Blythedale Buzz

MOUNT PLEASANT BLYTHEDALE U.F.S.D.

Fall Edition 2018/2019

Principal's Corner

The 2018-19 school year opened with a flurry of excitement. Students returned to find the school with freshly painted doors and columns, new touchscreen laptops in each classroom, a brand new piano in the music room, and the library fully stocked with new books for students to read during "Storytime with Jodi" and to borrow for reading at home. We welcomed new staff, students, and families to the MPB Team. During the first quarter, our students engaged in hands on learning; interactive notebooks. The purpose of the interactive notebook is for students to organize their thinking and use their notebook as an effective study tool as they prepare for both classroom and State tests. Our elementary students sharpened their literacy skills by learning about visualization, inferencing, and author's craft. Similarly, students participated in STEM activities. Students built towers out of pumpkin candy and toothpicks requiring them to use critical thinking, planning, communication, and mathematical skills to build their structures. At the secondary level, students had the distinguished opportunity to participate in a special presentation from Xylem Inc., a water technology company based in Rye Brook dedicated to enabling their customers to transport, treat, test, and efficiently use water throughout a community. Volunteers from Xylem conducted a hands on presentation. Through this interactive approach our students left the session with an understanding of how our actions impact our water and the water issues we may face in 10 years. We wrap up the first quarter of learning for the 2018-19 school year feeling wiser and looking forward to the new learning that will be coming in the months ahead.

Fondly,

Griselda

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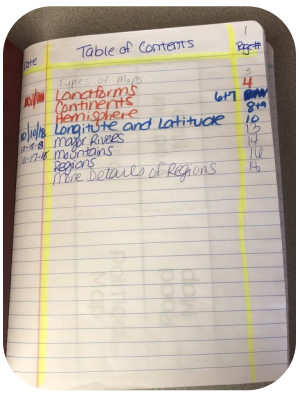

