

McDOWELL MOUNTAIN SITE COUNCIL

December 14, 2020

Agenda:

- ECQUIP quarterly meeting: preschool Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG) goals (ECQUIP-only members may leave afterward)
- Everyone will receive a report with grade level/special area & activities updates
- Christmas Angels update (From Peter: 140 students and gift hand-out is next weekend)
- FHUSD PTO update
- Instruction after winter break
- Looking ahead for January 25's meeting: Comprehensive Needs Assessment 2021-2022 and summer school

Expected meeting dates the remainder of the year:

- January 25
- February 22 (also Preschool ECQUIP quarter 3 meeting)
- March 29
- April 19
- May 17 (also Preschool ECQUIP quarter 4 meeting)

MMES Site Council

Staff Members		Parent/Community Members	
Principal	Valerie Dehombreux	FH Community Members	Peter Conti
			Connie Barczak
Classified	Renee Montague	FM Community Member	VACANT
SPED/Preschool	Evelyn Sonenschein	Preschool Parent	VACANT
Kindergarten	Susan Bovinette	Kindergarten Parent	Rachel Walters
1 st Grade	Kristin Hatfield	1 st Grade Parent	Danny Garcia

2 nd Grade	Talia Houseal		2 nd Grade Parent	Kim Guerrette
3 rd Grade	Sam Elder		3 rd Grade Parent	Bente Forsdal
Special Areas	Jill Cooper		FHUSD PTO Member	Jelaine Goldapper

Principal's Report:

- Successful November-December events included Picture Day, Veterans Day / Caring virtual assembly, special area turkey project, and still underway: Computer Science Education Week (Month), DIBELS testing, and Falcon Leaders'/Student Council's Sock Drive for Shoebox Ministry.
- The Character Counts trait focus for January is Respect. Students will be learning about treating others with respect, following the Golden Rule, being tolerant and accepting of differences, using good manners and not bad language, being considerate of the feelings of others, not threatening/hitting/hurting anyone, and dealing peacefully with anger/insults/disagreements.
- Since 2016, the Fiesta Bowl Charities Wishes for Teachers program has granted teachers' wishes across Arizona. Teachers can complete an online application and awardees are randomly selected. Several MMES teachers apply each year and for the first time, one of our teacher's wishes was selected! Congratulations and thank you to Jill Cooper, our STEM teacher who wished for iPads for her entire class! This will benefit all of our students when they have STEM class; more students will individually be able to program robots and work on other great STEM projects while continuing the teamwork that Mrs. Cooper always facilitates among our young engineers!
- This is the second year of the teacher grant system, SRP Touchdowns for Teachers where for every Arizona Cardinals touchdown in a season, two Arizona teachers receive a \$500 classroom grant from SRP. MMES preschool teacher, Sharon Monar signs up nearly every week and this week she was selected to receive a \$500 grant! She is currently completing her paperwork with SRP and will need to confirm the parameters for spending the grant money for her classroom, but so far she is interested in purchasing a series of children's books by Cheri J. Meiners, M.Ed. from the *Learning to Get Along* series. Mrs. Monar has a few of these books and she loves how they teach children to problem solve, play together, and be respectful of others. Congratulations and thank you, Mrs. Monar! You can find out more about SRP Touchdowns for Teachers at srpnet.com/teachers.

Upcoming Events:

December 16: Not an early release day

December 17: 9:15: Fire evacuation drill

December 18: Holiday sing-along video from Mrs. Perkins's music classes; 12:30: Student dismissal for winter break

December 21-January 1: Winter break

January 4: School resumes

January 4-8: Remote instruction for all students; models afterward TBD

January 6, 13, 20, & 27: 2:20: Student early release for staff professional development

January 11-15: Kindergarten progress reports and 1st-3rd grade report cards sent home with students if we're in-person; mailed if not

January 13 & 27: 6:30 p.m.: FHUSD Governing Board meetings

January 15: Picture retakes day if we're in-person

January 18: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: no school

January 19: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day / Respect virtual assembly; FHUSD PTO Board meeting

January 25: 3:30: Site Council meeting

Preschool 1

Students have been as busy as little elves in the classroom. They created their own stocking by lacing two pieces of paper together, then they glued cotton balls on the top of the stocking. They sprinkled their choice of glitter on their name written in glue, for the final step. The stockings are hung by our paper fireplace next to the artificial tree that they helped decorate. Students have been able to experience real tree branches and artificial tree branches and compare and contrast the two types. Children have also painted evergreen trees and decorated them. They created special gifts for parents. We work a lot on increasing vocabulary and articulation. That is embedded in everything we do. Students have also enjoyed playing games that involve counting, naming colors, and of course turn-taking. They have enjoyed listening to stories about the holidays. Parents completed holiday questionnaires so that we can talk about how the stories are similar or different compared to what they do at home.

Preschool 3 has been very busy making picture frames and cards for their families. They have also made countdown bells to take home and remove one ring nightly until Christmas Eve. We have incorporated many holiday activities into our learning. Our dramatic play area is a Christmas House with a fireplace and a tree and cookies to decorate. All of our centers have a little holiday magic in them, always keeping in mind our Az Early Learning Standard.

We continue to review and practice Zoo Phonics, HWT, Language and Literacy , Math Concepts, and Problem Solving Skills

Kindergarten

Holidays around the World

We go to school for three weeks in December. So each week we learn about a different country's Christmas tradition. We learned about Mexico, Italy and now we are learning about Germany.

Family Project

Every student received a paper tree to decorate and return to school for everyone to see.

