



Meadow Pond Monthly Moosage: March

MPES is a joyful, affirming, and welcoming community that values common academic and social emotional learning opportunities. At MPES, students, adults, and Max the Moose are inspired to grow and take risks through relevant, active, and engaging experiences.

Upcoming Events

- March 1-3: Tristate Visit to KLSD
- March 3: Pasta Night
- March 6: PARP begins
- March 8: PTO and Principal's Coffee and Meeting (9:30-11:00am)
- March 9: BAM Meeting (8:00am)
- March 9: BOE Meeting (7:30pm)
- March 10: PARP, Bring your stuffed animal to school
- March 15: Harlem Wizards visit MPES
- March 15: Chorus Concert (6:00pm)
- March 15: Incoming K Parent Orientation (7:00pm)-- SNOW DATE (3/20)
- March 16: BOE Meeting (7:30pm)
- March 21: Superintendent Coffee at MPES (9:30am)
- March 23: BOE Meeting (7:30pm)
- March 24: PARP High School Performers come (am)
- March 24: K Pete the Cat Field Trip to Ridgefield Playhouse
- March 30: K Mrs. Wishy Washy Performance
- March 30: 4th Grade Field Trip to Ridgefield Playhouse
- March 31: Community Meeting: Dress as your favorite storybook character or animal to celebrate PARP! (and special PARP surprise)
- March 31: Bike Safety Demo (Brought to you by PTO)
- April 3-7: SPRING BREAK!

Monthly Theme

Our theme for February and March is "Friendship". During this month, we will be reading [Strictly No Elephants](#). This book teaches us how to create new friends and a sense of belonging for everyone. As we continue to talk about friendship, we will discuss how to be a good friend and prevent bullying. You can find the Bully Prevention K-1 PowerPoint [HERE](#), the 2-3 PowerPoint [HERE](#) and the 3-5 PowerPoint [HERE](#).



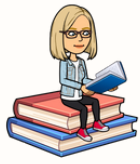
BAM Committee

Last month, BAM celebrated Black History Month with another amazing bulletin board. A SUPER shout out to all the BAM committee members who work together to research and improve the iconography at Meadow Pond. Students had the chance to visit and read about the celebration of achievements by African Americans and recognize African American history.

During the month of March, we celebrate both Woman's History and Irish American Heritage Month. We are looking forward to showing the contributions that women have made to the United States and recognizing the specific achievements women have made over the course of American history in a variety of fields. We will also be celebrating Irish American Heritage to honor the contributions of Irish immigrants and their descendants living in the United States.

Please make sure you check out the BAM Padlet which includes awesome book lists for every month and a summary of the months [HERE](#).





Curriculum Highlights

Check out what is happening in every grade this March:

In **Kindergarten**, in reading, students will continue to build upon their reading Super Powers by "boosting" those powers to tackle texts with greater complexity. At this point, many children will be reading phonetically regular decodable texts, driven mostly by VC and CVC words as well as leveled books with simple, accessible sentences. In these texts, much of the story is held in the illustrations, so in order to truly understand what is happening, students will need to read the words and study the pictures to both confirm the text and learn more. In writing, students will learn that writers not only use writing to tell stories, but they also use writing to teach others how to do stuff. At the start of this unit, there will be lessons on drawing and writing one step at a time and writing with enough clarity and details that others can follow the directions. Writing partners will play an important role as children pair up to test out their directions to make sure everything makes sense and to get ideas from one another. In math, students will continue their study of addition and subtraction by decomposing numbers up to 9 to solve problems, studying related facts, and practicing fact fluency to 5.

In **First Grade**, in our nonfiction reading unit, your child has been working with a partner to read across a text set, a little collection of books about the same topic. Our first-grade classrooms have been abuzz with excitement about all the interesting information they've been learning. Your child has been learning about space, sports, animals and so much more. Our curious readers love learning about high interest topics. We encourage you to visit the local library to continue fueling their curiosity about non-fiction topics. In writing our informational pieces, students are understanding that writers need to elaborate by adding more examples and comparisons. Students are also including diagrams with labels in their writing to emulate informational authors. We are beginning a new unit of math practices. Students will explore concepts of data analysis. Students will collect, organize, represent, and interpret data. Students will create tally charts and picture graphs to solve addition and subtraction problems.

In **Second Grade**, students are working on a new ELA reading unit called Stepping into the World of Story. Students read and talk about fiction books, sharing all they know about characters. During this unit, students learn how to bring characters to life by using their knowledge about story elements. They will also discover, investigate, and learn about the feelings, thoughts, and perspectives of the characters within their stories. Students will discover how the characters have a sense of purpose, empathy, and compassion. This will help students identify solutions for personal and social problems, as well as anticipate and evaluate the consequences of one's own actions. In writing, students are working on Writing Gripping Fictional Stories with Meaning and Significance. They are learning to elaborate by stretching out important parts of the story, develop a character, increase their volume of writing, develop tension in their writing, and make revisions. In math students are working on numbers to 1,000. They will be reading and writing 3-digit numbers, exploring place value, and learning how to compare 3-digit numbers, using their knowledge of place value. By the end of the month, students will be adding 3-digit numbers, using models and strategies.

