



Dear Families,

The children have continued to enjoy teaching the class about topics of interest. This month, Avery, Bella, and Sage taught us about the vision sense.



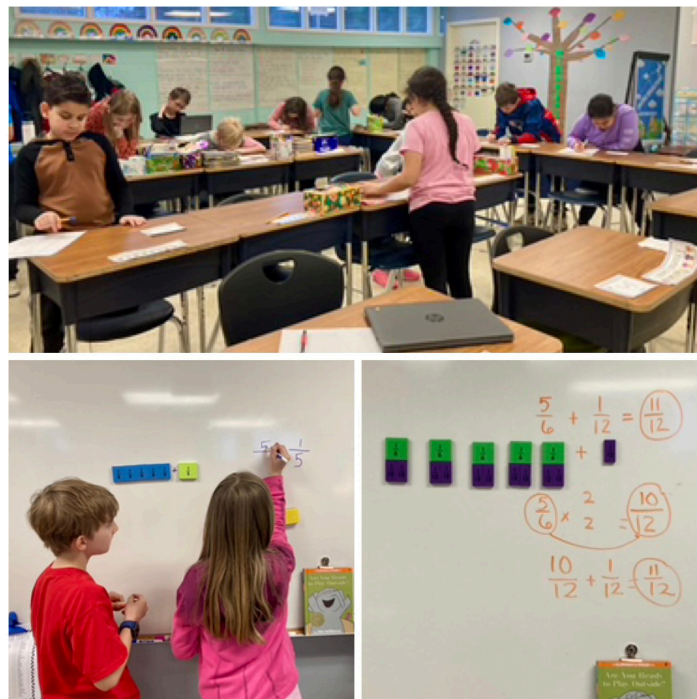
Math

This month we explored many types of graphs. We learned that graphs visually represent data and we can use these math pictures to help us interpret information. We analyzed bar graphs, line graphs, pictographs, and line plots. The children learned how to gather and organize data to create their own bar graphs, being sure to include a title, scale, and labels for the x and y axis. We also practiced reading a key on a pictograph. The students made graphs about topics

like favorite colors, favorite parts of the school day, favorite sports, and pets at home. They had the opportunity to visit other classrooms in the building to collect data for their bar graphs.



We have begun our study of fractions. We started the unit with an introduction to some fraction vocabulary words and an explanation of a fraction as being "part of a whole." The children have really enjoyed using the magnetic fraction manipulatives to help them visualize each fraction set. The children have practiced adding fractions with like and unlike denominators. We played a game of "Adding Fractions Scoot" where the children moved around the classroom solving problems. We will continue our fraction work into April



Reading

We have begun another round of literature circles. Our current focus is on identifying character traits and analyzing how characters in stories change over time. This learning will support future conversations about common themes in texts. These are the books we are currently reading:



The students have been very interested in learning about the awards that can be given to children's books. We discovered that books can earn many different types of awards. We discussed the following book awards. The **Geisel Award** is given to exemplary books for developing readers. The **Caldecott Award** is given to illustrators for exceptional illustrations. The **Newbery Award** is given to distinguished authors who tell incredible stories. The **Prince Award** is for excellent books written for young adults. The **Coretta Scott King Award** recognizes books by African American authors for stories that reflect the African American experience. The **Odyssey Award** is given to audiobooks. The **Schneider Family Book Award** honors an author or illustrator for a book that embodies an expression of the disability experience for children. The **Pura Belpré Award** is presented to a Latino/Latina writer whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children.



