



Principal's Corner

Our second quarter has come to an end, leaving behind a strong academic and social impact on our children. Students participated in lessons that challenged critical thinking skills and in events with local elementary, middle and high school students.

Elementary students participated in an Eric Carle author study; read *Gold Cadillac* by Mildred Taylor; and studied folklores such as *Legend of the Indian Paintbrush* and *The Legend of the Bluebonnet*. They analyzed how characters change throughout a story; cited textual evidence; distinguished fact from opinion; and compared and contrasted themes and topics in myths and stories.



2018-19 Winter Edition

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Secondary students completed a unit on identity. Middle school students read poems by Shel Silverstein and Julio Noboa. High school students participated in a mythology unit. They reflected on themes in myths such as *Icarus and Daedalus*; explored elements found in creation myths; and selected a god or goddess to research as part of their studies.

The second quarter further welcomed the holiday season and a myriad of concerts, gift donations, and fundraisers. Thank you to all who made this a huge success. Our students' academic experiences will be that much richer thanks to your generous donations.

Finally, as the third quarter begins, we look forward to new learning experiences, the days growing longer and perhaps a mild winter.

Warmly,
Griselda



Pre-Kindergarten



Learning numbers is fun, especially when developing our fine motor skills.



This Pre-K student learned to identify his name in print and can write his first name.

We are getting to know names, numbers, shapes & colors.



Sensory play with playdough is a fun, sticky, and engaging way to count our numbers.



Identifying our names with pictures helps us find our cubbies.

We used the SMARTBoard to count our numbers.



It is fun to learn and then be able to identify our shapes and colors.



Kindergarten

2019: The Kindergarten class has gotten off to a great start! We have been practicing the letters of the Alphabet and learning single digit subtraction. We also learned why—to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.—Monday, January 21st, was a day off from school. We listened to stories to learn about the positive changes Dr. King helped make in our country.

We learned how Dr. King fought peacefully for the equal treatment of all people.

We sang songs in honor of his memory and discussed what his dream meant.

The teacher explained, "In the time before Martin Luther King Jr. I would not have been able to work with some students because of the color of their skin."

How do you feel about that?

Samantha said, "That is silly."

How can we honor (celebrate) Dr. King?

"I can be nice to everyone," said Dameer.

Anais said that she could help her friends clean up the toys after free time.

The students enjoyed the subject matter and celebrated how fortunate we all are to be able to learn and have fun with all of our friends in school.

Kindergarten & First Grade



MISS KATIE'S K-1 c l a s s

We have has been hard at work this quarter becoming Mini Master Mathematicians!



VOCABULARY WORDS:

addition, plus, subtraction, minus, equal, together, apart, more, less

These activities allowed us to strengthen our counting and number writing skills.

We are excited about our learning and are proud to share our work!



We have learned several strategies such as utilizing manipulatives, number lines, fingers, drawing pictures, and using ten frames to complete math sentences and equations.

One of our favorite activities included using a life-sized number line to jump back and forth when adding and subtracting.

We also enjoyed other hands-on learning experiences such as interacting with the SMARTBoard and playing games with our peers.

We challenged our skills by reading, illustrating, writing, and solving addition and subtraction word problems.

MISS JEN'S K-1 c l a s s

K-1 learned about **Martin Luther King Jr.** & his dream that **everyone could be friends.** To show their support for his dream, students drew examples of how they could be a friend.



Our class began the new year with a kindness challenge inspired by **Martin Luther King Jr.** Students investigated a plate with sandpaper on one side and cotton balls on the other. As students touched each side, they made observations, "cotton feels soft" and, "sandpaper feels bad (rough)." They also made the connection that words and actions can be the same way! Then they decided that "sandpaper" words are "hurtful" however, "cotton ball" words are "nice." Students enjoyed saying something "cottony" to partners to make them smile. K-1 then continued their research by conducting experiments. First, they compared and contrasted brown and white eggs. They considered what something that was different on the outside would be like on the inside. Then they looked at cinnamon and white powdered Munchkins. Students made the connection that people are the same way. They are different on the outside, but inside people are the same.



Second Grade



Over the last few weeks in conjunction with re-establishing a strong sense of community and classroom routines, second grade students have done a deep dive into our ***Pebbles, Silt, and Salt*** science unit. With a multi-sensory approach to engage all learners, students were given opportunities to discuss and experience rich vocabulary such as rough, smooth, shiny, hard, cobblestone, boulder, sand and pebbles. Students also sorted, weighed, and experimented with the properties of float and sink using different liquids. They ended each session with a rendition of "We Will Rock You" by Queen.



