

## Teacher Reports - March 21, 2023

### **Maria Gibson, Grades 1 & 2**

Good afternoon Board Members,

Our morning circle is looking at the character trait of Resilience. Daily math practices look at the open number line and solving problems.. Daily vocabulary practices include writing sentences using first grade sight words and second grade vocabulary words.

The ELA centers:

Choral reading from the reading A-Z program with Ms. Skiver: Group 1 is reading Are You from India? (Level F). Group 2 are reading American Football (Level H). Group 3 are reading Hawaii Volcanoes National Park (Level K). Group 4 are reading Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell ( Level T).

In the vocabulary center students work through six words corresponding to their reading a-z books. What these six words mean, synonyms and antonyms and how to apply their meaning in sentences.

In the writing center the first grade students are looking at capitalization and rewriting sentences. Second Grade students are writing paragraphs based on prompts that include opinion writing.

In the Wit & Wisdom curriculum we are continuing the Module called Good Eating. We are reading and analyzing the book The Digestive System by Christine Taylor Butler.

We are on Unit 3 in the Math Bridges Curriculum . First Grade students are looking at adding numbers in the teens and double digits. Second Grade students are looking at the open number line as a strategy to solve problems.

In the Mystery Science Curriculum we are looking at the unit on Animal Biodiversity.

In the Studies Weekly Curriculum for social studies we are looking at the unit on Cultural Literacy, One State Many People.

Art occurs every Thursday. This week we are making Leprechaun traps!!

Mrs. Gibson

### **Natalie Shoptaw, Grades 3 & 4**

We have started a 4th grade module in Wit and Wisdom called Great Heart. Students looked closely at what it means to have a figurative great heart. We looked at the life of Clara Barton in close detail and wrapped up last week with an essay writing about her, which proved VERY challenging for many of the students, particularly the younger ones. We are moving on to literal great hearts with the book, The Circulatory Story. While written for kids, it is a very challenging text as they go into detail about the human circulatory system.

We had a fun time exploring the relationship between vibration and sound in the last two weeks. Students built "Sound Sandwiches" from popsicle sticks and rubber bands. They blow on them to produce a noise similar to a kazoo. A few students then earned an extended learning opportunity because they had all their assignments caught up. So, during Friday's customary task completion period, these students made a "Bee Hummer" also built from popsicle sticks, rubber bands, 1/2 of an index card, and cap erasers - with a string attached. When swung, it makes a noise that resembles bees buzzing.

## **Dani Krebs, Grades 5 & 6**

Hello everyone.

We are still plowing away at our academics and getting ready for next year. The 6th graders have finished a math unit, and they will start the new one next week. The 5th graders are almost done their math unit, and will soon move on to another topic. In ELA, the students are reading a book called "We are the Ship" which is about African American baseball players before Jackie Robinson. It is part of our unit about "breaking barriers."

The 5/6 grade class has a field trip planned for April 6. It is at Big River and different emergency groups will be there at stations. The students will move from different stations and see what these emergency responders do.

We also have our Mackerricher State Park field trip still planned where we will look at tide pools with a guide. I am really looking forward to it!

The students are diligently working on their science fair projects at home. They will present to the class on March 29th and show us all what they have been working on.

Until next time,  
Dani Krebs

## **Mike Lang, Grades 7 & 8**

I'm very excited for the weeks ahead, as our class forges their path into the end of the school year.

We are beginning the final component of the Perspectives Unit in our MyPerspectives curriculum. Students are reading about a few more inspiring people that overcame "impossible" odds and obstacles. Our unit will be wrapping up with an informative essay, which is a good change of pace for our class' writing portfolios.

In Mathematics, we are continuing to dig deep into Geometry and Polynomials. In our standard mathematics curriculum, students are learning more about area, surface area, and volume. In Algebra I, we are breaking down how to factor polynomials and solve for "x" when there is more than one correct answer.

Our science and history classes are continuing very well. Our McGraw-Hill curriculum is continuing our journey through Early Rome, as we learn about the end of the Republic and the beginning of the Empire. We are utilizing most of our science class time preparing for the Science Fair, which should be a great demonstration of our class' abilities.

Our class is most excited about our non-core curriculum. We published the first episodes of our class YouTube Channel and are very excited to continue on this new adventure as a class! We are also continuing to learn CPR and First Aid in Health, which is a great skill to have. Our life skills course is beginning to focus on our values and managing conflict and relationships, as well as leading us to learn some new group and interpersonal communication skills.

As always, I'm very appreciative of this community and this is a great group of students we have and I look forward to each day that I get to work with them.

- Mr. Lang

## **Rana Adams, Student Programs Specialist**

After School Basketball is off to a great start, with 23 students signed up! Basketball has also been popular during recess lately with 3-6th grade. The 5/6 class even organized their own one-v-one tournament! It was lovely to see their self driven efforts. Plans are in the works for junior coaches to referee basketball games for the younger grades in the near future. There are two more weeks to go, then Wrestling with Mr. Lang is next.

In PE students in 3-6th grade have just finished their last round of fitness stations that are designed to prepare them for the National Fitness Test. These aerobic and anaerobic exercises target the main muscle groups such as the biceps, abdominals, quadriceps, and hamstrings. There are also one or two stations that concentrate on stretching. This test is administered to the 5th and 7th grade students each year, and we will be starting this in April. We have also been running laps around the field every other week (7 laps equals 1 mile), and adding an additional lap every month. The students have now officially reached the 1 mile distance! This is very exciting for them to see they are capable of this feat! We will start timing and recording their mile run now so they can set goals for personal records.

In electives, Tinkering has been a fun adventure with learning about hot glue and basic mechanical engineering, sculpting with wire, coding and commanding robot rovers, designing wheels for rovers, and next week dissecting old laptops! I'm having a lot of fun watching their "wheels" turning! Mr. Tulley has been an incredible connection and resource with the activities and the [Tinkering School in San Francisco](#) that is lending us their robot rovers.

The Yearbook Committee (three seventh graders and one eighth grader) joins me twice a week to create the yearbook. They are learning about graphic design, equity in school publications, photography concepts, and digital art! They are excited about their ideas to make this yearbook special and unique to them while still working cohesively as a team. So much fun!

I also got to substitute for Ms. Krebs this week and it just so happened to be Pi day (3.14 for March 14th)! So I had fun bringing many activities related to circumference, diameter, and radius to the class all day long. The highlight was finishing the day with a play on words for Pi... we made pies! For each circumference equation they completed they got to add a topping of their personal "pie" (made out of rice crispy treats and pudding). It was a blast and I hope they always remember Pi day now and that math is all around us!

Thanks to the board and MS. MORGAN for supporting all the amazing extracurriculars and enrichment for our students. I feel so grateful to be a part of this team!