

## McDOWELL MOUNTAIN SITE COUNCIL

February 8, 2021

### Agenda:

- ECQUIP quarterly meeting (ECQUIP-only members may leave afterward)
- Everyone will receive a report with grade level/special area & activities updates
- FHUSD PTO update
- Comprehensive Needs Assessment 2021-2022 focused on Family & Community Engagement

### Expected meeting dates the remainder of the year:

- February 8 (also Preschool ECQUIP quarter 3 meeting)
- March 22
- 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	Sharon Monar	Preschool Parent	VACANT
Kindergarten	Susan Bovinette	Kindergarten Parent	Rachel Walters
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Kristin Hatfield	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Parent	Danny Garcia
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Talia Houseal	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Parent	Kim Guerrette
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	Sam Elder	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Parent	Bente Forsdal
Special Areas	Jill Cooper	FHUSD PTO Member	Jelaine Goldapper

#### Principal's Report:

- Successful January-February events included the Kids Heart Challenge and Falcon Leaders'/Student Council's Fearless Kitty Rescue cat food drive, both in progress; and Picture Retakes Day.
- The Character Counts trait focus for February is Responsibility. Students will be learning about doing what they are supposed to do, persevering/keeping on trying, always doing their best, using self-control and being self-disciplined, thinking before they act/considering the consequences, and being accountable for their choices.
- The Character Counts trait focus for March is Trustworthiness. Students will be learning about being honest; not deceiving, cheating, or stealing; being reliable – doing what you say you'll do; having the courage to do the right thing; building a good reputation; and being loyal – standing by our family, friends, and country.

#### Upcoming Events:

February 10 & 24 and March 3 & 24: 2:20: Student early release for staff professional development

February 10 & 24 and March 10: 6:30 p.m.: FHUSD Governing Board meetings

February 11: Presidents' Day/Respect virtual assembly video

February 12: Class Valentine's Day celebrations

Through February 12: American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge fundraiser

February 15: Presidents' Day: no school

February 17: NOT AN EARLY RELEASE DAY

February 19: Time TBD: Mrs. D and Mrs. Latona get slimed for Kids Heart Challenge!

Through February 26: Falcon Leaders'/Student Council's Fearless Kitty Rescue cat food drive

March 11 & 12: 12:30: Student early dismissal for parent/teacher conferences

March 15-19: Spring Break

March 22: 3:30: Site Council meeting

#### 2020-2021 ECQUIP goal:

##### Target Area

Standard 4: School Culture, Climate, and Communication, Indicator 4.2

Teachers will provide children and their families with a variety of information about childhood development and specific skills related to their child throughout the school year. This will enable parents to be active participants in monitoring and encouraging growth in their child's development. Parents will be encouraged to share this information with the teacher to help the child advance in all developmental areas. Parents will receive a minimum of 15 pieces of information throughout the school year.

### **Preschool 1**

The Developmental Preschool has gone through a lot of changes due to the retirement of Mrs. Sonenschein. Preschool 1 and Preschool 2 have been combined. Students who are unable to wear a face mask attend the morning session, while students who can wear one are in the afternoon session. The children are acclimating to the change.

Our main focus has been learning about winter and seeing how it differs in different parts of the country and state. We have had people from around the country send videos and pictures depicting winter in their area. Our main literature focus has been *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats. Students have used their imaginations and acted out the story. We made footprints and tracks in the sand, snow angels in the sandbox, and used the slide for our mountain. We have even had snowball fights with soft white balls. Students have sledded down the slide on a cardboard sled too. The afternoon class was fortunate to see the snow/sleet/rain mixture on January 25th. Some students have had the opportunity to take a trip to the snow. They shared pictures with the class and talked about their experiences. Students are in the process of creating snow scenes portraying what they would like to do in the snow.

We have also worked a lot on cutting skills, how to hold a crayon, and coloring skills. We are also working on identifying letters, letter-sound connection, identifying numbers, quantities, and positional words.

We can't believe it is February already! Students are also making Valentine's Day creations.

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**Preschool 3** has been very busy! We have been practicing our Zoo Phonics, working on Handwriting Without Tears, and studying winter and penguins. The students know many penguin facts! We have read fiction and nonfiction penguin books and played a penguin game. The students also made igloos out of marshmallows, and sugar cubes. Our dramatic play area is set up as a campsite in the forest. This has been a big hit! We also continue to practice our fine motor skills, character traits, and so much more! Never a dull moment in preschool!

## **Kindergarten News**

Kindergarten is celebrating 100 Days in Kindergarten on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Students will be bringing 100 items in a bag to share with the class. We will be doing lots of fun activities to celebrate!

### Math

#### The January Number Corner

- This month three different workouts feature addition combinations to 10
- The class collects Unifix cubes in three different colors, places the cubes in the calendar pocket chart, and also displays the result on recording strips.
- The Number Line workout deals with interval counting and comparing numerals to 20.

### ELA

#### Kindergarten is in Unit 4

#### Writers Tell Many Stories

#### Why do people tell stories?

In this unit, students read and compare stories to understand the purpose of storytelling.

