

MARY F. JANVIER
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

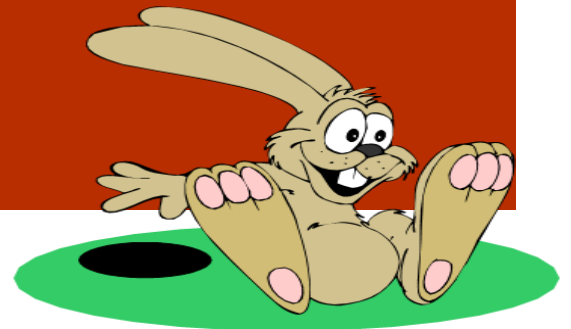
February 2024 Janvier Journal



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The Janvier Journal



Mr. Kobik's Corner

The end of February is upon us and again I find myself looking ahead. Thoughts of Spring begin to creep into my mind as I notice that the sun's rays feel warmer and the days are noticeably longer. The school year is rapidly moving by and our children are learning so much! It really is amazing when one considers just how much a child develops from the time that they enter Mary F. Janvier Elementary School as a Pre K or Kindergarten student to where they are during the late Winter of their 2nd Grade year. The children have grown in their ability towards mastering subject matter and interpersonal skills while developing their sense of self-awareness. Reading, writing, understanding and applying math concepts, gaining an understanding of their physical world, acquiring information regarding the maintenance of proper health, and furthering their social skills have all been areas of focus. Additionally, your child has, and will continue to, develop relationships while they are a Janvier student that will result in collaboration, development and use of effective communication skills, and consideration of other's feelings. Certainly, some of the relationships will continue for many years. With this noted, it is important for parents to remember the significance of their relationship with their own children. Whether it is spending time playing a game, eating together, or completing a household project, the time that parents invest with their children will strengthen their relationship with their child. As the years rapidly pass and the challenges of adolescence enter the home, it is the relationship that is forged now that will help both parents and children to overcome future obstacles. One of our goals as a school is to teach the children the power that they have in positive decision – making. Building a foundation that promotes the children

identifying their recognition of the impact of their choices towards having a great day..... everyday, plants the seeds of accountability that will foster responsibility, productivity, and empathy. Throughout the month of February, our school has been focusing on the character trait of "Kindness" and the positive impact that choosing to be kind can have. Additional activities that have been occurring in our school are highlighted in this edition of the Janvier Journal. Of note, you will find articles that highlight lessons in each of our Related Arts classes with specific lessons having interdisciplinary connections and linking to Black History Month topics. Additionally, you will find reminders from our School Nurse, articles highlighting 100th Day of School and Dental Health Month lessons as well as character study and the use of mental imaging in English Language Arts lessons. With an emphasis towards promoting content connections and relevance as well as developing critical thinking skills, our school continues to foster student growth in a manner that facilitates the children's current and future success. Mary F. Janvier Elementary School continues to be a vibrant place filled with the excitement of learning and the school's staff continues to appreciate your support.



Having Fun In Art Class

Second Grade artists recently started a project inspired by this year's music concert theme- SPACE! This week we are using "diffusing paper" to make beautiful planets that will be finished with a spacecraft (of their choosing) next week. All students are "over the moon" with excitement for both the music concert and the approaching art show! First Graders just started cityscapes inspired by Faith Ringgold's "Tar Beach." Collage has often been a focus in First Grade this year to hone in on those fine motor cutting and gluing skills.

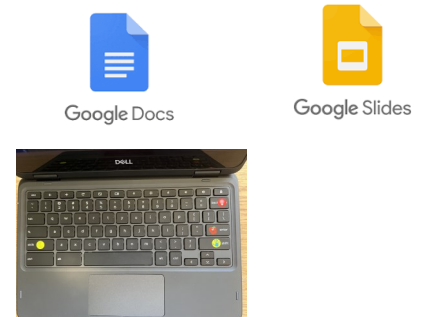
The children will be finishing the projects with self portraits of them flying over the buildings, just like the main character (Cassie) does in "Tar Beach." Kindergarteners are finishing up the textures for their "fuzzy" monsters inspired by Rachel Bright's popular book, "The Love Monster." We also took a long look at street artist, J.Goldcrown and his kind and colorful artworks to inspire backgrounds. This week, we will be adding the fuzz using Ms. Taub's favorite art process, printmaking.



What's Happening In Computers Class

Computer classes have been going smoothly! Kindergarten students are becoming experts at click, drag and drop, as well as finding letters on the keyboard to form words! We have been using the Shift Key to make capital letters while we type, the Enter Key to advance to the next row, and the Backspace Key for when we make a mistake. Each student has put a sticker on each key to help identify it easier. In First Grade students have been practicing typing, click, drag and drop, and identifying where the keys are on the keyboard. Students were able to memorize where the letter keys are by singing "The Keyboard Rap" by Jack Hartmann. Students also created a keyboard collage where they found letters from colored papers and magazines, cut them out and glued them in the correct spot

on the keyboard. We are about to begin LEGO robotics and coding which the children are looking forward to. During this time, they will learn how to work as a team to build a model and code it to be able to complete a task. In Second Grade students have been learning how to use different tools on the toolbar in Google Docs. Students are able to change the font, font size, font color, add bold, italicize, and underline to their text. Students are practicing typing sentences and paragraphs. They are able to add and adjust images to match the sentences they have typed. Students are also going to work as a team to create a Google Slideshow that they will present to the class.