Community Service Project

We are collecting new men's and women's socks for Shoebox Ministry that donates to the valley homeless.

Language Arts in Benchmark

We are in Unit 3. Why do living things have different needs? In this unit, students read and compare stories about animals and plants to learn what living things need to survive.

Kindergarten has learned 36 sight words so far this year.

Bridges Math

The calendar this month features positional language, as students name and predict the location of a teddy bear relative to a box on each new marker. This month students meet the rest of the members of the twenties number family. Students are introduced to the concept of doubles and even numbers through exploration of bicycles and bicycle wheels.

Coding

Mrs. Cooper is teaching every kindergarten class Coding in her Stem class. The students are able to do this on their laptop at home. They really enjoyed coding.

Dibels

All kindergarten classes are being tested in Dibels. Dibels helps teachers determine phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, and letter recognition.

First Grade

1st grade just finished up our unit on Fairy Tales. Next unit will be about animals. In math we are working on fact families, addition, subtraction, greater than and less than and telling time to the half hour. We are reviewing 3D shapes also. We have been doing holiday activities and learning about what other countries do for the holidays.

Second Grade

Reading: Unit 4

Essential Question: How can a story change depending on who tells it?

Skills/Strategies:

•Recount Story Events •Story Structure •Point of View/Characters •How Characters Respond
•Compare/Contrast Two Folktales, Central Message of Two Stories, and two versions-same story
Language Skill: Adjectives, Contractions, and sentence editing skills. **Writing:** Opinion writing

Spelling/Phonics Skill: r-controlled /or/, r-controlled /ir/, and r-controlled /ar/sounds

Bridges Math Objectives for December/January:

- Continue to work on Place Value and 3-digit numbers forms
- Number Patterns/skip counting
- Rounding numbers to the nearest 10 and 100
- Addition and Subtraction 2-digit numbers using base ten blocks, algorithms, and continuing to reviewing efficient strategies (break apart, number lines, number bonds etc.)
- Solving Word problems and using efficient strategies.
- Identifying the time to the nearest minute, 5-minute increments and half hour (half past)
- Addition and subtraction Facts to 20: focus is on adding 9s, make a 10, adding 10, subtracting 10
- Intro rows and columns (arrays)

Third Grade

In ELA we are wrapping up Unit 4 of Benchmark Advance. The essential question for this unit is "What makes people view the same experience in different ways?". In this unit, students will read and compare different versions of stories to analyze point of view. In math we are in Unit 3 of Bridges. Unit 3 reviews and extends students' thinking about place value, multi-digit addition and subtraction, and problem solving.

Special Area Team

STEM

This cycle, students in STEM class are learning the fundamentals of computer science and programming. Each class will begin with an “unplugged” coding activity as well as an introduction to the vocabulary and principles of coding. Although we will not celebrate Computer Science Education Week with our traditional Hour of Code, each student will be spending the entire week problem solving, coding, and debugging!

Every student has their own individual Code.org and Kodable accounts, these accounts are easy to find through Symboloo and the students will be able to access them at home or at school all year!

Music

The music curriculum has been loaded into schools PLP and all the students are doing music classes with the music we purchased last year for the school. Students are doing well with limited singing with masks on and trying to stay distanced.

This cycle all the students are participating in a Nutcracker Suite study. All students have a great book with coloring and the condensed story of the Nutcracker. They will also learn about Peter Tchaikovsky, the composer, and what he does. Students also will learn about a musical Suite and what is ballet. There are also many behind the scenes jobs that go along with a production such as this so students learn about the stage hands and designers as well. Students watch the Nutcracker ballet (with McCauley Calkin as the Prince) Sometimes they are more interested that Kevin from Home Alone is in this ballet!

I will be receiving new mallets for our instruments through the Golden Eagle Foundation Grant. This is awesome news for our students as each student will have mallets for themselves in music class. They will not have to share and disinfecting will go much faster.

Art

Art students have been busy exploring different media and techniques while practicing safety in the art studio. At home artists use the materials provided for them and utilize SchoolsPLP for reinforcement. All Self Portraits created during the last cycle have been uploaded to Artsonia.com and parents have been informed of the opportunity to not only view and share their child's art online, but turn their child's art into amazing gifts. I am grateful for their purchases since 20% goes to our art program and I have redeemed funds through Amazon to purchase organizing supplies to accommodate whole class instruction, books and displays to enhance instruction, as well as individual glue bottles. You can view our schools' work at www.artsonia.com and select McDowell Mountain Elementary School.

During this cycle, Kindergarten artists related to art in their environments, explored and expressed themselves with watercolor paint, and used their wet and dry media to make a work of art about themselves. First grade artists explored wet and dry media (tempera paint, oil pastels and colored pencils, then expressed themselves using their favorite medium. They also discovered why art is valuable (it is good, useful and special). Artists also explored the different reasons for making art and using their choice media to make art for their own reason (decoration, gift, memory...) Second grade artists discovered how objects can be recycled and repurposed to make art including paper rolls to fill the shape of their initial as well as make paper beads. Students also learned about Grandma Moses and Carmen Lomas Garza and how different artists depict celebrations. They then recalled, sketched and created a memory of their own celebration. Third grade artists learned about the importance of preparing art for presentation and making their own frame for their self-portraits. Artists then learned about the history and terminology of weaving to create their own Original Art Paper Weaving.

Junior Achievement

We decided to push Junior Achievement to the Spring semester this year in hopes that we will be able to offer our students the best experience possible through in-person learning. If that is not possible we will offer the program through a series of streamed videos created by the national organization.