Kindergarten is working on three new sight words every week.

#### Handwriting Without Tears

Kindergarten has been learning their lowercase letters: c,o,s,v,w,t,a,d,g,u,i,e,l,k,y,j,p

## **First Grade**

1st grade just finished a unit on nonfiction and we learned about life cycles of frogs, trees, and a butterfly. We are working on blends and digraphs in spelling. In math we are working on telling time to the half hour and counting change with pennies, dimes and nickels. We are reviewing addition and subtraction on a number line. We are also working on missing addends.

## **Second Grade**

**Reading (ELA) /Science /Social Studies:** Benchmark Advance Unit 5- Essential Question:  
Where do ideas for inventions come from?

We will be looking at the many ways technology helps us solve problems as we learn about various inventors and what motivated them to create their inventions.

### **Reading skills:**

- Main Topic of Text
- Author's Purpose
- Images Contribute to Text
- Text Evidence to Draw Inference
- Compare/Contrast (2 biographies and 2 text -same topic)

**Language Skills:** Compound Words, Simple and Compound Sentences, Reference Material (for spelling), and correct spelling & collective nouns

**Writing:** Opinion

**Spelling/Phonics Skill:** Review open closed Syllables, VCe & Consonant-le, /oi/ and /ou/ sounds

### **Bridges Math Objectives for Jan./Feb.:**

Place Value and 3-digit numbers forms

Number Patterns

Rounding numbers to the nearest 10 and 100

Subtraction 2-digit numbers using base ten blocks

(no regrouping & regrouping in the tens place)

Measurement using standard units (inches, feet, yard)

Solving Word problems and using efficient strategies.

Finishing Identifying the time to the nearest minute, 5-minute increments and half hour (half past)

Addition and subtraction Facts to 20: focus is on making a ten

### **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 Site Council Update 1/25/21**

### **STEM**

This cycle, students in STEM class are learning the importance and fundamentals of research! Students in K-1 will be completing an animal research project beginning with a written component in which they will detail the habitat, diet, fun facts, and body description of the animal of their choice. When that is completed, they will build a diorama habitat for their animal using upcycled items (t.p. rolls, paper plates, paper, grass, rocks, etc.).

Students in 2-3 will also research and complete a report on the animal of their choice. When their reports are finished they will use Scratch Jr. to code a story about their animal (habitat, adventures, etc.) including animation, original drawing, and original sound.

### **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 students are continuing on in our music program and working on our standards of Performing, Creating, Connecting and Responding. All students are experimenting with composition (creating) simple rhythmic compositions. Second and third grade are composing with more than one part. Second grade created a family composition and submitted their fun creations on Schools PLP. All students are also learning the different elements of music through a variety of songs and song styles. Kindergarten just enjoyed Ragtime with Scott Joplin and listened to The Entertainer. They drew a creation of themselves being an entertainer. Third grade is moving into the Big Band times of the 1930's and 40's. They listened to Benny Goodman's band. They are learning how each new style contributes to the music they listen to today.

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. (We have not received these, yet but the order is in process)

### **Art**

To encourage unity at MMES, First through Second Grade artists explored logos and Falcon Pride then designed their own School Spirit Masks. Designs were uploaded to Artsonia to allow parents the opportunity to visit the Artsonia Gift Shop and turn the design into a real mask. In preparation for the Dark Sky Association Night Sky Art Competition (projects due February 25th), each class observed and made inferences about "Starry Night" by Vincent Van Gogh. Class discussions revealed students' observations, feelings and stories about the art. In addition, artists were introduced to various versions of "Starry Night" made with found objects. Students then created their own version of "Starry Night".

**Kindergarten** artists explored environments by relating to art in their home environments, discovering different textures through rubbings, planning and brainstorming their favorite places then applying their most favorite place into a drawing.

**First Grade** artists identified various everyday objects and still lifes then made their own sketches and still life drawings. The contour drawing technique was introduced to students to help with observation skills. Artists also portrayed their everyday life in drawings and changed something about the drawing to make it CRAZY! Imagination was truly exercised!

**Second Grade** artists grouped artworks by themes and virtually explored the Metropolitan Museum of Art to discover how artwork is categorized in museums. Artists learned how to create the illusion of space then applied these skills to create an artwork that told a memory or experience in Fountain Hills. They included the where (setting), when (time), who (characters) and what was happening in their art to tell a complete story. This work will be considered for the new Fountain Hills Medical Center's request for work by MMES students. (Other grade levels will be making art next cycle for consideration of this honor. If selected by the center, student artwork will be framed and their name, grade, and artist statement [description of art] will be displayed.)

**Third Grade** artists learned how different cultures use the mandala and how it is an example of radial symmetry. To promote mindfulness, artists then used found objects to create their own mandal using radial symmetry. Artists discovered how images communicate messages and used details to tell their own message. Finally, artists learned how to create the illusion of space then constructed their own representation of their favorite place.

### **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.

### **Camp Invention**

Camp Invention is back! We will have camp this summer at McDowell Mountain the week of June 14-18. It is going to be an amazing camp experience for our kids! Online registration is open so please spread the word!