Learning Throwing & Catching Skills In Gym

The Second Trimester is underway and the students are hard at work learning and practicing different skills while using different types of equipment! In past weeks, the students practiced balancing with different objects and worked on their throwing and catching skills. They also trained like a professional football player during Super Bowl week! Currently, the students are working on their ball rolling skills by competing in different types of bowling ac-

tivities! Remember to keep wearing your sneakers on Gym days to stay safe!



We are in the midst of Flu season! Please be mindful to wash your hands throughout the day. Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze to prevent the spread of germs. If you have flu or cold-like symptoms please stay home from school and follow up with the doctors. The chart posted next to this article may prove helpful in determining your child's illness.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	COLD	FLU
Symptom onset	Gradual	Abrupt
Fever	Rare	Usual
Aches	Slight	Usual
Chills	Uncommon	Fairly common
Fatigue, weakness	Sometimes	Usual
Sneezing	Common	Sometimes
Chest discomfort, cough	Mild to moderate	Common
Stuffy nose	Common	Sometimes
Sore throat	Common	Sometimes
Headache	Rare	Common

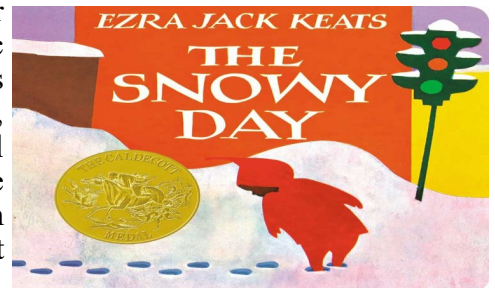
#FIGHT FLU

“Snow Better Time To Read” In The Library

Janvier students have been having a wonderful time reading about snow and the cold winter months in the library. Kindergarten classes read the stories "Snowmen At Night" and "Snowballs" while practicing rhyming words and sight word vocabulary. First Grade students read the Caldecott Medal winners “The Snowy Day” and "Wolf in the Snow" while practicing alphabetical order. Second Grade students have been busy reading “The Three Snow Bears” and "Sled Dog Run" while study-

ing the Native American tribe, the Inuit. We have also created snowy pictures and stories of our own. Please place your child's library book back in their backpack each week. Water bottles can damage library books so make sure they are in an outside pocket or place library books in a ziploc bag. While reading, students should be able to locate the title, author, illustrator, spine and call number, as well as determine whether their library book is fiction or nonfiction. Take a moment at

the end of every few pages to discuss the characters, setting and plot of the story together. I am amazed at how much the children have already learned and I look forward to seeing what they can accomplish in 2024!



Learning About Jazz In Music Class

Music classes in January and February are educational, exploratory, and enjoyable for students of all grade levels. Lessons have involved wrapping up our second unit about musical elements and segueing those ideas into the third unit, which is about jazz music. Kindergarten, 1st Grade, and 2nd Grade classes will all be listening to jazz music, moving their body to jazz music, and singing jazz music through scat singing. Students

are learning the very basics of improvisation, having conversations about styles used in jazz, and are being exposed to a sample of the rich history of the genre. In addition to our jazz unit, Kindergarten and 1st Graders are playing music on xylophones while 2nd Graders are preparing for their annual Spring Concert. This year's Spring Concert takes place on Monday, March 25th and Tuesday, March 26th. The theme of this concert is

Outer Space! This is a very exciting theme that brings together music and science. Students' enthusiasm towards learning about music and outer space together has generated an eagerness towards performing in the concert. Hoping to see you at our performances in March!



Dental Health Month In Kindergarten

February is National Children's Dental Health Month. In Mrs. Gentile and Ms. Boccuto's Kindergarten class, we are learning all about dental health hygiene. Our centers and activities are teeth themed. As a class we talked about the importance of taking care of our teeth and we talked about various foods and drinks that are not good for your teeth. The students then had an opportunity to sort foods that were good

and not good for our teeth. Our center activities included "teeth subtraction", dental health themed "subtract the room," and dental health themed "write the room". Remember to brush, floss, smile!



Celebrating The 100th Day In First Grade

The 100th day of school is a great time to pause and acknowledge students' progress. From the first day of school, the children began keeping track of the number of days we've been in school in anticipation of the 100th day! It's this anticipation that is actually the first math lesson. We used straws which became a "ten bundle," paving the way to count by tens and ones! Students were also able to celebrate using manipulatives in Math and creating many different activities and projects. Classrooms were asked to bring in a collection

of 100 items. We also filled in a hundred charts, used patterns to make 100, students wrote and talked about what we would look like when we are 100 and what they would buy with \$100.00



ELA In Second Grade

Wow! What a year it has been for Second Graders! Second Graders have spent the last couple of weeks on an English Language Arts unit discussing how characters in fiction stories learn and grow from obstacles they face. A recurring question throughout this unit has been, "What can we learn when we face problems?" Students connected to, and deepened their understanding of, fiction stories by creating mental images or "movies in their mind" about story

elements, such as characters, setting, problem, events, and solution, when answering questions and retelling the important parts of a story. The children have described characters using details from the text and made text-to-self connections when discussing character feelings and character responses to challenges. Students have really worked hard on this unit and we have now begun a brand new thematic unit focusing on using non-fiction texts. Please

continue to practice reading with your child and encourage them to make connections, create mental images, and retell the important parts of the story in their own words.

