

## SUMMIT LANE SCHOOL

### NOVEMBER 2017 END OF MONTH REPORT

#### KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten Students have been reading about Pilgrims, Native Americans and Thanksgiving. They are learning new sight words and have started learning about verbs and describing words. They have continued learning to identify and write uppercase and lowercase letters, as well as letter sounds for Mm, Ss, Aa and Tt. They are also continuing to learn about rhyming words. In Math the students are learning to compare numbers using the terms fewer and greater. In Science we continued learning about The Five Senses, touching and tasting. All Kindergarten students enjoyed visiting the PTA Book Fair and participating in the Kindergarten Treat Feast.

#### FIRST GRADE

During the month of November, first grade students were busy reading informational text and writing informative pieces connected to their *Journeys* curriculum topics. In *enVision* math, students were working with addition and subtraction strategies, including facts to 20 and doubles. In social studies, students learned about the history of Thanksgiving. They were engaged in reading books about the Pilgrims and Native Americans, creating class books about turkey facts and learning songs and poems. As the culminating activity, students performed a dress rehearsal for their book buddies, and all first graders invited parents to share in their exciting play and informative performance consisting of songs and poems!

#### SECOND GRADE

All of the second grade students had an opportunity to visit the Outdoor Learning Center located at LMEC. During the visit, the children were able to observe corn plants in the various stages of growth. They observed the differences between harvest corn and edible corn and discovered that the sprouting kernels would eventually become the seeds needed to produce new plants. During this hands-on lesson, the children utilized their inquiry skills, observation skills and prediction skills to enhance their learning. In addition, they were able to tour the greenhouse and learn about the other plants that are grown there during the year, such as strawberries and beans. This was a wonderful experience for our students and will be an excellent enhancement to our unit on plants that will be covered in the spring.

#### THIRD GRADE

This month the third graders had the opportunity to visit the Outdoor Learning Center. The students learned about animals and how they hunt for food. It was a wonderful visit and the children learned a lot. In the area of math, we are continuing to master our multiplication and division facts on a daily basis. The children are working hard at applying these facts to single and multi-step word problems. In social studies and science, the children are exploring different landforms and how Earth's surface can change. They were fascinated to learn the different layers of Earth. The third graders presented a wonderful celebration of Thanksgiving for their families; there was history, humor, poetry and music. We hope all the families enjoyed the show and that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving!

## FOURTH GRADE

Fourth graders had a wonderful and exciting month of learning! Fourth graders wrapped up their Native American Unit and worked on culminating projects to represent their work. Students have learned about the first people to live in North America and are excited to begin our upcoming unit on Explorers. In science, students worked on STEAM activities using pumpkins. Students attended an assembly presented by PSEG called "The Energized Guy!" This assembly was a great transition into our new unit that we are beginning on electricity. In Language Arts this month, students worked on persuasive writing and identifying the theme of a story using Aesop's Fables. Students will be reading their first novel in the upcoming month and many are excited to share in this literacy experience. In math, we wrapped up our multiplication unit and have been working on our new unit in division. We encourage all fourth graders to continue reading each night and practicing their math facts.

## FIFTH GRADE

November has been a busy month for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade!

In Math, we have studied multiplication of whole numbers and decimals, and the students sat for the administration of the first benchmark test. We have continued our studies in ELA with Journeys lessons, small group instruction, and the sharing of novels (*Because of Winn Dixie*, *The Big Wave*, *The Witches*, *Frindle*). Students also took their first ELA interim assessment at the end of this month. We have wrapped up our study of classification in Science. The students learned how to use a microscope on our trips to Dr. Friedman's Science lab at MacArthur HS. They were even able to observe different plant and animal cells! Representatives from I Fish NY visited us here at school to perform a fish dissection for the students and teach them about the internal anatomy of the fish. The students had fun! In Social Studies, the students have been learning about the geography of the United States, They know about the geographical features that can be found in our country, and they have begun their study of the 50 states.

Some of the other fun and important events that took place throughout the month of November include 5<sup>th</sup> grade yearbook pictures, Student Council Elections, the PTA Scholastic Book Fair and our Thanksgiving celebration.

## ART

November has been a very busy month in Art classes. Kindergarten students have been creating self-portraits. First grade students are making crayon sculptures. Second grade are students are working on feathers with line designs. Third grade is working with Kente cloth, "Batik". Fourth and fifth grade are painting beach umbrellas, using tint and shade techniques, referencing Artist Teal Duncan.

## MUSIC

Mrs. Giordano participated in the Balanced Mind conference at Molloy college. Discussion and preparation for the upcoming NYSSMA Festival has begun with 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. All-County and LISFA students have been selected. Mrs. Wade & Mrs. Giordano have begun rehearsing with the All-County and LISFA students teaching them their music in preparation for the concert in January.

Seven 4<sup>th</sup> grade chorus students were selected to participate in the PEAK Music Festival at Molloy College with Mrs. Wade. They sang, played African drums, danced, played boom whackers and rhythm instruments, learned Australian folk music and

performed in a concert of approximately 300 students. PEAK students were taught their concert music by Mrs. Wade.

Mrs. Wade continues rehearsals for this year's musical "Willy Wonka". The drama club sponsored a fundraiser with the Greene Turtle, which was a great success. Drama club parents have begun fundraising with the drama students by selling chocolate and t-shirts.

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All primary students, grades K-2, have participated in the following units:

Scooters – 2017 Scooter License Adventure. Students learn basic rules of the road and work to earn their own Scooter License. They have learned about seat belt safety, starting our engine, stop and start signals, wipers on/off, sounding our horns and much more. Hula Hoops – tricks and games. Balance – introduction to stilts. Body Balloons – hand-eye coordination, use of personal space, review of body parts, practice of patterns and working with a partner. All primary students will continue work on loco-motor skills in conjunction with each unit.

All Intermediate students, grades 3-5, have participated in the following units:

Scooters – 2017 Scooter License Adventure. Students learn more complex rules of the road and work to keep their Scooter License. They are learning seat belt safety, left and right turn signal, stop sign protocol, wipers on/off, red, green and yellow signals, how to pass properly, sound our horn, what to do in the event of an accident, and much more. Project Adventure – cooperative games such as rescue island, pipeline, rock, paper scissors tag and group juggle. Star Wars – hand-eye coordination, team building, defensive skills and agility.