Third Grade Magical Multiplication Masters

This month, we learned how multiplication is faster than adding. We were introduced to the concept of multiplication through the "groups of" strategy.

Students showed mastery by using manipulatives, drawings, iPad apps, and white board work. Everyone should be proud of their hard work!



aRt



David, Grade 2

The art room continues to be a busy place, filled with projects ranging from shape activities to Photoshop tutorials! During the second quarter, Pre-K and early elementary classes created holiday and seasonal projects. We learned about Native American Culture by painting Indian corn, designing symbolic Native American vests and making corn husk dolls. Some classes celebrated Thanksgiving by manipulating shapes into turkeys. In December, we made handprint reindeers to represent favorite winter animals! In preparation for the New Year, K-1 students created a 12 month calendar with framed images representing each month. Kindergarteners created a snowman with "clock hands" to count off the months of the year. Finally, all Pre-K and early elementary students wished for snow by creating large snowflakes based on the story, *The Snowy Day*, by Ezra Jack Keats.

Fourth Grade

A Universe of Possibilities



We learned about the solar system and used technology to go on a galactic explorer scavenger hunt.



Please read the clues below and see if you can guess the planets.

I'm the largest gas giant that you can see, with 67 moons surrounding me. Which planet am I?



I'm blue and green and a little brown. You can see satellites and realize life all around. Which planet am I?

I'm absolutely the farthest planet from the sun and the smallest gas giant so I don't weigh a ton! Which planet am I?



Eyal, Grade 4

Third and fourth grade students learned about Native American power shields and their purpose and the meaning of the elements that decorate them. Students designed quadrants using authentic, natural colors; chose, learned about, and made silhouettes of animal symbols; and then placed symbols in the center of each power shield. Finally, they wove colorful yarn around the edges and completed their shield with a few natural beads and feathers. These classes also used paint sticks to make a "Pop Art" visual shout-out for the year 2019. Each student wrote the year inside a burst or bubble and added bold, colorful dots, stripes, patterns and more to celebrate the New Year.



Alexa, Grade 5

Continued on next page

Fifth Grade

Our Dreams for the World

Students in fifth and sixth grade shared their dreams for the world after discussing the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. King's unique leadership and dream for a better future continue to inspire children and adults around the world. Students watched "Kid President Has A Dream," a video in which Kid President states, "we all have a duty to make sure the world keeps dreaming." Students responded by sharing their dreams for the world and what this would look like.

"My dream for the world is for people to stop being mean to others. This would look like people having fun and smiling."

"My dream for the world is for everyone to stop throwing paper, plastic, and cans in regular trash."

"My dream for the world is to see more laughter and happiness. This would look like people sharing and smiling."

"My dream for the world is for everyone to have food. This would look like everyone having three meals a day."



"My dream for the world is for people to stop breaking the law. This would look like people being nice to each other with no harm."

"My dream for the world is to stop letting some people bully other people. This would look like a peaceful world."

"My dream for the world is to work together as a team. This would look like people would have more respect for one another."

Yolanda Renee King, granddaughter of Dr. King, states in an interview for the Scholastic article, *Keeping the Dream Alive*, that "kids can definitely make a difference" and "there's always something you can do." So in the words of Kid President, "Keep dreaming, Keep dreaming, Keep dreaming!"

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The fifth and sixth grade students occupied December by filling orders for our 2nd annual MPB ornament sale and completed their printmaking projects. Students also created an abstract calendar cover, by choosing images to represent each month and then dividing them into twelve spaces. Some students drew pictures and others selected paper designs that reflected a monthly holiday, season or event.

Last, but not least, ninth grade students created a watercolor and cut paper spirals to demonstrate the Fibonacci Sequence. They each also researched an artist and created a project in that artist's style: Projects included facts about the artist, examples of their work, the artist's name written with Wordart, a photo and a quote. Some students explored elements of Photoshop—experimenting with filters—and designed motivational posters.

aRt

Sixth Grade

Traveling to Ancient Mesopotamia

Sixth grade students learned about **Ancient Mesopotamia** in Social Studies this quarter. Students learned about the effects of the **Agricultural Revolution** and how it contributed to the establishment of the first civilizations. They learned about the unique geography of Ancient Mesopotamia and that **Mesopotamia** means “the land between two rivers” and was established between the **Tigris and Euphrates rivers**, which helped make the surrounding land fertile. They learned that because of the healthy soil, Mesopotamia gained the nickname “**The Fertile Crescent.**”



We drew models of a typical city-state and wrote about Mesopotamian achievements!

