

# SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

We are off to a great start in room 206! This first month has been filled with learning, fun, and community building activities. Please look for our monthly newsletter to keep updated on the latest happenings in 4th grade.

## Math

The focus during our first weeks of instruction has centered around place value. We have written numbers to 100,000 in standard form, word form, and expanded form. We have also been comparing and ordering numbers from 1 to 100,000 and working with the concepts of greater than and less than. The students enjoyed journeying outside to order twenty-four numbers from least to greatest. Here are a few snapshots of our adventure:

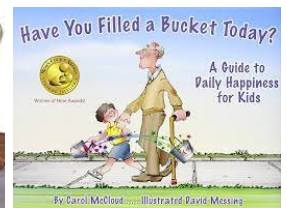
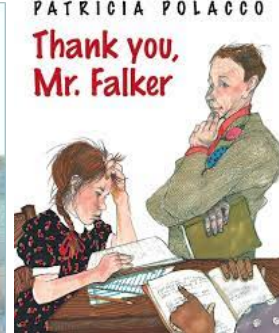
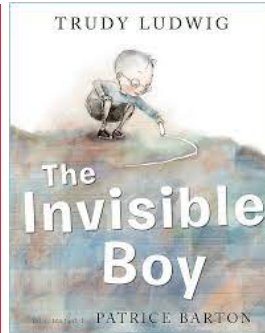
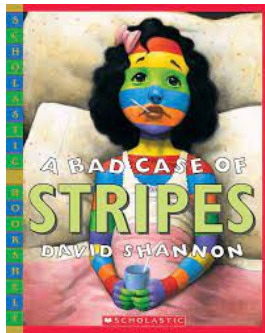




We have begun working with our second chapter on estimation and number theory. The students have practiced rounding, estimating sums, differences, products, and quotients, and understanding and answering word problems.

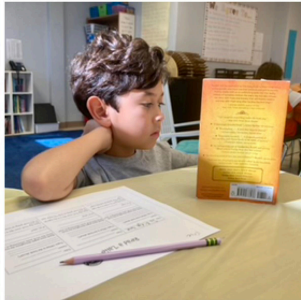
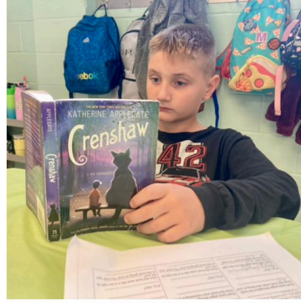
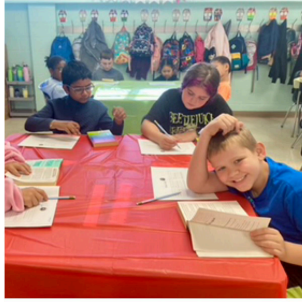
## Reading

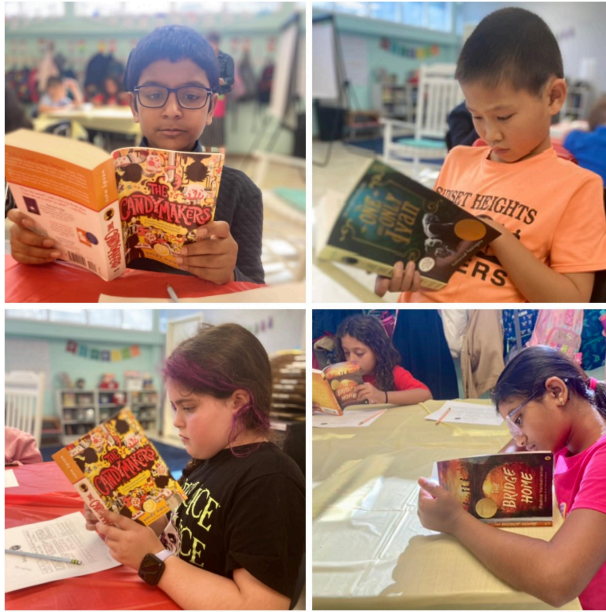
We have begun Readers' Workshop. The students have participated in lessons about choosing "Just Right" books. We've discussed the idea that *Reading is Thinking* and students have practiced documenting their thinking on Post-It notes during silent reading time. Afterwards, the children have the opportunity to "Buzz" about their books. "Buzzing" is another name for talking about books with partners. We have had many discussions about genre. I have introduced several types of fiction stories including: realistic fiction, historical fiction, fantasy, science fiction, and traditional stories like folktales, fables, myths, and legends. In nonfiction, the children have been learning about informational texts, biographies, autobiographies, and memoirs. We have also discussed the four story elements: characters, setting, problem, and solution. Below are a few of the books we have read aloud together this month:



