



## Principal's Corner

As we begin the third quarter, we look forward to students in grades 3 through 8 beginning preparations for the State tests in English Language Arts and Mathematics. However, it will not be all about preparing for State exams; students will continue to be immersed in and exposed to rich literature. Our school and classroom libraries are up to the task of supporting students varying interests in literature, having been replenished as a result of successful participation in the book fair in December. Proceeds from the book fair have allowed us to restock. As our students read they learn to ask and answer questions that demonstrate understanding of the text; determine the central message of a story; and discover meaning of words and phrases in context. Writing also plays a central role this quarter as students work on creating clear and coherent pieces that are age and audience appropriate.

Though learning is at the heart of what we do, we also know how to enjoy ourselves. This quarter students will have an opportunity to be entertained by the very talented dancers from Off Center Dance Theater. The show will be topped with a spectacular **finale that includes our students' participation in the performance.** Additionally, this quarter our secondary students will once again work with Hudson Valley Shakespeare. **We are anxiously looking forward to seeing what this year's collaboration** brings as we focus on Shakespeare's hilarious comedy, *Much Ado About Nothing*.

There is plenty happening at MPB this winter to keep our students warmly engaged in learning and growing. Enjoy the beauty that winter brings.

Griselda Reyes



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# ELEMENTARY

## SEIS New Year, More Learning!

The new year is off to a strong start! We are learning new letters, numbers, shapes, and colors. We even have a new month and season to focus on: Students are being exposed to and experiencing lessons and activities highlighting the letter J for January and the color blue. We are also reviewing the numbers 1 and 0 as well as the shape of a circle. Winter is a fun season that provides opportunities to engage in hands-on multi-sensory learning with cold, snow, warm clothing and so much more! **We can't wait for another feel, taste, and smell lesson similar to our 'Feasts' in celebration of Thanksgiving and the December holidays. Stay tuned for the learning fun that is to come!**

## Pre-Kindergarten Winter Wonder

Preschool has been having fun learning about the Arctic, the animals and where the Arctic is located on a globe. We have been learning about the letter J and different words that begin with the letter J like January. Our students have been learning how to write, trace and form the letter J. Winter learning is fun!



## Students in K-1 Math Wizards

### Mr. Stephen's class

The Kindergarten-1st grade class has been working hard on representing addition and subtraction through use of objects, fingers, mental images, drawings, sounds, and acting out situations, along with verbal explanations, expressions and equations. Daily math periods began with the class working cooperatively to solve the problem of the day: a word problem that asked the students to select a strategy to find the correct answer. Students were assisted in utilizing a variety of multisensory strategies to successfully solve the daily problem. We incorporated counting cubes, pictures, and a variety of classroom objects to aid the students in understanding the concepts of addition and subtraction.



Children enjoyed singing songs such as Five Little Ducks and Five Green & Speckled Frogs. The class had fun turning the classroom into a bowling alley to help them understand the concept of subtraction. We bowled with five (5) pins and students were responsible for verbally stating the problem so the teacher could write it on the classroom SmartBoard. The children participated in teacher formulated games on the SmartBoard where they manipulated pictures to effectively work out equations. We have been having a lot of fun in the K-1 classroom during math time and learning a great deal in the process.



# Go Away Germs!

## Students in K-1

The scientists in Kindergarten-1st grade have enjoyed learning ways to stay healthy and fight off germs. We discovered that germs are tiny things that can only be seen with a microscope. **Ms. Katie's class** Although they are small, they are powerful. When germs get into our body, they make us sick. The students created their own germs and hung them in their favorite spot in the classroom to help us recognize that...germs are everywhere! The students enjoyed a fun activity using glitter germs to explore the journey of a germ between objects and people. We explored different ways to fight germs. We learned about washing our hands, using a tissue, and coughing into our elbows in the classroom. We completed a task analysis activity to properly wash our hands and sequenced pictures to help us remember. Students learned that it is important to make lots



of bubbles when washing hands because the germs stick to the bubbles and are washed down the drain with running water. Some things we reinforced included washing hands for 30 seconds and singing the alphabet song twice through while washing to make sure the correct amount of time is met. We learned additional ways to fight germs when we are at home such as showering, washing our clothes, and brushing our teeth. Kindergarten-1st grade class is staying healthy and saying "Go Away Germs!"

