



Dear Families,

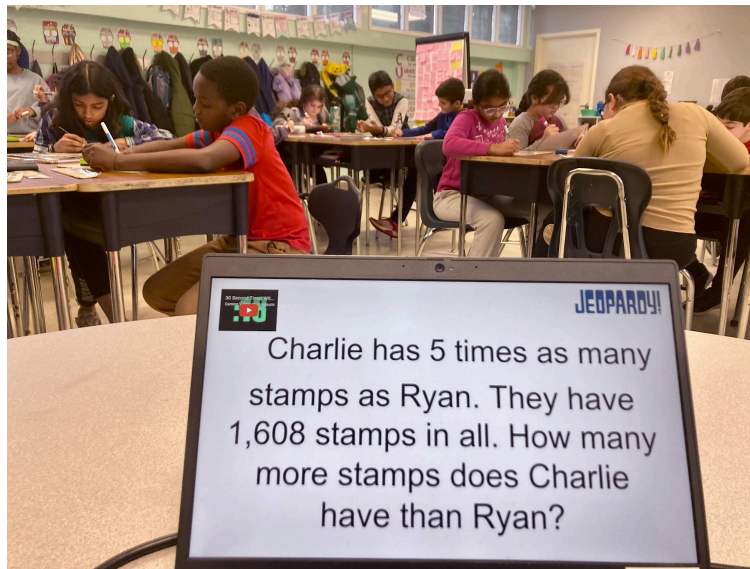
The month of November passed by so quickly. Our learning and collaboration continue to be in full swing! The children worked together during indoor recess to complete this puzzle of the United States!



Math

We spent a lot of time this month learning and practicing long multiplication and division. The children studied the standard algorithms, bar models, and multi-step word problems. We

have started preparing for the SAS (Statewide Assessment System) test that will happen in the spring. We do a daily math warm-up where we practice one problem from the SAS portal each day after lunch. We prepared for our chapter 3 test with a fun game of Jeopardy!

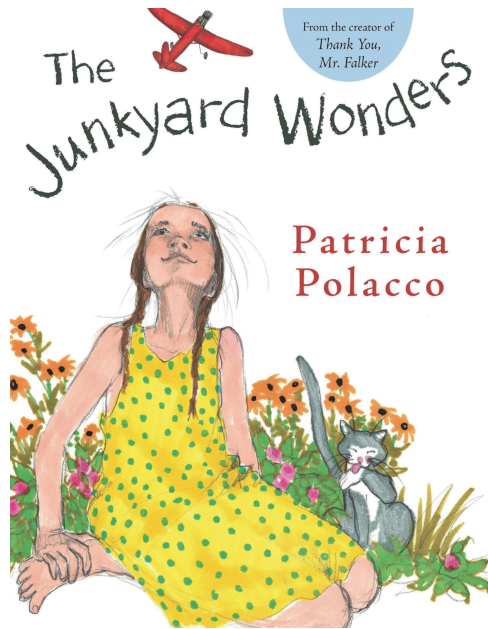


The children are continuing to practice their math facts in the classroom. At parent/teacher conferences, some families asked for resources to print at home. *Teachers Pay Teachers* is an excellent website with many free downloads. Here is one example of a resource that can be found on this site:

[Multiplication Practice Sheets | Mad Minutes, Multiplication Tables, and More!](#)
[\(teacherspayteachers.com\)](#)

Reading

This month we have strengthened our understanding of the three types of connections. In book-to-self connections, we connect something in a text to our own personal experiences. In book-to-world connections, we connect something in the book to something we know about in the world around us. In book-to-book connections, we connect one text to another. The students have practiced making connections in their Reader's Notebooks as well as during our literature circles. We have begun examining inferences. I shared a demonstration to introduce this new concept. The blue water represents the text evidence and the yellow water represents our prior knowledge, or schema. It's only when both components act together that one can make an inference. Thus, the green water, an inference, is formed when we locate text evidence and reflect on that evidence using our prior knowledge. We practiced this skill with a memoir, The Junkyard Wonders, by Patricia Polacco.



