



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**. Olivia decided to trade in her tickets for the opportunity to teach the class about horses and horseback riding. Thank you for this delightful lesson, Olivia. We learned a lot and enjoyed hearing about your passion for animals.



Math

Mastering our multiplication tables is our current focus in mathematics. 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 set many things in place to support this learning. First, you may have noticed that our homework log now includes a multiplication 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. We have also

made a shift in our weekly *Mad Minute* quizzes. The mad minute occurs every Friday and will focus exclusively on the multiplication table of the week. The students have sixty seconds to answer as many multiplication 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 multiplication facts through a variety of classroom games, craft activities, and daily practice on SplashLearn.

Name: _____
Date: _____

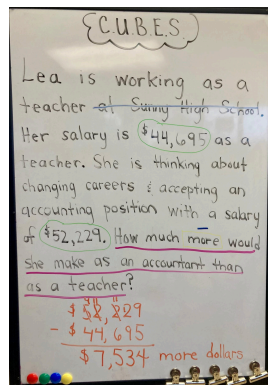
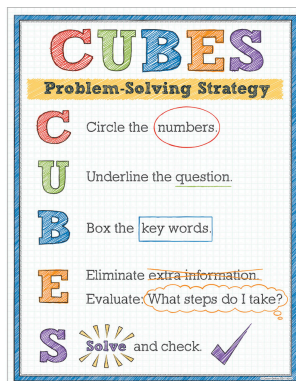
We are working to master our multiplication facts this year.
Please review the table below each evening. For each correct answer, mark a ✓. For each incorrect answer, mark a ✗.
Nightly practice will promote mastery.

| Weekly Homework Log | | |
|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | Work Completed | Parent Initials |
| Monday | | |
| Tuesday | | |
| Wednesday | | |
| Thursday | | |

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday |
|--------------------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|
| $2 \times 1 = 2$ | | | | |
| $2 \times 2 = 4$ | | | | |
| $2 \times 3 = 6$ | | | | |
| $2 \times 4 = 8$ | | | | |
| $2 \times 5 = 10$ | | | | |
| $2 \times 6 = 12$ | | | | |
| $2 \times 7 = 14$ | | | | |
| $2 \times 8 = 16$ | | | | |
| $2 \times 9 = 18$ | | | | |
| $2 \times 10 = 20$ | | | | |
| $2 \times 11 = 22$ | | | | |
| $2 \times 12 = 24$ | | | | |

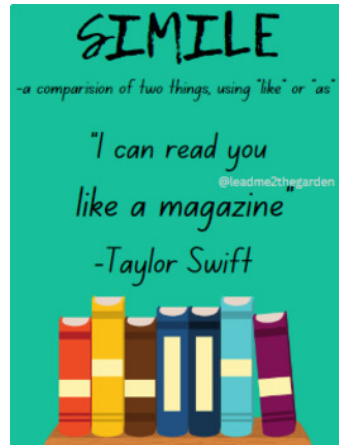
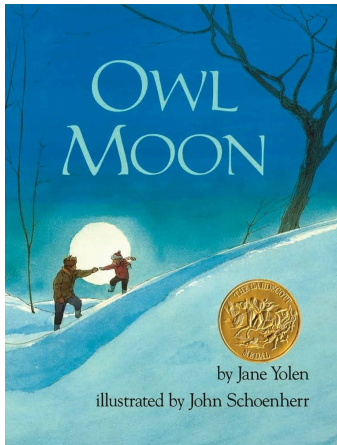


In our new math unit, we have been exploring long multiplication and short division. We have continued to use the C.U.B.E.S. strategy for tackling word problems. We practice story problems on a weekly basis. We played a math Jeopardy game on Friday to review many math concepts. It was a lot of fun!



Reading

We have explored similes in our reading and writing this month. We learned that similes are a type of figurative language that authors and artists use to help readers and listeners make mental pictures in their minds. We discussed the idea that similes promote visualization. We read the award winning book Owl Moon and searched for the author's use of similes in this mentor text. We also searched for similes in pop culture; looking for these comparisons in music, commercials, and movie clips. The students have practiced writing similes in their weekly reader's notebook entries and in their MicroSociety reflection prompts.