## Melanie Watt Masters

## First Grade



First graders completed an author study on Melanie Watt Masters; focusing on the series, *Scaredy Squirrel*. We read "Scaredy Squirrel, Scaredy Squirrel at Night" and "Scaredy Squirrel Makes a Friend." Students made text-to-self connections & shared their fears, such as, "the dark". Students used the text and illustrations to identify things Scaredy Squirrel is afraid of such as "tarantulas" and "sharks". Students made text-to-text connections to notice familiar trends that occur in each story; observing that Scaredy Squirrel must face an unfamiliar experience such as "leaving home," "making a friend," and "the dark." Students realized "fear" caused Scaredy Squirrel to want to stick to what he is used to, but that perseverance pays off in the end! Finally, 1st graders became Scaredy Squirrel experts and created new Scaredy Squirrel plots that mirrored the themes in the series, including fear of: "the bathroom," "sharks," "vegetables," "bones," "people," "roller coasters," and "thunder & lightning." Look out to see if the next Melanie Watt story includes our great ideas!!!

## Whimsical Winter Writing

## Second Grade



Second graders have welcomed winter and enjoyed developing their own narrative writing pieces based on their prior knowledge of the season. In fact, student winter narratives came with a twist: Students wrote as if they were trapped inside a snow globe where winter was never ending! Students have been improving their writing skills by focusing on descriptive words that inspire the reader to engage in the five senses: sight, smell, hearing, taste, and touch. Students incorporated their own senses and used their prior knowledge of winter to assist them with planning, organizing, and developing their *Trapped in a Snow Globe* narratives. Students utilized a graphic organizer to create their own ideas for activating the five senses. For example, 2nd graders expressed that they love to drink hot chocolate throughout winter. Students applied this connection into their writing and created the sensory detail, "The smell of hot chocolate filled the snow globe." Second graders rose to the challenge of including a minimum of two sensory details within their writing and they were incredibly proud of their work. Stop by the 2nd grade Trapped in a Snow Globe Bulletin Board to engage your senses and read all about how students escaped their snow globes.

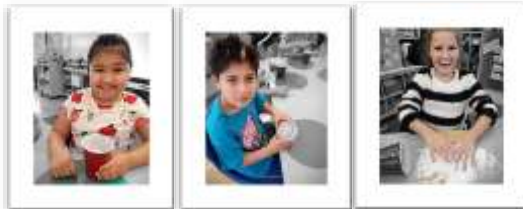


## Third Grade Magical Multiplication Masters



Third graders morphed into magical multiplication mathematicians this month! They learned that multiplication is an easier and faster way to add. Students were introduced to the concept of multiplication through the strategy of equal groups. For example, if David read the number sentence  $3 \times 4$ , he would show his work with three circles to represent the three groups, and place four equal items in each group. Students have shown their mastery with manipulatives, drawings, iPad programs, and white board work. Everyone should be extremely proud of their hard work! Make sure to stop and ask a 3rd grader about drawing math pictures to solve multiplication problems.

## Fourth Grade Snow Much Fun Learning



Do you know why it snows? MPB's 4th graders do and want to share what we learned with you! We learned all about the [water cycle](#). First, liquid water heats up and rises in the air. This is called [evaporation](#). Next, the water vapor rises in the air and then cools and turns back into drops of liquid water. This is called [condensation](#). Then, the drops of water come together to form [clouds](#). Lastly, when the clouds get too heavy, water falls. This is called [precipitation](#). We learned that snow is a frozen form of [precipitation](#). After learning all about snow, we were able to bring it into our classroom and use adjectives to describe it!

## Fifth Grade Accomplishments and Goals



Students in 5th grade learned how the New Year is celebrated around the world. Students shared their own unique customs and traditions that ring in the New Year. Students reflected on their accomplishments of 2019 and set goals for 2020.