Writing

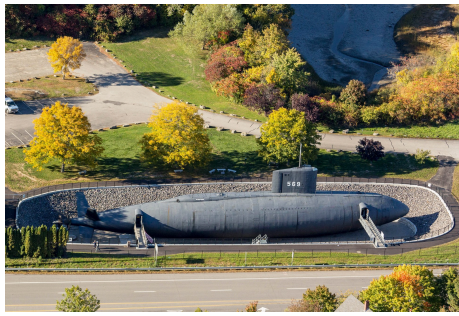
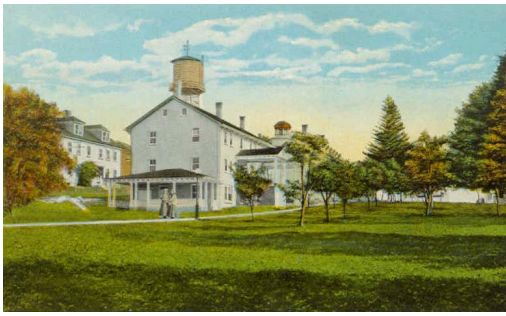
We enjoyed a delightful **MACS Writers' Coffeehouse** this month! Thank you to the many families who were able to join us for this celebration of learning. The children worked very hard preparing decorations and organizing the space in the MPR so we could welcome our guests. The children had the opportunity to share their writing pieces with the community, practicing their public speaking skills and building their self-confidence. Additionally, many students learned how to use Google Slides to prepare a presentation outlining the main ideas from their writing

pieces. We sure have **learned-a-latte** in writing this year! I hope the children remember to, **"Always espresso themselves!"**



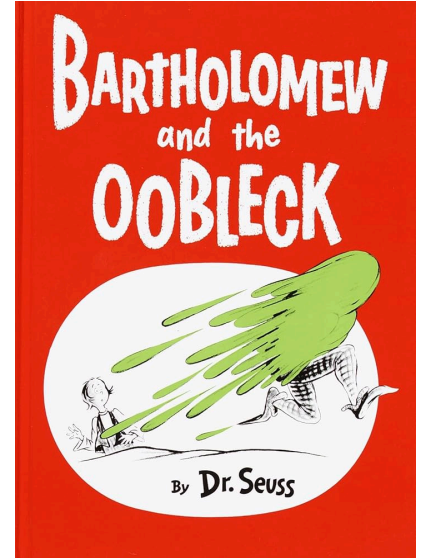
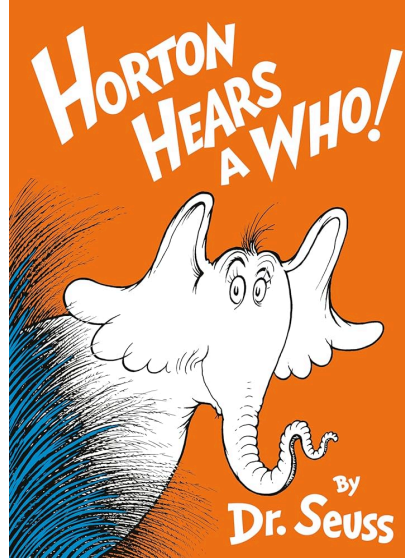
Social Studies

We have continued our research project on the state of New Hampshire. The students learned about some important landmarks in our state. We watched informational videos on the Canterbury Shaker Village and the USS Albacore. The students were very interested in both places and were inspired to learn more. We will have the opportunity to visit a local landmark on **Monday, April 15th**. We will be traveling to the **Little Red Schoolhouse** in Nashua.



Community Building

We celebrated **Read Across America Week** during our first week back from February vacation. The children enjoyed dressing as book characters and cats, wearing hats and crazy socks, and styling their hair in silly ways. We ended the week with a fun pajama day. During the week, we studied Theodor Geisel, more commonly known as Dr. Seuss, and we recognized him as a legendary contributor to children's literature. We also enjoyed a few of his books read aloud.



We continue to build the culture and community within our classroom. Many months ago, we had the idea to construct a "Kindness Tree" in our classroom. I finally found some time during February vacation week to come into school and build the tree. The children have written some ways to spread kindness on each colorful leaf, and we will continue to add leaves throughout the spring.



Also, the students filled the reward jar and then voted on a prize. This is something they have been working towards since September. Many rewards were suggested, and the winning idea was a pajama/movie day. We watched *The Mitchells vs. the Machines*. There were many great lessons in this animated movie. In the end, the characters learn the importance of accepting others for who they are and appreciating the many differences that make each of us a unique individual.



