



Dear Families,

The students continue to collect tickets for making good choices in our classroom community. Recently, the children have been excited to trade their tickets for an opportunity to sit in the teacher's chair for the day. Indoor recess has continued to be an excellent chance for the students to work collaboratively to build puzzles.



Math

We have begun our study of fractions. We started the unit with an introduction to some fraction vocabulary words and an explanation of a fraction as being "part of a whole." The children have really enjoyed using the magnetic fraction manipulatives to help them visualize

each fraction set. The children have practiced adding fractions with like and unlike denominators. We played a game of "Adding Fractions Scoot" where the children moved around the classroom solving problems. They also are exploring the relationship between mixed numbers and improper fractions, including how to convert from one to the other. The students have also practiced simplifying fractions. We had fun with our *Smartie Fractions* activity. The students especially enjoyed snacking on this sweet treat upon the completion of their fraction work.

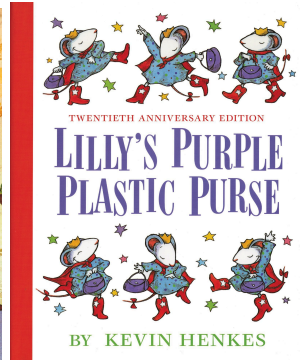
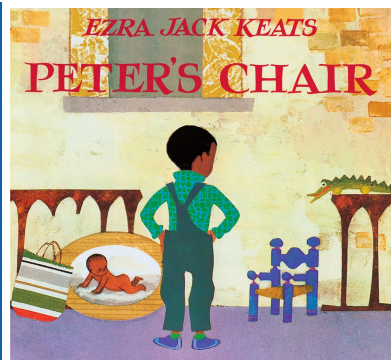
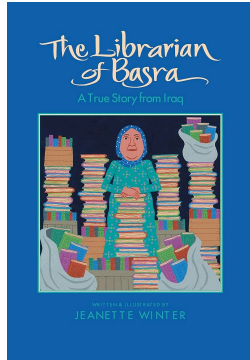
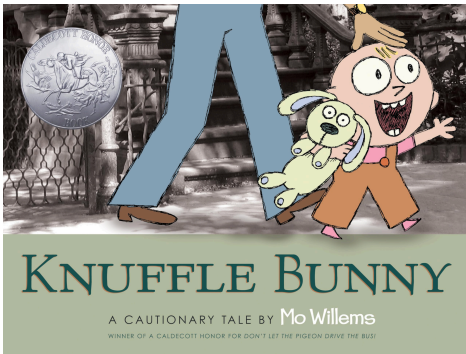


Each student in our class has a SplashLearn account. Like Prodigy, this is another tool that can be used at home for extra math practice. There is also a SplashLearn iPad app that you can download. Click on the link below. Here is the login information: Class Code: **UAHPMU**
Password: **tape21**

SplashLearn: Fun Math & ELA Program for PreK-Grade 5

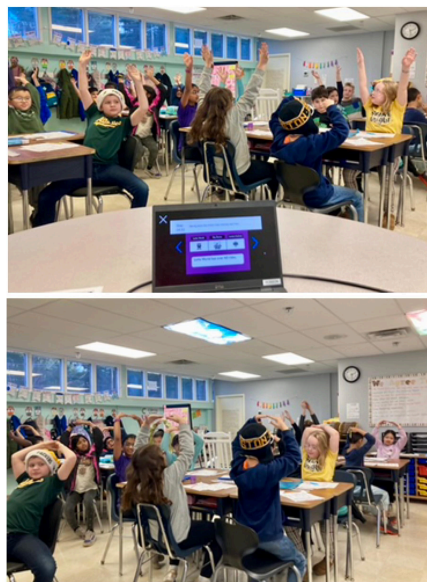
Reading

We learned how to write fiction summaries during the month of December. We discovered that a summary is a retelling of a story using our own words to recount the most important parts of a text. We utilized the following key words to organize our summaries: **somebody, wanted, but, so, then**. Given this framework, the students practiced writing summaries after listening to the following stories.



Writing

We have begun our unit on informative writing. In this unit, students will write a three paragraph informative blog post about Seoul, South Korea. After sorting information about three destinations in Seoul, they will select two to include in their blog and add an introduction. Finally, they will edit and revise to create a final draft. The children played a sorting game to learn how to sort facts into categories. You can see them performing different motions to sort facts about three destinations in Seoul: Lotte World, the Sky Dome, and the Lantern Festival.