In **Third Grade** students will continue to follow characters and make claims about them using details from the text. During ELA students will also begin a Test Prep Unit of study. The units are designed to help Grade 3 students get ready for their New York State Test as well as continue to help build their reading and writing skills. Students will make inferences, find supporting details, look at figurative language and analyze the text. Students will read *Each Kindness* by Jacqueline Woodson and later in the month enjoy a class read aloud *Make Way for Dymonde Daniel* by Nikki Grimes. Students will build their reading muscles and participate in reading marathons! In Math, students will begin a unit of study on Fractions. They will use number lines, fraction bars and games to help build their understanding of fractions.

In **Fourth Grade** reading, students will focus on the events leading up to the American Revolution and learn how to grasp the main idea of nonfiction texts. They will be encouraged to participate in debates and gather information to angle evidence to support a particular side. In writing, students will write an overview of the American Revolution, which will require a thorough understanding of the key events and figures that shaped this pivotal time in American history. They will draft several chapters on a focused subtopic of their choice, which will enable them to explore a particular aspect of the Revolution in greater detail. In preparation for the NYS test, students will be exposed to various English Language Arts concepts, such as answering multiple choice and short response questions. They will learn how to analyze different aspects of a text, including central idea, elements, characters, plot development, and vocabulary, while finding textual evidence to support an answer to inferential questions. In addition to these skills, students will also learn how to craft long responses, making a clear and concise argument using appropriate evidence from the text. In math, students will learn how to represent and interpret data on a line plot, understand how data is distributed, and solve problems involving line plots and fractions. Then they will move on to developing an understanding of decimals and how to locate them on a number line. Finally, students will start a unit on geometric measurement, where they will learn to comprehend concepts of angles and angle measurements. They will develop the ability to use protractors to measure and draw angles while solving word problems.

This March in ELA, **fifth graders** continue working in book clubs to read and discuss either fantasy or historical fiction books. As they read, students will be considering the importance of suspending judgment of characters, analyzing stories for archetypes, and discussing how characters obtain and use power, among other skills. In writing, fifth graders will continue composing literary essays around ideas in the books and short stories they are reading. Additionally, in ELA, students will be engaging in lessons and activities that will help them to prepare for the NYS ELA test. The focus of math will be on dividing fractions, along with using line plots to display and analyze data.

Updates and Reminders



Hi MPES Families,

We ended the month of February with a snow day. Let's hope for some nice weather as we head into March.

Pick a Reading Partner: March is PARP month!! PARP is a PTO program that asks a partner (like parents, grandparents, caretakers, siblings, pets and friends) to read with or to their child for a minimum of 15 minutes a day. The goal is to link the bond between school, home, and the community and encourage kids to discover the love of reading books. At MPES, we link PARP to a theme, which will be "Animals Around Us" this year. Please see the Family information sheet [HERE](#).

Celebrating the science fair: The force was strong this year at Meadow Pond in February as the PTO hosted its annual Science Fair on February 13, 2023. The Star Wars themed science fair displayed the projects, models and inventions of MPES scientists from grades k-5. On the day of the science fair, each class had the opportunity to walk through and see the presentations of their classmates. The night of the event kicked off with our scientists standing proudly by their projects while friends and family walked through listening to their presentations. During the second half of the event, we were joined by special guests from JJHS. We heard presentations by the SciRe class and saw demonstrations by the Robotics club. We also had the Lego Rec Robotics Club of Katonah in attendance. Students 9-14 interested in joining a local robotics club can reach out to Sebastian Oliver at sebastian2424@gmail.com.

Tri-State Visit: This week (starting today!) Tri-State visits will be taking place. The Tri-State Consortium Team, a learning organization comprised of a group of public-school educators from local districts, will be visiting the Katonah-Lewisboro School District. The purpose of the visit is to provide feedback to the Katonah-Lewisboro School District about the District's Learning Commitment: to create engaging, relevant, and active learning environments for our students. As part of the evaluation process, the Tri-State Team sends its members to the schools to meet with administrators, teachers and students to ask for their feedback about our learning environments.

Superintendent's Conference Day (from February): The teachers had a wonderful day of learning on Superintendent's Conference Day. All faculty started their day at the MS with choice workshops where they engaged with colleagues from across the district. Classroom Teachers were involved with building level work related to science, progress reports, and SEL and the Zones of Regulation. There was time to collaborate and plan for their upcoming units of study with their specific students in mind. Special Education teachers and other departments (Special Areas and Related Services) focused on work specific to their discipline. Shout out to parents who donated baked goods for the team. We felt the love and support 😊

What's blooming at Meadow Pond this month you ask?? Well, as nice as the paper flowers were this past month, the students will be happy to see some live plants back on the tables! Starting on March 1st we will have delicious smelling herbs as our centerpieces. Common herbs include mint, basil, oregano, parsley, and thyme. We will also have sage, dill, rosemary and chamomile in our herb displays. Special thanks to the 2nd and 3rd grade families for creating these beautiful herb gardens!

(Reminder) NEW to MPES Kindergarteners: Do you have a preschool age child or know someone with a student about to enter kindergarten? Pass along this message! Families with a child who is currently five years of age, or who will be turning five years of age on or before December 1, 2023, are invited to attend our Kindergarten Orientation, which will be held on Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 7 p.m.

Have a great March!

Soon, Ashlyn and David

Moosey Moments from February



3rd Grade Writing Celebration &
Abe Lincoln Visits 2nd Grade



Science Fair



Band and Orchestra
Concerts