Writing

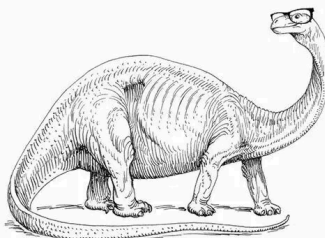
The students have worked through the five stages in the writing process as they all finished the final copy of their opinion writing piece. During the revising stage, we learned how to use a thesaurus. The children had fun exploring synonyms, learning new vocabulary words, and replacing simple and overused words in their writing. The students typed their final copies and illustrated their work with beautiful drawings. The writing pieces are now proudly displayed around our classroom door. For many of the children, this was their first experience composing a five paragraph essay. Some students even chose to write more than five paragraphs!

The Writing Process

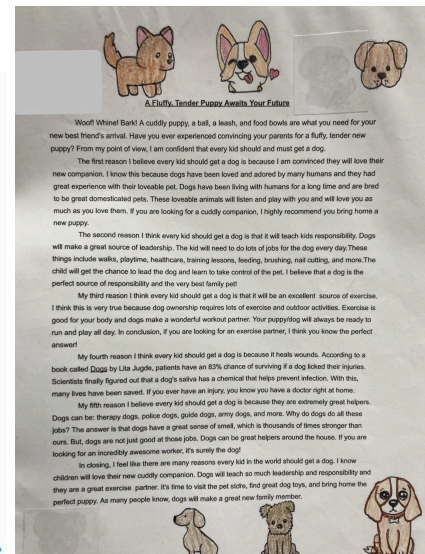
| | | |
|----|-------------------|--|
| #1 | Prewriting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BRAINSTORM key ideas to get started Use graphic organizers to plan & organize |
| #2 | Drafting | Write your ROUGH DRAFT |
| #3 | Revising | Make your writing BETTER <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improve 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.



Grammarty Quotes



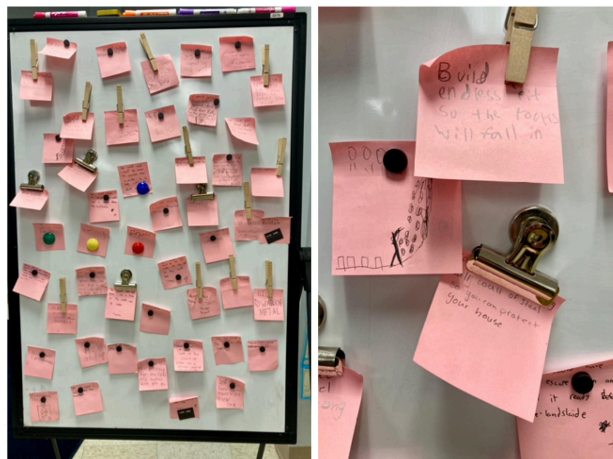
A special congratulations to Oliver for participating in our school wide spelling bee. Well done, Oliver! You're a spelling superstar!

Science

During our exploration of rocks, the students gathered evidence to describe how environments on Earth have changed over time. The children explored how the process of sedimentary rock formation preserves a record of those past environments. In the activity, Canyon Explorer, the students observed fossils found within a model canyon. The characteristics of those fossils provide evidence to support the explanation that the landscape has changed numerous times.



During the final lesson in our unit, the students learned about the types, causes, and dangers of landslides. In the activity, Slide City, students were faced with the engineering problems of protecting a house from a landslide and preventing a landslide from happening. They use a brainstorming technique to design creative solutions.



Social Studies/Micro

Our 206 classroom is the home of a booming business called ***Pizza Games***, founded by Declan and a friend, and managed by Ronan. On marketplace days, students at MACS have the opportunity to visit Pizza Games to play pizza themed "minute to win it" games. The MicroSociety citizens have greatly enjoyed participating in our January games: *Toss the Pizza*, *Pepperoni Stacks*, *Pizza Tower*, and *Cup Stacking*. Business owners and managers are working on their month end paperwork to be submitted to the government for tax purposes.



Community Building

We recognized *National School Choice Week* and wore yellow in celebration of families having access to educational options for their children. MACS is a great place to be!

