

McDOWELL MOUNTAIN SITE COUNCIL
January 25, 2021

Agenda

- Everyone will receive a report with grade level/special area & activities update
- Christmas Angels report from Peter Conti
- FHUSD PTO update
- Summer School 2021 possibilities
- Looking ahead for February 8's meeting: Preschool ECQUIP and Comprehensive Needs Assessment 2021-2022

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	Sharon Monar	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 December-January events included a holiday sing-along via Zoom, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day / Respect virtual assembly, and launching of Kids Heart Challenge and Falcon Leaders'/Student Council's Fearless Kitty Rescue cat food drive.
- The Character Counts trait focus for November-December 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.
- 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.

Upcoming Events:

January 19-February 26: Falcon Leaders'/Student Council's Fearless Kitty Rescue cat food drive

January 21-February 12: American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge fundraiser

January 27 and February 3 & 10: 2:20: Student early release for staff professional development

January 27 & February 10: 6:30 p.m.: FHUSD Governing Board meetings

February 5: Picture retakes day

February 8: 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 News

Kindergarten is celebrating 100 Days in Kindergarten on January 26th. 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 display 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!