



Dear Families,

January has brought us new experiences! Each day, the students have the ability to earn tickets for making good choices and following our classroom rules and schoolwide code of conduct. They can cash those tickets in for *experiences*. Saiangi decided to trade in her tickets for the opportunity to teach the class about energy transfer. Kushal taught us about the sun, moon, and Earth orbits.

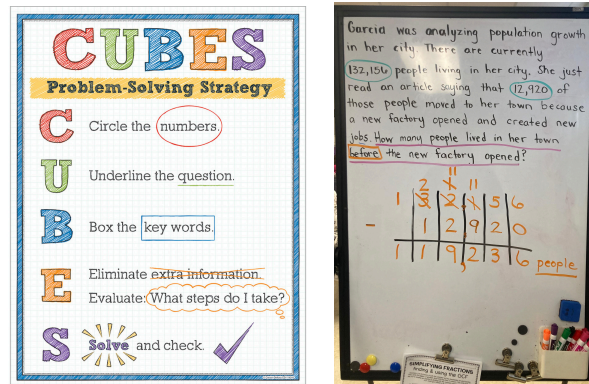


Math

Mastering our multiplication tables and division facts has been our focus for many months. This learning is an essential building block that will support continued math growth both this year and beyond. We have set a goal to master our facts and be able to recall them with automaticity. We have established routines to support this learning. First, you may have noticed that our homework log includes a multiplication or division table of the week. We are asking for your support at home in quizzing your child nightly to support the development of this numeral

fluency. The mad minute occurs every Friday and focuses exclusively on the multiplication/division table of the week. The students have sixty seconds to answer as many facts as possible from the table of the week. They will continue to chart their own progress using a bar graph. Additionally, we have been practicing our facts through a variety of classroom games and daily practice on SplashLearn.

We have continued to use the C.U.B.E.S. strategy for tackling word problems. We practice story problems on a weekly basis. The goal of this work is to build a systematic approach to solving word problems from all four operations.



We are wrapping up our unit on fractions. The students enjoyed playing a partner game where they practiced multiplying a whole number by a fraction.



Reading

We have explored literary themes in our reading this month. 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. During our literature circle discussions, we have begun to identify the major themes in the chapter books we just finished reading.

**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.

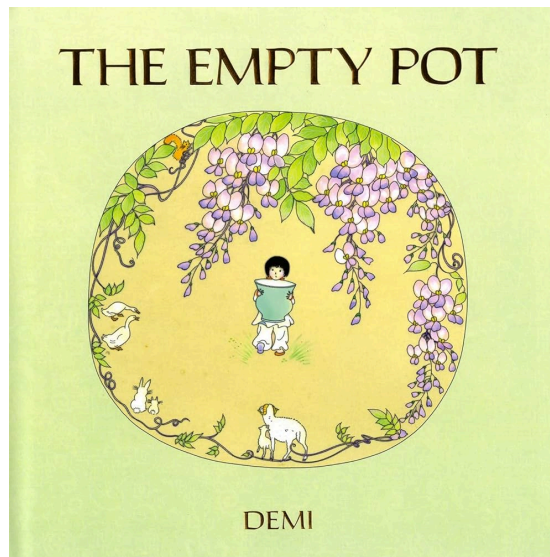
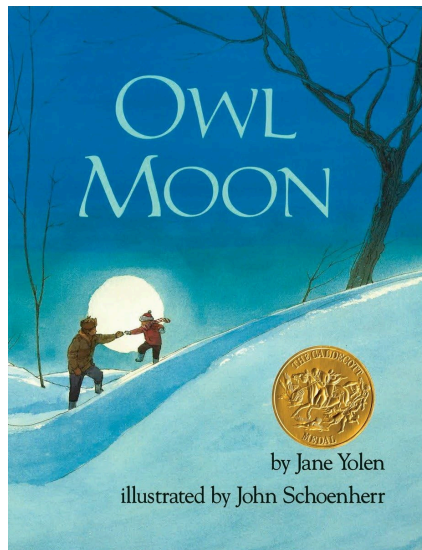
Themes in Fiction

- 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).

We have also utilized these mentor texts to support our understanding of themes found in literature.



Writing

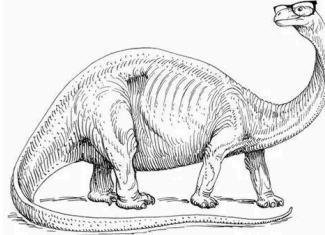
The students have worked through the five stages in the writing process. During the revising stage, we learned how to use a thesaurus. The children had fun exploring synonyms, learning new vocabulary words, and replacing simple and overused words in their writing. During our Mystery Writing lessons, we have learned about powerful words and how to add sensory details to our writing.

The Writing Process

#1	Prewriting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BRAINSTORM key ideas to get started Use graphic organizers to plan & organize
#2	Drafting	Write your ROUGH DRAFT
#3	Revising	Make your writing BETTER <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the quality Word choice, details, & organization Add, subtract, and/or rearrange sentences
#4	Editing	Make your writing CORRECT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proofread & correct mistakes Spelling, punctuation, capitalization, & grammar
#5	Publishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write or type your final copy Share your masterpiece with others

What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary?

A thesaurus.



Grammarly Quotes



We have incorporated daily language practice into our morning work routine. The students fix spelling and grammar mistakes found in two sentences each day. Our daily practice is paired with an educational video on a variety of academic topics. This month we have learned about snowflake shapes, amendments to our Constitution, the Panama Canal, and much more!

- **Daily Fix It: January (3-5)**

Today is...
January 25

On this day in 1881, Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell founded the Oriental Telephone Company.



Daily Sentence Fix-It

Oh no! The sentences below have a few mistakes. Please rewrite both sentences correctly.

alexander had a idea too send human voices over a wir

dont forget two call grandma to mom sed

Home

Helpful Hints

Answer Key

A special congratulations to all of the children who participated in our classroom spelling bee. Mohammad and Kushal represented our 206 squad during our school wide spelling bee. Well done, everyone! You're all spelling superstars!



Science

We have continued to study energy this month. The students explored how energy can be stored as height. The children built paper roller coasters. They conducted experiments where they released marbles down the roller coaster track to understand height energy and energy transfer.



Social Studies/Micro

Our 206 classroom is the home of our MicroCity Bank, managed by our very own William and Kushal. On marketplace days, citizens at MACS have the opportunity to visit the bank to

withdraw from or deposit money into their personal or business accounts. This month, our bank employees learned how to serve customers and run payroll for our ventures and agencies.