The students in 206 visited the "Starbooks Cafe" and participated in a "book tasting" event! The baristas served up 6 different works of fiction. The children had the opportunity to taste each book and record their opinions of the text on their menus. It was a delicious time and an introduction to many excellent works of literature.







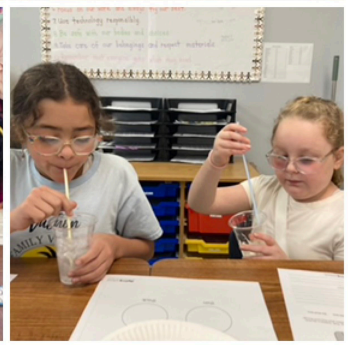
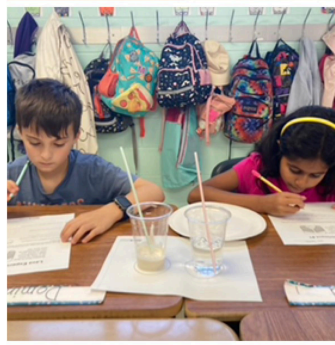
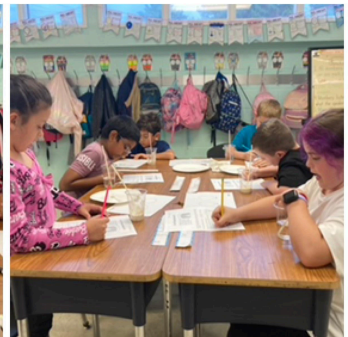
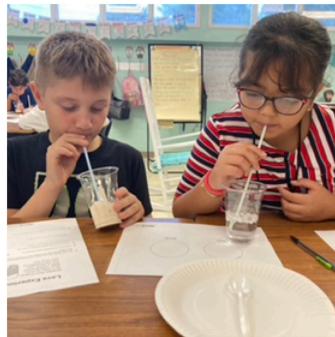
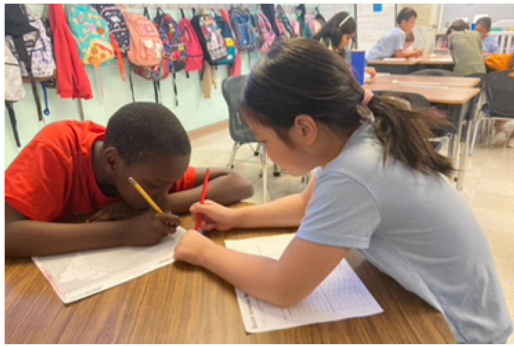
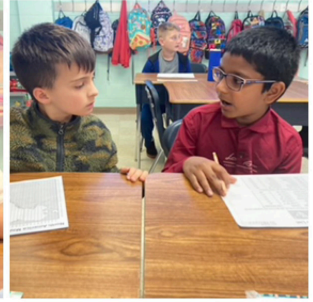
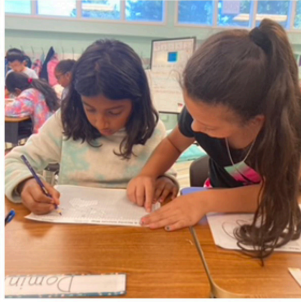
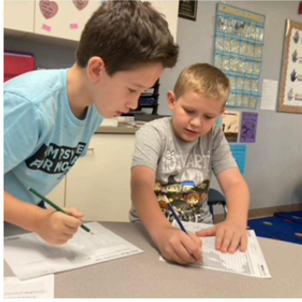
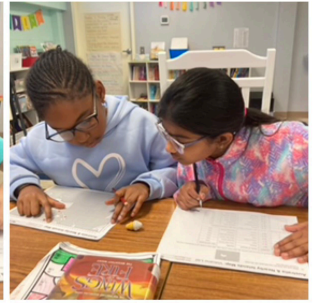
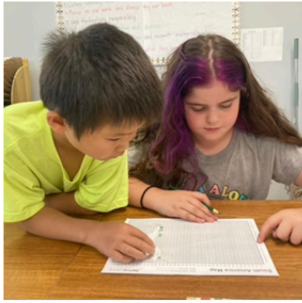
## Writing