Anellys was proud to share about her improved division skills and looks forward to strengthening her foot and walking in the new year.

Reenum accomplished using her "big strong voice in class" and set a goal to improve her penmanship when working.



Michael's accomplishment was the improvement of skills with his right hand and his goal for the new year is to navigate around his neighborhood with his cane.

Leah shares an improvement in her writing skills and set herself a goal to improve her "math skills using different strategies."

Maxwell's accomplishment for last year was improving his typing skills on a computer and his goal for this year is "to be able to walk and go on vacation without my wheelchair."



Keira is happy to report that she successfully used a power chair in the classroom and her new goal is "to make more friends in and out of the classroom."

Eissa has demonstrated achievement in vocalizing his needs and we are excited to watch him work toward his goal of participating more in class in the new year.

Fifth grade is ready to face new challenges, keeping in mind all of our accomplishments and next steps, as we continue to grow and learn in 2020!



## Sixth Grade Testing for the Presence of Acid

This quarter, students in 6th grade completed a unit of study on Food and Nutrition. Students learned about the six essential nutrients the human body needs for survival and they conducted in-depth investigations of fats, sugars, and acids. One of the experiments conducted was an investigation called an 'Acid Test' in which various solutions were sampled for the presence of acid. Students learned important vocabulary related to the experiment, focusing on the terms indicator, concentration, and chemical reaction. Students tested various solutions for the presence of acid using baking soda as an indicator. They tested water, vinegar, and a 50/50 solution of water and vinegar. In order to test these solutions, students had to understand that baking soda (the acid indicator) would produce a chemical reaction only when it was mixed with an acid. Students first tested water by mixing it with baking soda and found that there was no chemical reaction, therefore, they determined that water was not an acid. Next, students tested vinegar by combining it with baking soda. They immediately noticed a chemical reaction (the creation of carbon dioxide), so they determined that vinegar was an acid. Finally, students completed the same test on the 50/50 solution and observed that there was a chemical reaction, but the reaction was less than when vinegar was not diluted with water. Students learned that the concentration of acid was less in the 50/50 solution, which caused a smaller reaction, but they determined that there was still a presence of acid. Students continued similar investigations by observing chemical reactions in foods that contained fats and sugars.



## SPECIALS

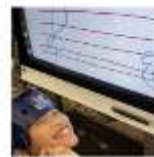
### ART 2020 Looks Bright!

In Art we welcomed the holiday season with many projects! Here are some highlights! Pre-K to 1st grade made fall scarecrow faces and mosaic trees from shapes. Our 3rd through 6th grade students created paper woven baskets which they then arranged some dried flowers in for a Thanksgiving table decoration. Some grades also completed a project resembling stained glass. Many classes also helped with a welcome display by our bussing area. Finally, we ended the quarter with New Year wishes from collages to call out posters, everyone is looking forward to 2020. The secondary students painted watercolor birch trees and are currently completing a variety of perspective projects. We are hoping to have an exhibit to finish out the semester.

### Music Take Note

Our upper elementary students are learning how to read musical notation. We are learning about the musical staff, "G" clef, and how to label the staff with the note

names. Some of our classes are even starting to learn about quarter, half, and whole notes. Here is a student who is drawing a "G" clef on the smart board. In our lower elementary classes, we had a visit from our friend Mindy, from the Hoth Barthelson School. Mindy sang us songs with her Ukulele. She also read us a story about snow. Here is a picture of some of us pretending to ice skate as we listen to some winter music. Our 11th and 12th graders are starting to learn about the instruments of the orchestra. We are having friends come in and perform for us from the New Westchester Symphony Orchestra. We are able to ask them questions and even try some of the instruments for ourselves. Here is a student "checking out" the cello. He is holding a bow and changing the sound of the strings by pushing his fingers down of the strings.







Elementary Highlights







## Secondary Highlights

## SPECIALS

continued

### Health & Nutrition

#### First Aid 101



We concluded our unit on "First Aid". The class made First Aid Kits that they will be taking home soon. We discussed how to give first aid, what to do in any emergency situation, what should be in our kits, and how to assemble them. Students were engaged as they role-played various accident situations such as a "bloody nose" and "second degree burns". It was exciting to see the application of their skills.