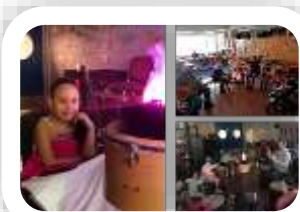


Students learned about daily life in Mesopotamia, including the **architecture of the city-states**, the types of **governments, and modes of communication.**

Students also wrote about life in Ancient times.

Next, we'll learn about Mesopotamia's technological advancements and contributions.

MUSIC



In music, we learned about Native Americans; how they play instruments and sing around a campfire. We learned a song by the *Wabanaki* that was sung to help keep mosquitos away: The “Mosquito dance” was sung and performed using drums. We took turns leading

the class in song. As a culmination project for our Native American music unit, we set up a classroom campfire and pretended to be in the woods looking up at the stars while singing and dancing.



Family & Consumer Science

In Family and Consumer Science, the seventh and eighth graders explored Fashion & Clothing Management through videos, vocabulary, dialogue, and even hands on experiences. Students learned the history of the “ever so popular” jeans. Students were able to deconstruct and refurbish several clothing items. They also worked through various stages to create a unique piece of clothing. First they sketched the design, then engaged in a hands-on experience which included a needle and thread, and ultimately, focused on “selling” to a customer.



Secondary

Secondary

MaThEmAtIcs

8

Eighth grade students are continuing to look at linear equations, modeling, solving and graphing real world situations in both slope intercept and standard forms. They will continue to apply this knowledge to nonlinear equations during the third quarter.

10

Geometry students have used trigonometry to solve for unknown sides and angles of right triangles. Given situations, students have been able to analyze the information, choose the appropriate ratio, and determine the unknown quantity.

Seventh grade students have been creating and solving equations; working with volume, surface area, density and other scientific applications; and working to modify equations to fit a given situation.

7

Algebra students have been applying their knowledge of quadratic functions to projectile motion based physics problems. Students have seen how the maximum, starting value, and roots can model the flight of a projectile. They used algebraic knowledge to solve for these values.

9

11 & 12

Algebra II students have evaluated trigonometric functions by using the unit circle as a guide for sine and cosine. Students have seen the relationship between these two ratios from the associated graphs and altered the graphs' periods and amplitudes by utilizing rules for functional transformations.

Seventh and eighth grade students explored these questions to discover and share elements of their own identities with one another. They considered their names, appearance, religion, race, culture and experiences to make text to self connections with various pieces of literature. Students constructed Bio Poems and silhouettes; interviewed family members; or spoke with school staff to learn more about identity. Finally, seventh and eighth graders shared their findings with their classmates.

EnGLiSh

SciENcE

Seventh graders explored plants and their growth rates as a result of different mediums such as dark vs. light exposure, amount of water, use of fertilizer vs. compost, and the amount of carbon dioxide. Students used a simulation to manipulate these variables, collect, graph and analyze their data to draw conclusions about photosynthesis.

In addition to studying plants and their role in the ecosystem, students worked hands-on to learn about evolutionary relationships between species and natural selection.

Eighth grade students learned about the properties of matter by acting out the phases of matter and particle motion, calculating the density of various liquids and solids and predicting their buoyancy in various liquids. They used a simulation to find out which crown was made of pure gold. In addition, students used interactive periodic tables to "adopt" an element and researched the element's atomic mass, atomic number, origin of name, and interesting facts about their element. They completed their study of the periodic table by making advertisements for and presenting to an audience.

SciENce

Ninth graders studied different types of reproduction and analyzed the advantages and disadvantages of asexual and sexual reproduction from an evolutionary perspective. In addition, they compared gamete formation with and without crossing over and how this affects variation, natural selection and evolution. Students also explored the structure of DNA and its ability to replicate during cell division. Finally, they researched and discussed controversial genetic engineering topics such as cloning and genetically modified foods.

Tenth grade students studied and analyzed different types of physical evidence. They described several methods for lifting prints, determined primary identification numbers and classified their own fingerprints. In addition, students compared and contrasted human and animal hair. During blood splatter analysis, students concluded that this type of evidence is crucial in determining the events leading to a crime.