Writing

We finished our unit on opinion writing this month. The children wrote a multi-paragraph essay outlining whether they'd rather be a pastry chef or an obstacle course athlete. Each student wrote a thesis statement, created strong reasons using opinion words, and supported those reasons with details and examples. The students also learned how to replace overused words with strong synonyms using the thesaurus for help. Additionally, we practiced using transition words to link our sentences together.

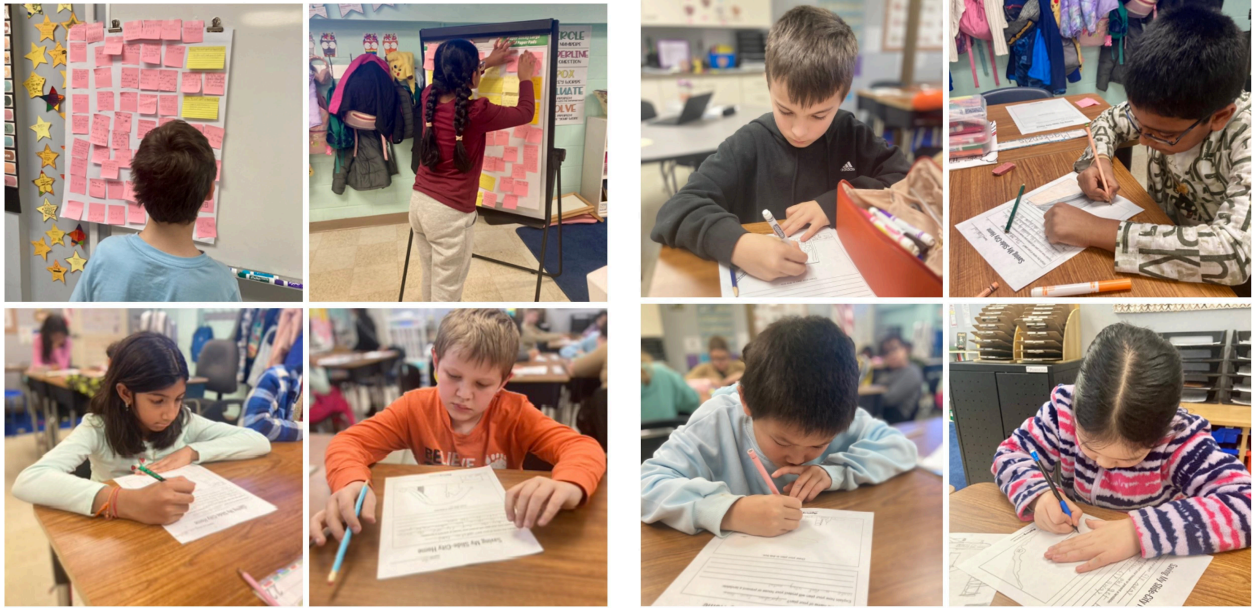
Spelling

Your child's weekly spelling words go home each Monday and our assessments occur on Friday. Please continue to support your child in practicing their spelling words at home each night. Here are some fun ways to keep spelling practice exciting!

[45 Ways to Practice Spelling Words - Homeschool Hideout](#)

Science

We finished our unit on the earth's features and processes. The students were faced with an engineering problem of protecting a house from a landslide and preventing a landslide from happening. They used a brainstorming technique to design creative solutions. They came up with some interesting ideas.



Social Studies

We studied the three branches of government this month. The children read informational books about the executive, legislative, and judicial branches and then practiced answering multiple choice questions.

Micro

Congratulations to the students who completed Management 101. Three students from our class have started their own businesses this year and others have secured management positions. The students have been busy writing their resumes and will be attending the job fair this week.

During Micro we have also been examining images that depict communities worldwide and have practiced verbalizing what we see in those pictures. Here the students are looking at a photograph of children at school in another part of our world. They had interesting reflections and ideas about what was happening in the picture.



Community Building

We attended our annual MACS "Balloons Over Broadway" parade. Students from our primary grades created balloons and paraded around the school. This event yielded a lot of enthusiasm and school spirit. Our 206 family fills my heart with joy and love each and every day.