### Library Skills

#### Spotlight on the Library

Middle grade students have been working in their Library Skills class on identifying the main idea in a text. Students have been reading and annotating various text selections. As students read each paragraph, they are asked to pause and think about the topic sentence that controls the paragraph before moving on. Students have also been suggesting their own titles for text and using evidence from their reading to support their answers. In addition, everyone continues to assist with sorting books and preparing them to be returned to the library shelves for others to enjoy!

## SECONDARY

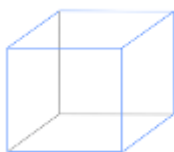
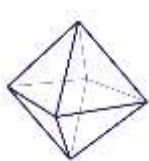
### Family & Consumer Science

#### Trend Setters

Seventh and eighth graders were engaged as they explored fashion trends throughout history in a variety of interactive ways. Students learned many definitions pertaining to fashion and opportunities to become a fashion designer themselves; creating a handmade scarf that they were able to keep or gift.







# Mathematics

## Mathercise Your Brain

This semester students have engaged in a variety of different exercises to enhance their mathematical knowledge. Students in the 7th grade focused on 3 dimensional shapes, utilizing formulas for volume and independently creating their own equations for surface area. Eighth grade students focused on rigid motions, creating congruent and similar shapes on the coordinate plane, then finding distances between points using the Pythagorean Theorem. Algebra I students worked with quadratic equations; determining the best method to solve using either factoring, completing the square, using the quadratic formula or graphing. Geometry students worked with properties of triangles to prove congruency and began working with right angle trigonometry. Algebra II students looked at properties of exponential growth and decay and applied this knowledge to areas related to population, tournament play, bank accounts and bacterial growth. It has been a successful half year so far and we look forward to much more knowledge and growth in the future.

# English Language Arts

## Masks and Myths



During the second quarter, students in 7th and 8th grade read a novel titled, Bronx Masquerade. The students were actively engaged in the reading and wanted to learn about the 21 different characters in the story. Throughout the unit, students were able to make text-to-self connections as they found the characters very relatable. We learned about colloquial language and diction. We focused primarily on the concept of identity and what makes people who they are. Through our final project, we developed a presentation on our own personal identities. The students in 9th through 12th grade **explored the Hero's Journey, created by Joseph Campbell. The students used the 12 major steps found in this journey and applied these concepts to The Odyssey.** We discussed characters, conflict and specific plot elements throughout the unit. We also had the opportunity to work with Katie, a resident actress, from Hudson Valley **Shakespeare Foundation to create our own hero's myth.** We were able to take an interesting sci-fi spin on a classic topic! Students had fun creating characters and an exciting, thrill-seeking adventure.



# Science Think Like a Scientist



This quarter we engaged in various activities and experiments that were both engaging and focused on critical thinking. In 7th grade students designed controlled experiments to learn how different variables affect the rate of photosynthesis using a simulation. For example, they changed the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub>, light intensity, temperature and the color of light. They collected data, graphed it, and analyze it, to draw conclusions based on evidence. After completing the simulation, the students engaged in hands-on experiments. They designed experiments to test how various stimuli affect plant growth. In 8th grade, students identified physical and chemical properties of matter, then used their knowledge to identify unknown substances; estimating and calculating the density of various objects, including water, rubbing alcohol and oil. In the process, they learned how to use various tools, including the triple beam balance, and electric balance. In 9th grade, students learned about DNA structure, replication and the processes of transcription and translation. **They engaged in active discussion to answer the question "What makes me who I am and can I be changed?"** In addition, **students constructed models to explain genetic disorder inheritance patterns.** Students in 10th grade, analyzed physical evidence including hair, blood splatter, tool mark and tire tracks impressions, and fingerprints. They solved simple statistics problems to determine the reliability of class evidence. In the 11th and 12th grades **students studied Earth's environmental systems. They used a simulation to learn about the different processes that occur in the greenhouse effect. They used NOAA's graphing tool to answer scientific questions about how climate patterns have changed since 1895 nationally and globally.**

# Social Studies Exploring History

7th graders are learning the causes of the American Revolution.

