

MARY F. JANVIER  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

December 2023  
Janvier  
Journal



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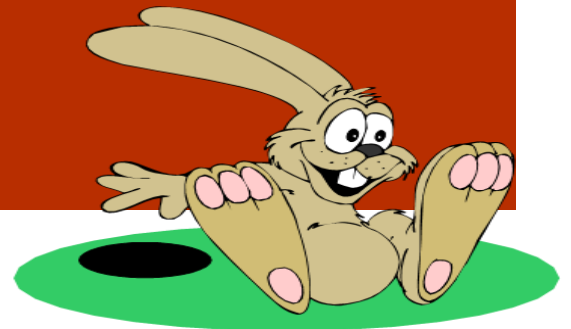
First Grade 4

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# The Janvier Journal

## Mr. Kobik's Corner

December has arrived and 2023 is quickly drawing to a close! During the initial portion of this school year, our children have accomplished so much and December is a great time to reflect on past achievements while planning to move ahead in the new calendar year. The practice of goal setting is an important component in the measuring of growth and our children continue to show that they are developing academically and socially. Our children have developed their understanding of mathematical and literacy concepts with an emphasis towards building their writing skills, reading fluency, reading comprehension, and math problem solving skills. The use of learning centers, guided reading instruction, and the incorporation of technology has promoted student engagement with curricular content and enhanced our children's motivation towards understanding presented concepts. Additionally, many students have been recognized through our various character education programs that promote student focus towards the recognition of their ability to make good choices that foster a cooperative spirit and the importance of respectful behavior. You will notice in this edition of the *Janvier Journal* articles that inform you of grade – level classroom activities, updates from Related Arts classes, and information from our Basic Skills Instruction Team. Of note, the Basic Skills article communicates questions you can present to your child to promote their active reading and the building of connections with story content. With the upcoming Winter Break in



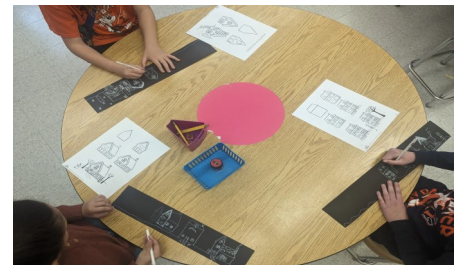
mind, the opportunity for learning never takes a vacation. For example, playing board and card games reinforce counting and math skills, writing skills can be developed through the creation a news article based on information garnered at a family gathering, and allowing your child to help prepare a meal can assist in developing your child's measurement skills. All of these activities combined with your support will enhance your child's confidence and encourage their understanding of the active role that they can take in their own learning. The entire Mary F. Janvier Elementary School staff continues to appreciate the support that you have shown towards our school and we wish all of you a healthy and happy 2024!



## PAGE 2 **It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Winter In The Art Room**

It's beginning to look a lot like winter in the Janvier Art Room! Kindergarten students recently painted rainbow papers and this week we are turning them into colorful candles. Holiday cookies are up next and I am quite excited to explore clay with our youngest artists. First Graders just finished warm/cool color Gratitude Trees. Be sure to ask your child what they wrote in their leaves as those are representative for what they are most grateful for. This week, Firsties are learning about Vincent van Gogh's Starry Night and the element

of Art; Space. We begin by painting the "spiral starry skies" before collaging and adding "glittery magic" in the weeks to come. Second Graders worked on creating some winter neighborhoods inspired by Caldecott Medal winning illustrator, Beth Krommes. These will make an appearance in the hallways to add some community sparkle for the much awaited Polar Express Day! Wait until you see their work at the 2nd Grade Art Show this May-- you won't want to miss it!!



## **What's Happening In Computers Class**

We have been learning a lot while in Computers Class! Kindergarten has learned how to be safe and respectful while using technology devices. They also have been practicing touchpad mouse control and have created some robots using click and drag. In 1st Grade students have been learning where the keys are on the keyboard. They have been practicing placing their fingers on Home Row and clicking on the correct keys with the correct finger. They also had a chance to

create a 3D Pumpkin for Thanksgiving by typing thankful sentences and printing them out on orange paper. In 2nd Grade, students have been improving their words per minute in each class, identifying keys on the keyboard, and practicing typing using the correct fingers on the keyboard. They also learned how to be safe on the internet from the NetSmartz Crew! I am super proud of all of the stu-

dents for trying their best while working in Computers Class!



## **Developing Healthy Habits In Physical Education**

In Phys. Ed., we recently finished up our health and wellness unit! Throughout this unit, students worked on finding and developing healthy habits, learning the best ways to keep their heart healthy, and even how to check their pulse during exercises! Coming up next, the students will be working with different types of equipment to focus on balance, underhand and overhand throwing, and rolling!



## WAYS TO TALK WITH YOUR CHILD ABOUT BOOKS

1. Ask your child to predict what might happen next while reading a story. Be sure to ask your child to give reasons for the prediction.
2. Ask your child why a character might have taken a specific action. Again, ask for the reasons behind the answer.
3. Ask your child to compare a book to another familiar book. How are the characters alike or different? Do the stories take place in similar places? How are the illustrations similar or different?
4. Ask what part of the story the child liked best and why.
5. Ask whether the child liked the ending of the story and why or why not.