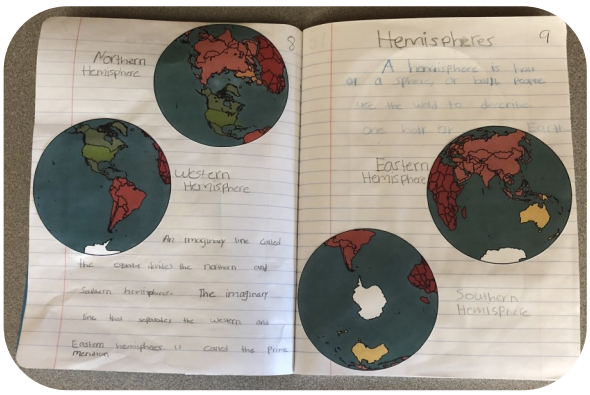

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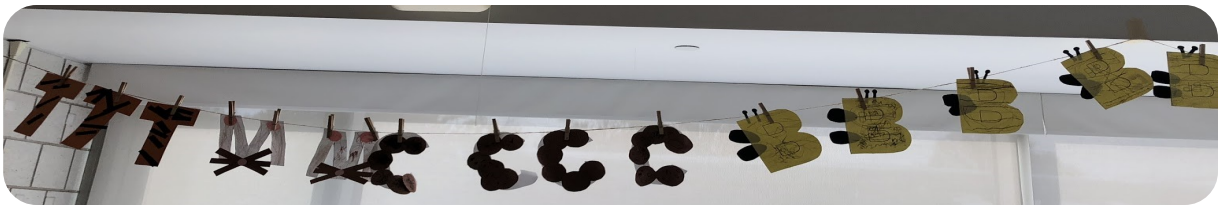
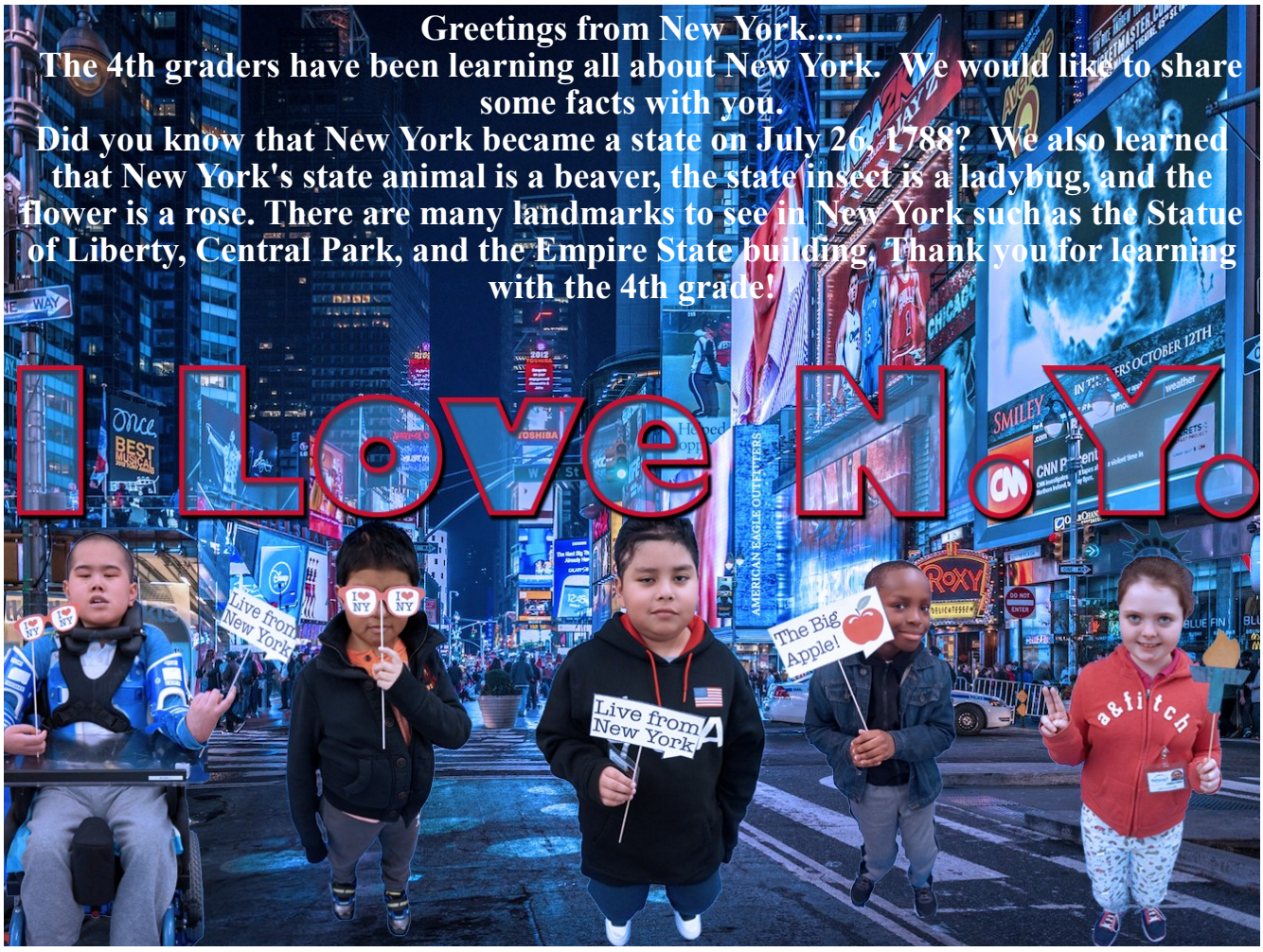
Learning Letters



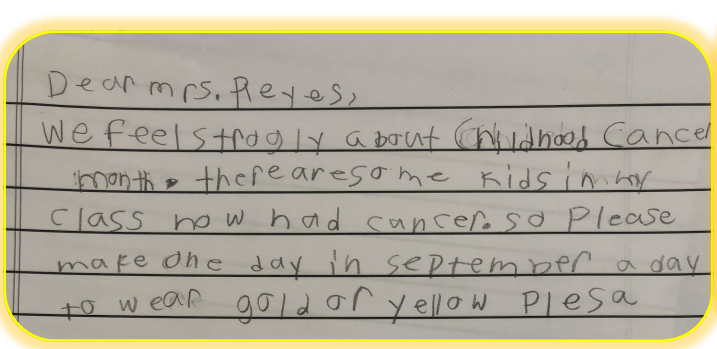
Kindergarten has been hard at work learning letters B, C, M, and T. We have practiced identifying the letters and the sounds that each letter makes. We love to sing along to phonics songs to practice our sounds and make lists of words that start with the letters. The kindergarteners are becoming pros at sorting pictures by letter and sound. For every letter, the students have made a craft to correspond with a word to remember the letter. We have made a Cookie C, Bumble Bee B, Mouse M, and Tiger T. We also love to read books that relate to the letters we are working on. Our favorites are The Very Hungry Caterpillar, If You Give a Mouse a Cookie, Goodnight Moon, Mooncake, and Time for Bed. We also enjoy singing "Down by the Bay" to learn our rhyming words. Our class loves to sing and spell the names of the students in the class and help the teachers take attendance. The kindergarten class is practicing counting to 10 and establishing 1:1 correspondence for number 1-5. We love counting with fish and bears, playing games to count, and count the days on the calendar.