12th grade recently started the section on Participation in Government.

10th & 11th graders will start to focus their attention on upcoming Regents.

11th grade students are engaged in studying the U.S. Constitution.



8th grade is discussing the causes of World War I and how events at the end of the war led to World War II.

9th grade started the unit on Ancient Greece and how this ancient civilization has shaped Western society.

10th grade students are studying the Industrial Revolution.





## Career Development & Occupational Studies



After taking a long, hard look at their individual skills and interests, students read about sixteen different 'Career Clusters' and researched the various

### Tying It Together

jobs that fit within each cluster. Students were then asked to create posters of all sixteen clusters and possible jobs for each. This activity led to a conversation about collaboration and individual skill building as well as the application of what students are studying in school to real world situations. Students used mathematics to measure and draw boxes and lines on poster board, write to scale; and calculate the number of posters needed for

presentation of all sixteen 'Career Clusters.' They discussed what jobs would require a science background like pharmacy technician, biomedical engineer, and registered nurse. Students associated history with being a judge, attorney or paralegal. Finally, the infusion of English Language Arts was undeniable as students dug deeper into how they would be presenting their findings. When asked what other school experiences they've had that can be applied to the workplace, students talked about the project-based-learning they've been experiencing together on Wednesday afternoons. Finally, as part of the ongoing work experience in CDOS - and because they unanimously agree that there can be a more efficient system for gathering materials - students are creating their own products for conveniently storing writing utensils. Perhaps one day these crafty products will be advertised, marketed and sold!

## SCHOOL WIDE

### Everyone Counts!

## GUIDANCE

During Advisory, students are focusing on their educational awareness and setting of goals. Before break, we learned about understanding what our report cards and transcripts look like and what they mean. In January, we will further our awareness by reflecting on where we are and looking ahead to where we want to be. This quarter MPB has brought back our Work Study Program. This program gives our secondary students real life work skills as they interact with our elementary students. After observing the classes and interviewing with teachers, 6 students were placed in our Pre-K through 6th grade classrooms. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, our students work with elementary teachers to help support the students and further their learning. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, they meet with Laurie Scinicariello, Interim School Counselor, to process the work they are doing in the classrooms and prepare for future classes. Work related topics are also discussed. Also coming out of the Guidance Department is an upcoming presentation from ACCES-VR on January 15th at 10:00am in the Multi-Media Center. ACCES-VR is a state agency that provides services to assist individuals with disabilities achieve their career goals. This presentation is designed to inform our secondary families about transitional services available after high school.



# Social, Emotional Development & Learning

The SEDL Committee has been planning many events for our school community. This quarter, our students supported Pediatric Diabetes Awareness Month by wearing blue and Influenza Awareness Month by wearing white. There were multiple organizations that visited our program over the month of December and brought amazing choruses and thoughtful gifts for all students. December concluded with an elementary Cookie Chaos and our annual Alumni Day that included 23 young alumni returning to MPB to share their unique stories about transition back to community schools and post-secondary experiences. On January 16th we will be kicking off Career Month where all students will learn about various careers from outside community members. We have already booked a hairdresser, an exterminator, and a clown. We are looking forward to planning exciting events for the next quarter.

January 15th Parent Meeting– Transition

January 21st-24th Regents Exams

January 24th Spirit Day—Birth Defects Prevention Month — Wear Pink & Blue

January 29th Lou Lenny the Clown (grades K-6)

## Prior Events

## UPCOMING EVENTS!



February 5th Elementary Picture Day

February 12th Off Center Dance Theater

February 13th Secondary Picture Day

February 14th Spirit Day— **American Heart Month & Valentine's Day**—Wear Red & White

February 17th — 21st Winter Recess, School Closed

March 18th Make-Up Picture Day

March 19th Spring Open House for Parents & Guardians

March 20th **Superintendent's Conference Day**- No School for Students

March 25th & 26th ELA State Exams

April 6th—13th Spring Recess School Closed

Summer School 2020 will be held from July 8th-August 14th