## WAYS TO HELP YOUR CHILD CONNECT READING AND WRITING

1. Encourage your child to draw pictures about books or experiences. Drawing is a preparation for writing because it develops both the muscles needed for writing and children's ability to represent their ideas.
2. Help your child write a sentence or two about what they have read. Provide sentence starters for younger children.
3. Help your child to compose a note to a relative or friend. Younger children can dictate the note while you write it. Writing thank-you notes for gifts is a great writing activity for the upcoming winter break.

## News From The Library

What a wonderful time we have been having in the Library this year! The students have been doing an excellent job! We have learned a lot about book care and the parts of a book, so far. Our focus in the Library will now be reading stories by noteworthy authors and illustrators. Please have your child keep their Library book in a Ziploc bag and place it in their backpack after they read it so that they may select a new book on their Library day. The Library also subscribes to free e-books that can

be accessed on any computer at [www.tumblebooks.com](http://www.tumblebooks.com). Type in the username: **janvier** and the password: **books**. Books make terrific gifts. Their enjoyment lasts long after the season is over. You might want to consider the books listed in this newsletter as you plan your holiday purchases. Listed below are some grade level appropriate selections in order to help you get started.



Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade
Max and Ruby Series	There Was An Old Lady Series	Magic Treehouse Series
Clifford Series	How To Catch Series	Geronimo Stilton Series
Biscuit Series	Pete the Cat Series	American Girl Series
Fly Guy Series	Junie B. Jones Series	Owl Diaries Series
Books by Eric Carle	Scholastic Branches Books	Puppy Place Series
Nursery Rhymes	Books by Mo Willems	Food Group Series
Books by Dr. Seuss	Food Group Series	Black Lagoon Series
I Can Read Series—Level 1	Fly Guy Series	Dog Man Series

## Getting Ready for Polar Express Day in Kindergarten

The Kindergarten team is getting ready for so many fun and exciting activities throughout December! We are so excited to celebrate our school wide Spirit Week and are especially looking forward to Polar Express Day. On Thursday, December 21, Kindergarten will celebrate Polar Express Day with a hallway transformation. Students will enter into a winter wonderland that is complete with falling snowflakes, train tracks, and a

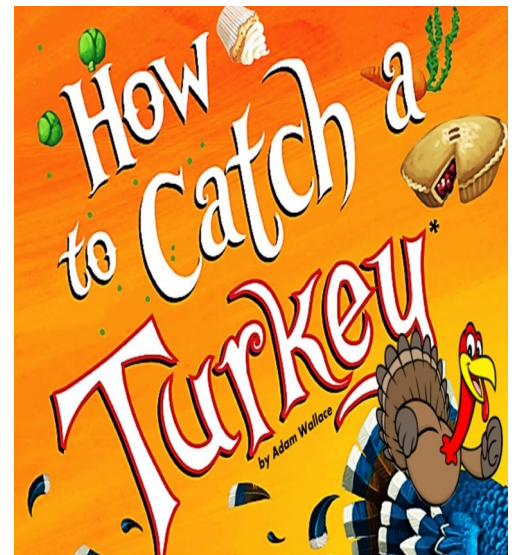
train at the end of the hallway. Everyone will get to wear cozy pajamas as they take part in listening to the Polar Express storybook and engage in many themed, educational activities. We are looking forward to a great month in Kindergarten and hope you enjoy it as much as we do!



## Off To A Great Start In 1st Grade

We have been off to a great start in the First Grade hallway! In November, we celebrated the 50th day of school. Students participated in activities such as making rootbeer floats, counting to 50, and learning about different inventions created in the 50s. Students listened to music from the era by Elvis and Little Richard. They also learned some of their favorite toys and games like Barbie and Sorry! were created in the 50s. In the month of November, we also spent a great amount of time discussing turkeys! Students

were able to create turkey traps after reading "How to Catch a Turkey," labeling parts of the turkey, and reading books themed around being thankful. We are looking forward to a joyful month of December full of engaging activities about gingerbread people, reindeer, and holidays around the world. Students will also be able to look forward to the end of the month with a full themed week! We hope you all enjoy your Holiday Season.



## Working On Math In Second Grade

The Second Graders have been working on our second unit in Math. This unit spans a few months and includes two-digit addition, two-digit subtraction, word problems, telling time, and counting money. When we are teaching two-digit addition and subtraction, we do not frequently use the traditional method of "carrying the one" or "borrowing". We have been using base - ten blocks, number lines, expanded algorithm, and/or friendly numbers in order

to promote mental math and number sense. This December, we will learn about money with a focus on coins. When we return after Winter Break we will finish unit two by telling time to the nearest 5 minutes. Students greatly benefit from real world practice using actual clocks and real money. Some ways you can practice money at home are to have your child count a handful of coins, pay at the cash register, or play store using real coins. It's so much more fun to

count real coins than our plastic school money! To practice time you can let your child wear a watch with an analog face, ask them what time the clock says, and discuss clocks when you see them in different places. Providing these real world experiences with time and money will reinforce the activities completed in class.