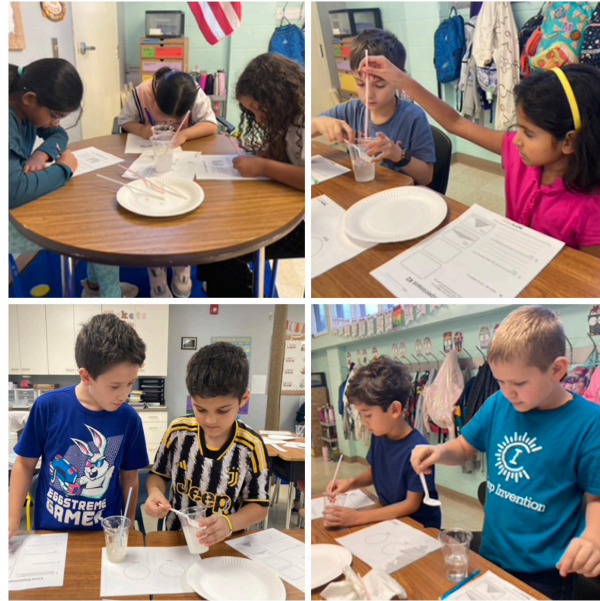
Each student crafted an "I Am" poem that tells about themselves. We learned about "stanzas" and the steps in the writing process. The children brainstormed ideas and drafted a first copy. The children participated in writing conferences and then they typed their poems. The poems will soon be displayed around the entrance of our classroom.

## Science

We are learning about volcanoes in science. Some key vocabulary words are: basalt, volcanologist, extinct volcano, and the Ring of Fire. Through a hands-on mapping activity, the children discovered some patterns about where volcanoes are located in our world. We have a variety of nonfiction informational books about volcanoes in our classroom. The students are learning how to identify nonfiction text features like the table of contents, headings, captions, maps, graphs, the glossary, and the index. Additionally, the students experimented with thin and thick lava to decipher which lava comes from a cone volcano and which comes from a shield volcano.