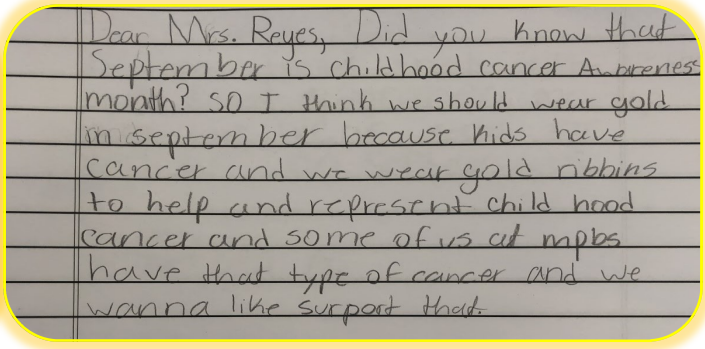
New York State



Heroes and Advocates

The MPBS community proudly wore pink on Friday, October 26th to show their support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. One of our sixth graders wanted to know why we can't wear yellow or gold. As a result of his inquiry, the fifth and sixth grade students learned that September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Students expressed interest in wearing yellow or gold after a Q&A with three of our brave cancer survivors who shared insights on their experiences. After learning more, the fifth and sixth grade classes were motivated to collectively advocate for one another. Students decided to write letters to our principal asking her to designate a day for our school to honor and support the heroes among us as well as raise awareness for all the young fighters around the world. The following are excerpts taken from some of their letters:


Dear mrs. Reyes,
We feel strogly about Childhood Cancer month. there are some kids in my class now had cancer. so Please make one day in september a day to wear gold or yellow Plesa


Dear Mrs. Reyes, Did you know that September is childhood cancer Awareness month? so I think we should wear gold in september because kids have cancer and we wear gold ribbins to help and represent child hood cancer and some of us at mpbs have that type of cancer and we wanna like surport that.

Pumpkins

Second graders spent a week discovering facts about pumpkins. They discovered that pumpkins come in different colors other than orange. They discovered that sometimes pumpkin skin is not smooth. They discovered that pumpkins come in different sizes and shapes too! They used a scale to see how many pounds the class pumpkins weighed and used a balance scale to see if they had 2 pumpkins the same weight. They conducted an experiment to determine if pumpkins sink or float. Guess what? Even the heaviest pumpkin floated. They are eager to find out if a pumpkin still floats after it is cut into a Jack O Lantern. The class cut open a pumpkin and guessed how many seeds were inside. They are ready to put them into cups in group of tens to determine the exact amount since there were too many to count. The most exciting discovery was finding out that pumpkins rot! The classroom started to smell and after close observation they discovered mold!

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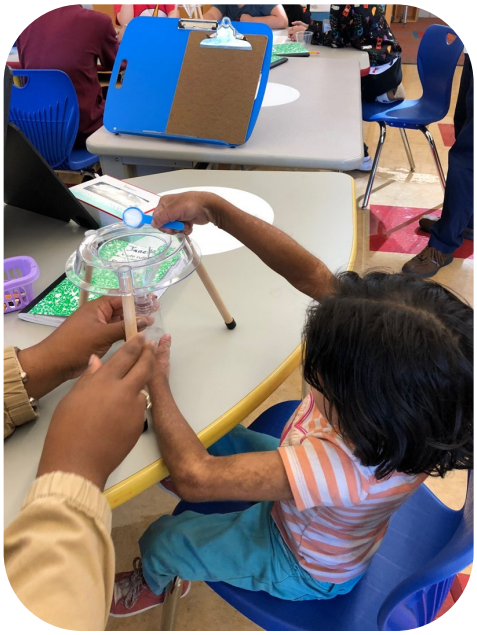
Conducting Experiments

