

## SUMMIT LANE SCHOOL

### APRIL 2018 END OF MONTH REPORT

#### KINDERGARTEN

The Kindergarten Students have been reading about animals, parts of plants and Spring. They have continued learning to identify and write uppercase and lowercase letters as well as letter sounds for li, Gg, Rr and Dd. We have continued learning about capitalization, punctuation, and verbs in the future tense . They have also learned new sight words and CVC words. In Math, the students have learned to count numbers to 100 and identify and describe shapes. In Science, we began to plant sunflowers for Mother's Day, and we have been reading books and learning about parts of plants (roots, stems, leaves and flowers). Kindergarten enjoyed their field trip to the Planetarium this month.

#### FIRST GRADE

First graders said goodbye to winter and greeted the arrival of spring with various writing projects, including graphic organizers, point of view and opinion. Students explored informational text on various topics, including the life cycle of a tree. In conjunction with Earth Day, students have been busy learning about how seeds germinate, plant parts and plant needs. In math, first graders were measuring objects and comparing lengths, as well as telling time to the hour and half hour. Also, in social studies students were engaged in traveling to other parts of the world through literature.

#### SECOND GRADE

The second grade students have been busy learning about plant life cycles in science. The children were introduced to the parts of a plant and have been learning how plants develop and grow over time. Each child will be planting seeds in the classroom and observing their growth. Many different pieces of literature are also being used in order to provide the children with as much information as possible. The visual aspects of the literature as well as the hands-on learning of actually planting have allowed the children to develop a thorough understanding of this natural process. These activities will assist the children in experiencing the wonder of plants when we take a trip to the Outdoor Learning Center at the beginning of next month.

#### THIRD GRADE

This past month the students have put their mastery of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division to work by solving multiple-step word problems and finding the area and perimeter of different shapes. The students have been working hard at identifying key vocabulary words to assist in their problem solving. The students also know that showing their work is key to proving to themselves how they come to certain answers. Before we begin our unit on butterflies, the students are exploring the life cycles of plants and other animals. We are observing cabbage plants and are excited to watch how large they will grow. The students are eager to receive their butterflies to start raising their very own!

## FOURTH GRADE

Fourth grade students had a very exciting month! Students are wrapping up their units on Colonial America. As a culminating activity, fourth grade visited Old Bethpage Village Restoration and were able to experience a live museum in which they visited old colonial homes, shops, and schools. Students also enjoyed seeing and experiencing what a school was like in Colonial America. Much fun was had by all! In conjunction with our life science unit, each classroom received frog embryos. Students enjoy observing the metamorphosis of live tadpoles daily. In science, we also learned about Earth Day and how we can make our environment a better place. Students each wrote a Haiku displaying different things they could do in their neighborhoods to celebrate Earth Day.

## FIFTH GRADE

April has been a busy month for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade! In Math, we have studied measurement conversions and geometry, and we have begun reviewing for the upcoming NYS Math assessment. In addition, the students sat for the administration of the third benchmark test. We have continued our studies in ELA with small group instruction, and the sharing of novels. Students also took the NYS ELA assessment this month. We have continued working in our new Science book as the students learn about technology and engineering. They have participated in STEAM activities in the classroom and have chosen their topics for the upcoming annual 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Fair. In addition, a large part of our Science program has focused on outdoor and environmental education, as the students made their trip to Camp Greenkill this month. Students who did not go on the trip stayed in school and participated in similar activities related to the environment and the outdoors. In Social Studies, the students have been learning about the geography, history, culture and government of Mexico and Canada.

There were several other fun and important events that took place throughout the month of April, including weekly participation in the "Too Good For Drugs" program, Spring pictures, the PTA Book Fair, and student preparations for the annual 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Talent Show.

## ART

Kindergarten and first grade students are creating bookmarks for "Summit Lane Super Readers". Second and third graders are designing cuckoo clocks. Fourth graders have begun their Statue of Liberty drawings. Fifth grade is using pastel techniques to create backgrounds for their Frida Kahlo portraits. All students are creating a community art project using individually made "feathers" to create wings. Summit Lane student artwork will be on display at the Levittown Public Library for the month of May.

## MUSIC

All vocal and instrumental NYSSMA have performed at the NYSSMA Festival and are continuing to work on their solos, scales, rudiments and sight-reading. Mrs. Giordano gave NYSSMA students extra help before school and during recess periods. The Band, Orchestra and Choruses are rehearsing for May's Spring Concert. Mrs. Wade assisted in welcoming the incoming kindergarten students at kindergarten orientation. The students played music, sang and had fun.

Fifth grade music students are presenting reports on the history of jazz and rock and roll. Fourth grade music students are presenting music history reports to their classes. First, second and third grade music students are learning bucket percussion, and kindergarten music students have been learning song and dance from around the world. Mrs. Wade has assisted several students who were interested in auditioning for "The Lion King" on Broadway.

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The students in grades K – 5 participated in a unit on dance. Grades K and 1 were introduced to scattered square dance, where the students learn many of the same partner skills as traditional square dancing but do not dance in the square formation. Grades 2-5 reviewed skills previously taught, in addition to a few new ones. All students were expected to learn "calls" and demonstrate each with a variety of partners, such as: Honor your partner; Give your partner a gentle spin; Right elbow swing your Partner; Hit the lonesome trail; Circle up the wagons; Squeeze the lemon. In addition to the scattered square dancing students also had the opportunity to use the new smart board located in the APR and dance along to a number of dance routines. These routines combined traditional dance steps, familiar exercises and popular songs from Kidz Bop.

All physical education classes began to review and practice a few of the games that they will be playing on Field Day: Steal the Bacon; Alaskan Kickball; Four Ball Blast.