An artist in residence named Brian Evans-Jones will be joining us in February to do a poetry unit with our 4th graders. At the end of the unit, each student will have a published book

of poetry to bring home! We met with Brian this month to introduce the project and get excited about poetry. The pictures below show the students working collaboratively to demonstrate ideas. If you'd like to learn more, you can explore Brian's website:

<https://www.writebetterpoems.com/>



Science

We have begun our second unit on energy and energy transfer. In this unit, students will explore energy! The children will investigate how energy is stored, how it can make objects move, and how collisions transfer energy between objects. During the first lesson, students discovered that we use the energy from food to make our bodies move just like cars use the energy from gasoline to move. The children built paper models of an amusement park ride called the Twist-o-Matic. The ride stored energy in rubber bands and spun around when the energy was released. The students compared the speed of the spins when they used a thin rubber band vs. a thick rubber band.



Social Studies

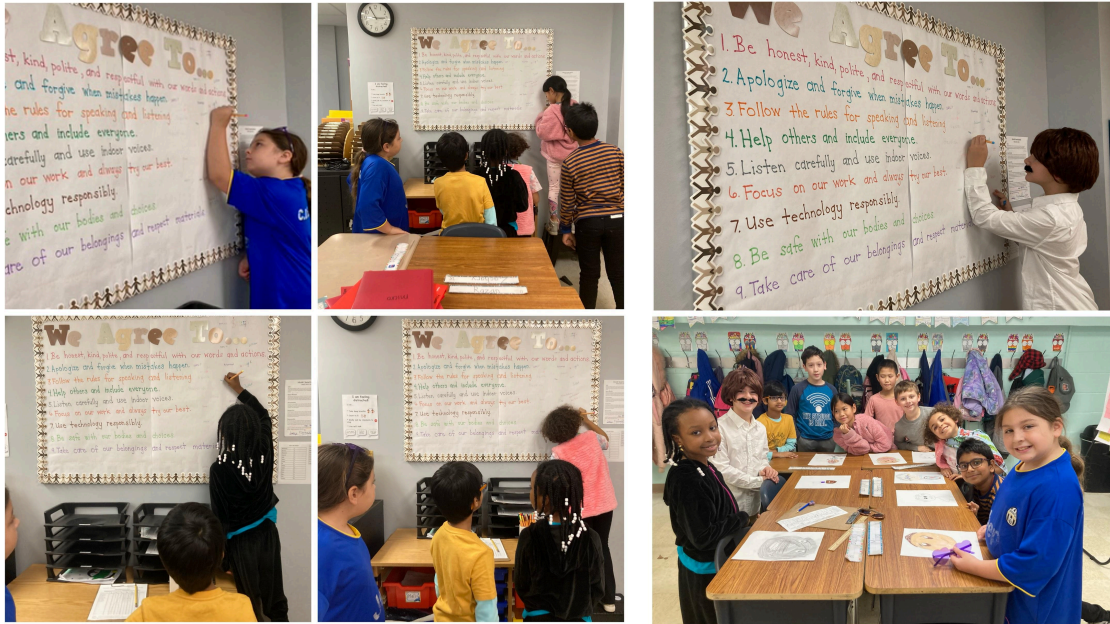
This month the children explored the United States government. They learned about the three branches of government: executive, legislative, and judicial. The students read nonfiction books about each branch, the people who are a part of each branch, and the roles they play in our government. Additionally, we explored the concept of checks and balances and how this supports a balance of power between the three branches.

Micro

Our 4th grade business owners and managers created posters and designed questions in preparation for the job fair. They interviewed potential employees and wrote job offers.



Training days are in full swing in MicroCity. The students report to work each afternoon, learning how to sign in, plan services, and collaborate in preparation for our upcoming marketplace days. Our 206 classroom is the home of the MicroCity **Bank**. On marketplace days, students at MACS will be able to visit the bank to deposit and withdraw money from their personal and business accounts. We have enjoyed getting to know one another during our initial training days. We make a great team!



Community Building

A fun time was had by all during our Spirit Week! Check out these students dressed as educators! Look at all of those Mrs. Robsons and Mr. Walkers! Enjoying a movie together was the perfect, cozy ending before our vacation.