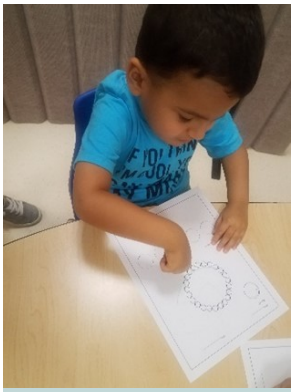


This quarter in science, 6th grade students learned about mixtures and solutions with the 5th grade class. Students conducted experiments where they tried to separate solutions using different filters. Students attempted to separate various solutions, including a gravel and water mixture and a salt and water mixture. They used a coffee filter and screen filter to test which filter would separate the mixtures most effectively. Students found that both filters effectively separated gravel and water. However, they found that both filters were ineffective in separating the salt water solution. Students brainstormed different reasons why the filters did not work on the salt water solution. They determined that the salt particles were too fine to be filtered. Students brainstormed some more effective ways they could separate the solution. Some students suggested the salt water solution could be separated through the process of evaporation. Other students thought that adding heat to the solution would cause the salt to separate from the water. Students took 25 ml of the salt water and placed them in cups to leave out over the weekend in order to test their evaporation theory. Observations the following week revealed that the salt and water solution could be separated through evaporation. In the end, students were left with salt crystals in the bottom of their cups!

Exploring Colors, Letters and Days of the Week

Pre K students are learning to trace and independently write letters.

Our students are learning to identify colors.



Students are learning to independently identify the letter Oo and trace it.

Pre K students are interacting with their peers while learning about the letter Pp and exploring pumpkins.

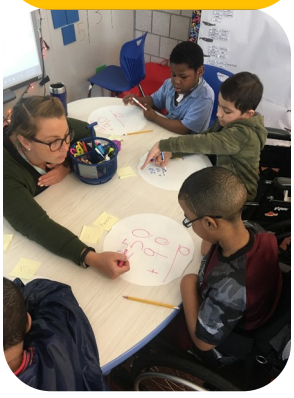
We are learning to identify the days of the week.

Super Scientist

MPB's K-1 class excitedly began our year as Super Scientists! We learned what a scientist is, how a scientist works, and tools a scientist uses to do their job. We dressed up as scientists and had the opportunity to explore our environment both inside and outside of the school. We created science journals to take part in the scientific method by making predictions, recording our observations, and sharing our learning. We are very excited to participate in hands-on classroom experiments! We have used our magnifying glass to investigate crickets, created "Sticky Stuff," conducted an Autumn scavenger hunt, and created a model of a leaf using household materials. We have explored solids and liquids, became weather watchers, and have discussed healthy habits. Science is so exciting!

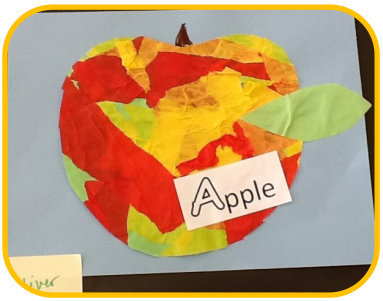
Rounders

To begin our journey as mathematicians this year, third graders began learning about rounding! First, students noticed that all numbers that are round end in a zero. We practiced adding and subtracting with zeros, and students came to the conclusion that the answer is always zero for these problems! Students realized that mathematicians must round to make their jobs easier, because there are always zeros in rounded problems. Third graders practiced rounding on their personal white board dots. Students also practiced by using base ten blocks and creating different numbers on our magnetic board, where they paid close attention to the hundreds, tens, and ones places. Third graders also lined up on a life size, human number line and were able to concretely see how rounding means they are close to the next group of ten. Students loved chanting their rounding song with the hand motions "five or above, give it a shove, four or less, let it rest!" Third graders are now expert 'rounders' from all these different ways they have practiced rounding! Make sure to ask a third grader how to round!



