

The Plymouth Center School Connection

December 2022

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL KIM LOVELAND

November was a very busy month for our students! They learned about Veterans Day and Thanksgiving as well as started new units of study across math, reading, and writing. Students also engaged in their first lock down drill with the support of our SRO. Teachers engaged in professional development this month regarding utilizing the new math materials as well as curriculum writing. They then worked on de-escalation strategies and implementing break spaces with our district BCBA. As we look ahead, we are excited for Parent Teacher Conferences and learning about the many holidays that occur in the winter months.

As a reminder, The Plymouth Center School Connection will be shared monthly as a means of highlighting the good work being done at Plymouth Center School. You will find the information will be under three specific district goal areas: Student Achievement, Engagement, and Well-Being.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please contact the main office and I look forward to seeing everyone at our school events throughout the year.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

PreK conducted a leaf investigation in our library. They learned about different types of leaves and the shapes, colors, and sizes they come in. In the upper grades, students further engaged in leaf rubbing to further foster their creativity.



In Kindergarten, students are practicing their sight words so they can read and write pattern books. In first grade, they are looking at all of the parts of a word and focusing on different endings as well as writing How-to Books. Second graders are working on strategies to solve multisyllabic words and using mentor texts to enhance craft moves such as alliteration, personification, repetition, and comparison.

For math, classes are up and running with our enVision resource! Kindergarten students are continuing to compare numbers 0 - 10 and will soon be moving onto identifying and counting numbers 11 - 20. First grade students will build on their work with addition and subtraction through 10 by continuing to practice these strategies as they add and subtract through 20. Second grade students will also build on previous concepts by learning strategies to add and subtract through 100. All students are working on explaining their use of multiple strategies and are becoming more confident, flexible math students.

ENGAGEMENT

In our library, students competed to decorate pumpkins as their favorite book or book character. Staff from all over the district were invited to cast their votes. Students were thoughtful in their choices and showed how creative they could be when making sure their pumpkin was identifiable and truly illustrated what they loved about reading!



Pictured winners left to right: Kindergarten; Kristina Kincses in Ms. Engelhard's class, First Grade: Owen Valdez in Mrs. Celentano's class, Second Grade: Jacob Figueora from Mrs. Mazur's class, Overall Winner: Peyton Gruner from Mrs. Lavallee's class



In PE, PreK students were working on balancing different objects and color matching. Students pretended they were restaurant staff and had to pick up from the “kitchen” and deliver to different colored foods to the matching plates across the gym.

Ms. Simonsen, our library teacher, and Mrs. Gallagher, our science teacher, collaborated with our second grade classes on a STEM challenge with the book Balloons Over Broadway. Students created marionettes using dixie cups, tape, strings, and paperclips.



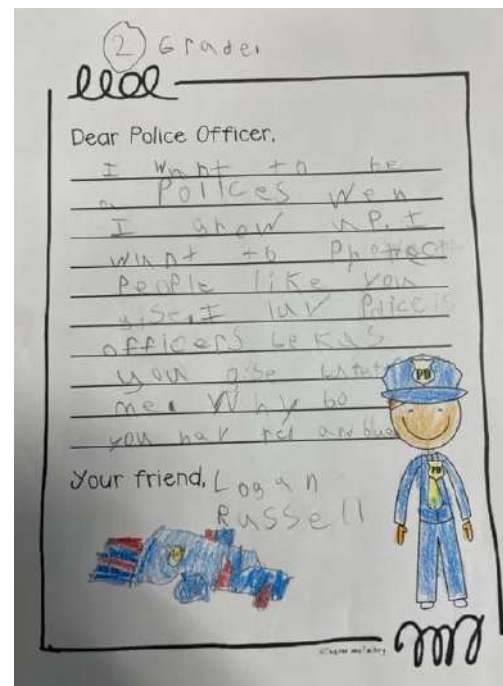
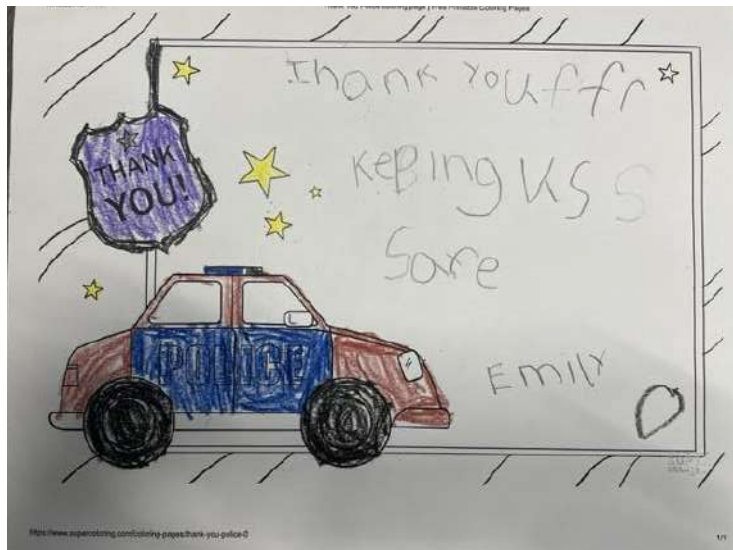
WELL-BEING



For Veterans Day, students created cards during Library that were given to the Veterans Home and Hospital in Rocky Hill. Throughout the week, they learned about the different branches of the military as well as read the book Veterans: Heroes in Our Neighborhood by Valerie Pfundstein. Families also created beautiful stars to honor our Veterans that are displayed in our main hallway.



Students worked hard writing letters and decorating cards for our local police officers for Thanksgiving to show our community's appreciation. Mrs. Johndro, a PCS parent, coordinated baskets to give to each officer in town, each including cards from our students.



PCS PreK through 2nd grade had their first Bucket Filler assembly of the year! This program is based on the idea of filling other people's buckets while filling their own by treating people kindly and not being a "bucket dipper" by taking from someone's bucket by putting them down or making others feel bad. Students were nominated by teachers throughout the building for being kind, modeling respect, and having empathy towards others.