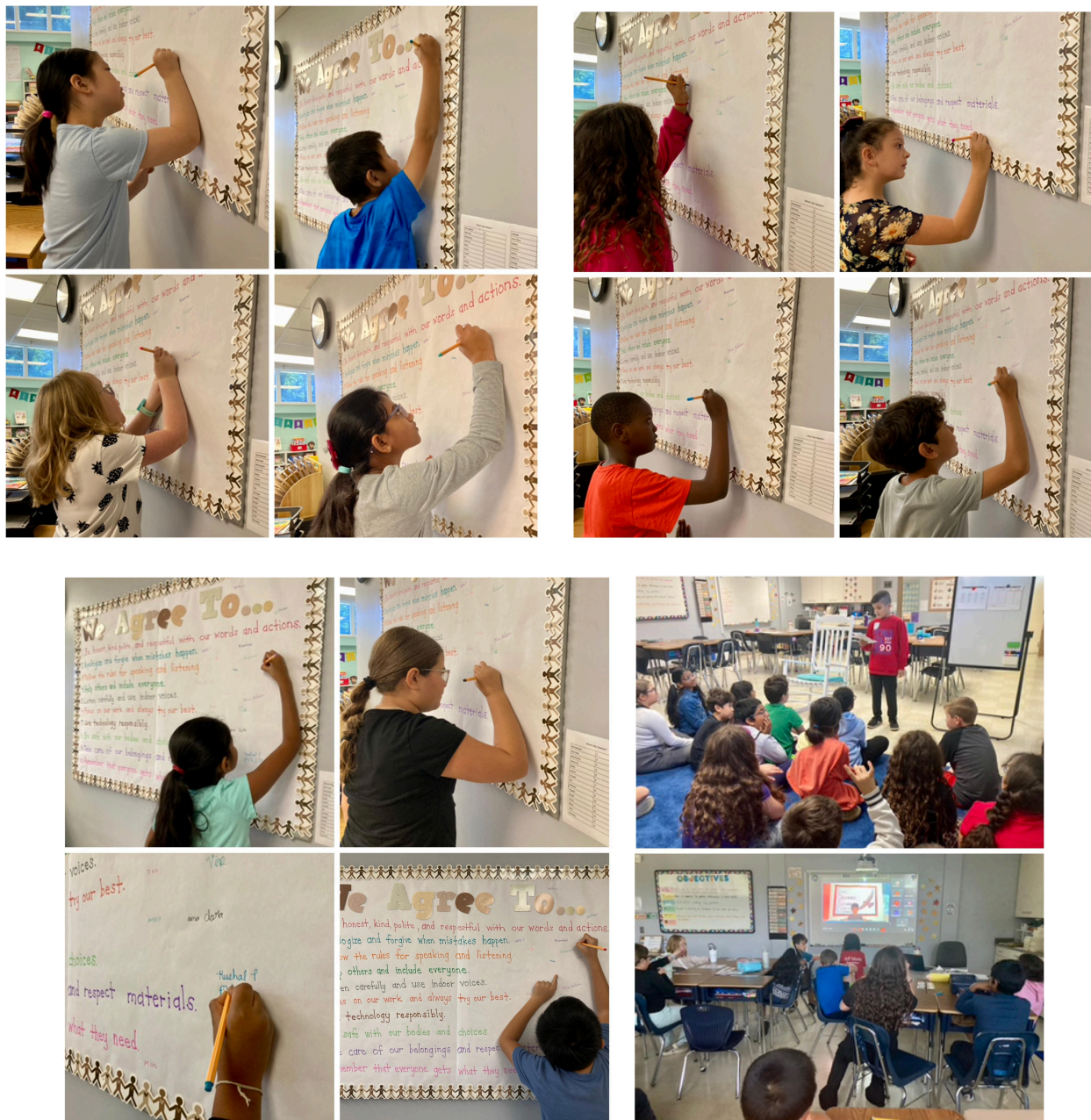




### Social Studies/Micro

During our micro block, we discussed our school acronym SOAR. The children brainstormed ways to be **safe**, **accountable**, **open-minded**, **responsible**, and **respectful** at school. The students signed a contract agreeing to follow the rules of our MicroCity. We listened to the folktale The Little Red Hen and discussed the importance of teamwork and everyone doing their fair share in a community. Additionally, we have been learning about voting and some students have attended Law School and Campaigning 101. Mohammad is going to be our classroom representative this year and he will be working in the government. Thank you for representing us, Mohammad! The students watched speeches delivered by the candidates for mayor and deputy mayor and they will cast their votes soon.





## Homework

Please encourage your child to complete the weekly homework log. Homework can take many forms. Please keep an eye out for the papers that went home outlining some ideas for work at home. If your student is excited about volcanoes, watch a documentary together or request a volcano book from the library. Maybe your child wants to take on a big project like crafting a model volcano and making it erupt with baking soda and vinegar! If your child wants to know more about civics and government, watch some educational videos online about the types of government. Follow their interests and get excited about their passions!

## Community Building



After reading, Our Class is a Family, I gifted each of the students a beaded **#squad** bracelet. We discussed the idea that a squad is a close knit group of pals that stick together. This bracelet is a symbol and a reminder of our 206 family and that we work hard to care for each other. Our classroom is a safe place to make mistakes, take educational risks, and try something new. It's been wonderful to see so many of the children wearing their bracelets each day.



We enjoyed a very successful MACS Walk-a-Thon together. Thank you for your support and donations. MACS is a great place to be!