Art

The 2018-2019 school year is off to a busy start in the art room! Pre-K and early elementary began the year with finger-painting bright summer colored paintings that we cut into large blooms as we said goodbye to summer. Upper elementary learned about printmaking and created prints of flowers as well to wind down the summer season. All elementary classes worked on creating dog silhouettes filled with descriptive adjectives to recognize our visiting four legged friends, Hearst, Buzz and Sophie. Next we welcomed fall with apple tissue collage projects, leaf prints, pumpkin patches created with various collaged materials, and MANY Halloween projects from cartooning to creating jack o'lantern faces and pop up ghost puppets. The fifth and sixth grade students were "hired" as package designers for MPB Candies and have been busy creating their package designs. The ninth grade students have created zendoodles of their initials to "tag" their individual portfolio folders and used their name or a word that inspires them from photo letters found in nature or architecture to create a piece of typographical art. They are currently researching an artist of their choice and arranging the information as well as creating a shadow box reflecting the artist's style and importance.



Creating a Sense of Community

Recycling Ranger

Attendance Taker

iPad Organizer

Fish Feeder

K-1 is a part of a community. First thing in the morning we complete daily classroom jobs! Being important, contributing members of a community starts with our classroom/school community. K-1 takes care of their classroom & school community by spreading the word about recycling, taking daily attendance, organizing classroom materials, taking care of living things, posting the current date, opening the classroom, & collecting homework.

Completing these tasks addresses our 1st Grade Social Studies Standards:

By the end of the school year, all 1st grade students should be able to understand that:

-They are citizens of a classroom, school, town, state, & country,

-A community is made up of citizens who have roles and responsibilities and must respect and communicate with other members of the community,

-People have needs and wants and they work in communities to fulfill them.

Plant Protector

Calendar Kepper

Homework Helper

Secondary Math

Students in the 7th grade focused on proportional relationships, which included understanding how to use proportions to solve for unknown values and how to identify these relationships from graphs and charts. The 8th grade curriculum for the first quarter focused on exponents, with students learning how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide terms featuring exponents. Students have applied this knowledge to real-world situations involving scientific notation. Students in Algebra I have been refining their fundamental skills to solve and graph linear equations and functions. Students are using these skills to model everyday situations and solve for unknown values. In Geometry, students have been working with polygons, discovering interior and exterior angle measurements, and solving for unknown sides using equivalent fractions. 11th and 12th grade students have also been working with geometric concepts, focusing on the class ideas of mathematicians of antiquity, namely the idea of pi, Euclid and his constructions, and Pythagoras and his famous theorem.

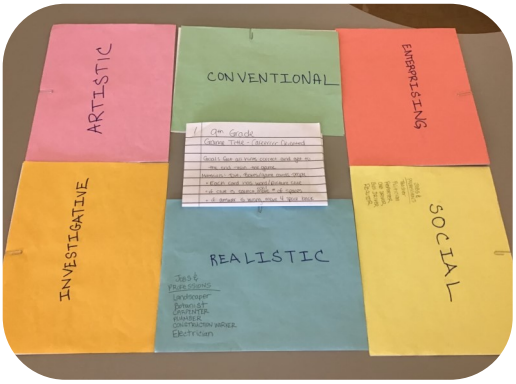
Secondary Family & Consumer Science

7th and 8th grade students wrapped up a unit on nutrition and wellness. They learned that the food pyramid illustration can be used to describe concepts of variety, moderation, and proportion. Students also learned about myplate.gov, which was introduced in 2010. Each of the different shapes of "myplate" help to grab consumers' attention with a new visual cue. Students were able to work in groups to recreate and label a "myplate" example and create a menu to include all of the food groups.

Secondary Social Studies

This quarter students covered a variety of topics including ancient civilizations, economics, current events and United States history and government. We created an environment where learning about the past will foster a better understanding of our future. Students are off to great start as the 7th grade class began exploring the Native Americans and 8th grade students looked at events connected to the Civil War. Students in 9th grade studied Ancient Mesopotamia and discussed how early civilizations began. In addition, 10th grade studied the Scientific Revolution and 11th and 12th grade began to explore economics, specifically the concept of supply and demand. We are already off to a great start, and hope to continue creating an environment where learning history becomes exciting.

Secondary Career Development and Occupational Studies



Ninth and tenth grade students are currently developing a board game to show their understanding of specific concepts related to careers. The objective of the activity is to teach others what they are learning. Students have been exploring interests, abilities and future job and/or career options.