Eleventh and twelfth grade students studied the Earth's biosphere, lithosphere, geosphere, atmosphere and hydrosphere and how human actions affect natural cycles in these spheres. Students also brainstormed how they can take actions to reduce the negative effects we have on the environment.

GRADE 7
Causes of the American Revolution

GRADE 8
The Horrors of World War I

GRADE 9
Ancient Greece

GRADE 10
The Industrial Revolution

Grades 11 & 12
The functions of the three branches of government

SoCiAl sTuDiEs

HOT TOPICS

The government shutdown

Proposed building of a wall

Immigration

Potential presidential candidates

Career Development & Occupational Studies

Students in Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) have been exploring the ART of advertising. They looked at examples of 'applied,' 'performing; and 'visual' arts; sorted the various pictures into folders; and wrote definitions for each of the arts under investigation. Students then brainstormed different products and services they have seen advertised on television; automobiles, charities, clothing, colleges, food, insurance, restaurants, toys, and a "Whole bunch of other stuff," as one student put it. When asked, "Where else do you find these things advertised?" The students listed:



on billboards
in magazines
in newspapers
on the sides of buses
at bus stops
in the subway
on trains.

Creative Writing

Creative Writing again welcomed Spoken Interludes with Karen, our resident writer who works with students. Graduation from the program was a success.

Below are some excerpts from the students' stories.

Grace and her friends share the flowers. She buys flowers for mom and dad. She bought a flower for sister because she was sick. She brought flowers for Auntie Ella. She got flowers for grandpa and grandma. Grace brought a flower her teacher. She adores the flowers so much.

Mel walked down the hallway passing the group of class president candidate posters. She took a deep breath out of nerves when she saw the poster with her face on it. "Melanie is our destiny" it said. She thought for a minute about her catchy slogan.

She smiled but she realized that it's super dumb and doesn't make sense or sound right.

My favorite place is on the basketball court. I can shoot the basketball into the hoop. It's fun and my friend play too. You can play with people you don't know. It makes me feel splendid. It's challenging, but that's part of the fun. Basketball makes me feel good and it's exciting.

I played video games with my friends played the game Minecraft. I played the game created by PS4 called Skyrim with orc and troll snowman.

We are looking forward to the Spring session! Next in Creative Writing, we will be starting our Poetry unit. We will learn about Acrostic, Cinquain, Diamante, and Bio poems.

MPB Family Support Group

We are off to a great start!

Three months of parent meetings with School Psychologist, Francesco Bello, and Guidance Counselor, Kate Garcia have been a tremendous success.

Purpose: To create a safe and welcoming environment for families to voice their concerns for their children's social, emotional, and academic needs.

If you are interested in meeting with us, please call Francesco Bello at (914)347-1800 (81214)
Visit with us as seldom or often as you like.

"It is beneficial for families to have a support group and a place to discuss and share resources in an open and safe environment."



SEDL Lane

The SEDL Committee has been planning many events for our school community. This quarter, some events in December included the Holiday Celebration and Spirit Week concluding with PJ Day. In January, we celebrated "Soft and Fuzzy" Day in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. with a focus on performing acts of kindness and using nice words. The SEDL Committee sponsored a community fundraiser, *Loose Change* to benefit The American Red Cross. Thank you for supporting our fundraiser! We collected \$173 in total. Our Committee also sponsored our annual Alumni Day. Twenty-four young alumni returned to MPB to share their unique stories—with current students—about transitioning back to community schools and post-secondary experiences. On January 22nd, we kicked off Career Month where all students learned about various careers from outside community members. We arranged for a dancer, an actor/producer, a team of Westchester County K-9 Officers, and a dog trainer to present. We are looking forward to planning exciting events for the next quarter.

Past Events

Our SEDL Committee sponsored a successful spirit day on January 25th in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Students and staff wore "soft & fuzzy" clothing and spread acts of kindness throughout the community. We learned that "soft & fuzzy" clothing feels nice like "giving a compliment" or "sharing."

Career Month
welcomed a dancer
and an actor to speak
with students.

Upcoming Events

Career Month
continues with visits
from another dancer,
Puppies Behind Bars,
February 13th.



Picture Day Schedule:

- February 13th—elementary
- February 14th—secondary

Make-up picture day for all
students will be on March 20th

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	Picture day elementary	Picture day secondary	SPIRIT DAY	16
17	*****Winter Recess*****					23
24	25	26	27	28		

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TENTATIVE dates for Summer School 2019

Monday, July 8th to Friday, August 16th