of Winn-Dixie, we have identified a major theme around the importance of accepting others without judgement. In The One and Only Bob, the students have acknowledged the following theme: *True friends stand by you when life is difficult.*



We have started our exploration of traditional literature. These stories have been passed down through oral tradition from generation to generation. Last week we read The Legend of the Bluebonnet. This traditional story explains how the bluebonnet became the state flower in Texas. This genre is a great pairing for our work on theme because it is often easy to identify the author's moral or message in these folktales.

Folktales					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oral stories• Anonymous (author unknown)• Found in all cultures• "Timeless" and "Placeless" stories				
	Fairy Tales	Fables	Myths	Legends	TALL TALES
CHARACTERS	Once upon a time *Royalty (King, Queen, etc.) *Animals	Very short stories. *Animals acting like people *3 or less	Gods and Goddesses	*Everyday people *Animals are often main characters	Based on the life of a real person Everyday people with superhuman abilities
SETTING	*Castle *Forest	Generally outside somewhere	Nothing specific Explains something that happens in nature by using gods and/or goddesses	Nothing specific Explains how or why something in nature came to be	Linked to a real historical time period Problem solved in a humorous way
PROBLEM	Good vs Evil	Only one problem using trickery	*Good = rewarded *Bad = punished		
SOLUTION	*Magic *Repeat of 3 and 7 They lived happily ever!	Ends with a lesson (Moral)	*Magic *Unusual creatures *Can teach a lesson	*Magic *Sometimes it teaches a lesson	*Exaggerated details *Tells about a person's accomplishments



Writing

The students are crafting their own informational books using Google Slides. They have been busy brainstorming, locating sources, researching, and planning in the prewriting stage of the writing process. Their books will contain many nonfiction text features like a table of contents, photographs, headings, diagrams, and a glossary. Each student is utilizing an interactive notebook to help them stay organized. Animals, authors, and video games are a few of the topics the students are researching.

Informational

WRITING UNIT

Informational

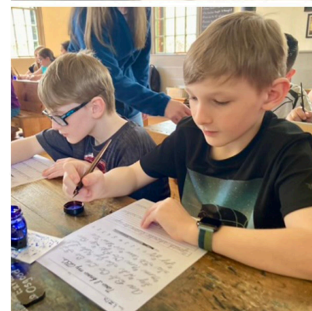
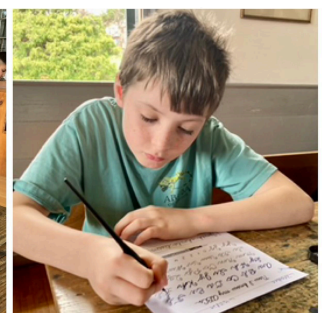
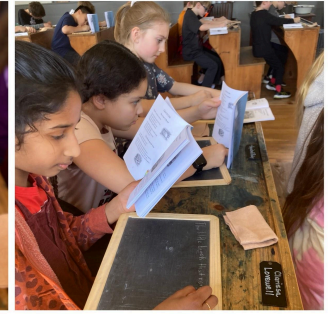
INTERACTIVE NOTEBOOK

I can write an informative text to explain information clearly and accurately through research, organization, and craft.

Social Studies

We enjoyed a delightful trip to the **Little Red Schoolhouse** in Nashua. The students learned about life in a country school in the 1800s. The children returned to the days of reading, writing, and arithmetic, the wood burning stove, dip ink pens, slates and slate pencils,

and recitation lessons. The "schoolmarm" instructed our scholars in the small, one-room schoolhouse during this trip that made history come alive.



Science

We are learning about the human body during our Mystery Science lessons. The students discovered the mechanism by which their muscles control their bones to move their bodies. The children constructed a model of a human finger and observed how pulling on a string (a model for tendons) causes it to bend at the joints.



Community Building

A fun time was had by all on **Micro Day** as families had the opportunity to experience MicroCity and our marketplace. We were thrilled to see so many familiar faces at Pizza Games!