Secondary Science

Students in 7th and 8th grade studied the level of organizations of living things. Starting with organelles, cells, tissue, organs, organ systems and organism. They made models to illustrate difficult concepts, such as how organelles work together to maintain stability inside the cell. In addition, they used a simulation to explore how the digestive system works and to study the probability of different genetic combination in the offspring. The 9th graders completed the "Diffusion Through a Membrane" lab. In addition, they designed their own lab to explore enzymes specificity their importance for organisms metabolic activity. 10th grade were introduced to forensic science and physical evidence. They learned the process of crime scene investigation by analyzing simulated crimes. 11th and 12th grade studied their environment by taking pictures of natural and manmade objects using the Ipads. Then they uploaded the pictures to Google and classify them as renewable or nonrenewable resources. In addition, our seniors participated in a simulation that illustrated how the human population has changed over the last 500 years. Furthermore, they participated in a luncheon in which each student was a citizen of three different countries; developed, developing and underdeveloped. They experienced first hand, the privilege of the rich and the necessity of the poor. Even though they all had different buying power, at the end they all share the food and discussed how they can help other people in need.

Secondary English

During first quarter, students worked to strengthen their understanding of concepts in English such as, theme, conflict, plot and characterization. Students in 7th and 8th grade read the novel Seedfolks and discussed what makes a community. In order to enhance our understanding, students helped plant various seeds mentioned in the story in our own indoor community garden and worked together just like the characters in the book.
Students in 9th through 12th grade spent the quarter looking at elements of short stories and read an abundant amount of stories from various authors including Edgar Allan Poe, Kate Chopin and Alice Walker. The students also worked to devise their own personal narrative this quarter. In addition, students worked with Katie, a resident actor from Hudson Valley Shakespeare, to create a combined short story using what they learned.

Secondary Creative Writing

Students finished writing their Family Memory projects. They are currently displayed on the windows of the library. Students enjoyed interviewing their families and learned some interesting things. Here are a few excerpts from their stories:

"The most beautiful place I have ever visited was Kakum National Park. It protects an area of rainforest. Ghana is the longest trip I have gone on. My favorite vacation was Koforidua."

"My grandpa Harvey (who passed away in 2004 at the young age of 64) influenced my mom the most because he wanted her to be happy with the path she chose. My mom wanted to be a teacher because my grandmother is a retired math teacher. My grandmother didn't want her to become a teacher because back then, the New York City schools were awful. The city schools now are better."

"In the future, I want to be an actress. I want to be successful in my life. I want to go back to Egypt. I like it better than America."

SEDL

The SEDL Committee has been planning many events for our school community. Our students have been participating in school wide Buddy events where our elementary students "Buddy" with our secondary students as peer mentors. This quarter, some events included the Red, White & Blue Patriotic Spirit Day, Red Ribbon Week Awareness, Getting to Know Our Buddies, Halloween Trick or Treating, and Veteran's Day Celebrations. The SEDL Committee is working on a community event where we as citizens will be giving to other less fortunate to wrap up our Community theme for this past quarter. Throughout the month of November, we will be collecting pennies for local shelters and food pantries. Our "Penny Power" will help fund selected food pantries for the upcoming holidays. Each classroom will have a container in their classrooms for collections. All donations are welcomed and appreciated. We are looking forward to planning exciting events for the next quarter.

Music

In music class we learned how to have fun playing instruments and singing. Students are shown how to strum or hit the instruments while playing songs with their classmates. Some students choose to wear headphones due to the volume. Other students would prefer to keep their playing private and plug headphones in so that only they can hear the music.

We can use stands, sticks and switches to help us "jam out" with our classmates. Here is a student who is pushing buttons with pictures of instruments on it. When the student pushes the button, the instrument is struck or shook allowing the student to participate in the jam.

Up Coming Events

November 7th	Loose Change to Make a Change Kickoff	November 21 & 22	Thanksgiving Break
November 9th	Veterans Day Assembly for Troops	November 30th	Casino Night
November 12th	Hempstead Players present *Prince Caspian Return to Narnia*	December 13th	Family Support Group Meeting
November 14th	Family Support Group Meeting	December 14th	Radio Station 101.5 Broadcast
November 20th	1/2 day. Students leave at 12:00pm	December 21st	1/2 day Students leave at 12:00pm