

Cliffside Park School #4



Monthly Update-October 2017
Principal- Mrs.Jaclyn Roussos

Kindergarten: This month, our "SPOOK"-tacular Kindergarten students...celebrated their first published piece in writer's workshop! In Reading, they learned how to select their favorite books from the classroom library. In Math, they counted, read, and wrote numbers 6 through 10. In Science, they were busy with their first investigations and documenting their observations in their science notebooks. In Social Studies, they participated in a school wide week of respect. They also learned how to cooperate with others, and about rules, and responsibilities. In Foundations, they continued learning letters, keywords, and sounds. They were also introduced to rhyming words and syllables. In Health, they discussed wellness and healthy habits.

First Grade: During the month of October the First Grade worked on writing and publishing their own personal narratives. We picked a topic that interests us and wrote about it. In Reading we learned about genres and how to choose "just right" books. We also learned how to take notes while reading

on sticky notes and how to retell and remember in order to become stronger readers. In Foundations, we learned and reviewed trick words, learned how to tap out unknown words, and learned about sentence formation. In Math, we completed Topic 2 where we learned how to fluently add and subtract, and began taking our weekly timed tests. In Social Studies we continued learning about communities, and learned about our leaders at home, school and in our community. In each of the first grade classes, we are working on a different unit of study. In Mrs. DeFilippis's class, we continued learning about air and weather. In Miss Hubschman's class, we continued to learn about plants and animals. In Mrs. Shah's class, we continued learning about sound and light. Finally, in Health we continued to learn about healthy habits.

Second grade: In the month of October, 2nd grade students published their 1st piece in Writing. They worked hard on their personal narratives and presented them to their peers when they were completed. They are proudly hung in the halls for all to read. In Math, we learned how to use multiple strategies to add double digits. In Science, we began our first investigation- studying the growth of mealworms. We observed the many stages and wrote about what we noticed in our Science notebooks. We are exploring the genre of Fiction in Reading and learning about the different types of Fiction texts (fantasy fiction,

traditional literature, realistic fiction). Halloween was a blast! We made Jack-o-lanterns & Ghosts out of different foods.

Third grade: This month, students in the third grade became authors as they published their narrative writing about a special memory. In Reading, students learned about many different strategies they can use to help strengthen their comprehension skills like making connections, using context clues, and things they can jot down while reading. In Math, students became masters of multiplication! In science, students made observations of seeds and began to watch how they change after being planted. In Social Studies, students learned about the continents and each class performed their own continent song. In Health, students learned about the food groups and tracked their eating habits.

Fourth grade: During the month of October in writer's workshop, Fourth grade finished up the writing process by publishing their narratives. We celebrated their final pieces at the end. In reading, students learned about the different reading strategies to use during independent reading time and finished up the Launching unit. We started the Nonfiction unit and students are very interested in the different types of nonfiction texts. In Social Studies, students have been working in groups on their regions of New Jersey projects and putting

together their Google Slides presentations. Science has been very engaging with the fourth graders. Students began by observing mealworms: their structures and behaviors. They also created environments for the mealworms. They were excited to observe and hold the mealworms. We are now in the process of watching the mealworms change into beetles and the different processes they go through in order to get to its final stages. In health, students were introduced to a project, where they will be creating a mirror that shows their self concept through the use of words and pictures.

Fifth grade: The fifth grade had an octraordinary month!! First off we neared the publishing of our first writing piece. The celebrations for their pieces are literally just around the corner. Mathematically, we focused on adding and subtracting decimals and multiplying 3-digit by 2-digit numbers. The Math is getting more challenging, but the children are resilient. In Health, students completed and presented their first project, "Healthy Lunch Menus" on Google Slides. The kids did GREAT partner work!! In Reading, we learned jotting notes and using the notes to conduct book talks. The children practiced plenty of book talking as well. Additionally, we began review the different story elements. From a Social Studies standpoint, Students began learning about "The First People". They recognized how Scientist study the remains of early humans in order to learn about prehistory. They also learned how the

stone age tools grew more complex as time passed and how hunter-gather societies developed language, art and religion. Finally, the children continue to express their love for our new Fossweb Science. They continued working their first investigation, which required the students to create and separate different types of mixtures. The children LOVE hands-on. Lastly, to cap off an octoberrific month, Halloween finally arrived, and the children had a blast. It was a fabulous month, but the months to come will be even better!!

Sixth grade: The sixth graders had an omniscient October! The infinitely wise students discovered how to represent rational numbers on the number line, find absolute value, and plot rational numbers on the coordinate plane - amazing! In social studies, the students journeyed back in time to the Roman Republic and studied the lives of the ancient citizens then created a newspaper, children's book, or journal which depicted the lives of these masterful and creative ancient people. Detective Sgt. Miller brought in the C.O.P.E program by explaining the dangers and outcomes of cyber-bullying. The Ecology expedition continued in science where students created transects, collected and analyzed data via cooperative and investigative learning. The sixth grade wrapped up October by creating 'cozy corners of learning' in

our classroom. Pillows and beanbags make learning comfortable!

Library: Students spent time this month practicing book care rules, how to choose "just right books", and focusing on library procedures. We also focused on bullying prevention and respectful behaviors. Students listened to many stories related to this topic such as:

Llama Llama and the Bully Goat, Kindness is Cooler Mrs. Ruler, King of the Playground, The Juice Box Bully, The Recess Queen, Howard B. Wigglebottom Learns About Bullies, Stand Up: Bullying Prevention, What We Stand For, and Confessions of a Former Bully.

Students learned through listening, discussions, and role playing that we can all make a difference and raise awareness to help prevent bullying in our school.

Gym:

We are starting to pick the pace up a little bit in October. Students are more set in their routines, which allows them more activity time. We are up to a 30 second plank, followed by 10 push ups, and 10 sit ups. Students have set a goal of a 7 minute jog by the end of the month, which we are well on our way to accomplishing. Our modified basketball games are going great for the 4th-6th grades, and in the K-3rd grades we are starting to introduce some competitiveness into their gross motor skills. Squad races have been competitive, but sportsmanship is always displayed. 5th graders learned the map of the Spanish speaking world and practiced the months by learning what happens in each month. Differing classroom commands were studied. 6th graders reviewed pronouns and the three main conjugation types in Spanish.

Art: In 1st grade students will begin creating their own piece of a totem pole based on an animal. Students in 2nd grade are finishing their shape houses and will be learning about lines in art, and creating a mixed media project. 3rd grade is learning about balance and symmetry while creating radial and symmetrical designs. After students finish their projects on lines and zentangles, 4th grade will be learning about the artist Henri Matisse and creating a piece of artwork composed of organic shapes. 5th grade is learning about Mesopotamian Art and creating a mixed media project. 6th grade students are

finishing their mosaic designs and will be learning about African Art next.

Computer: Many students had the pleasure of experiencing an online drawing tutorial. The keywords for the search were either Halloween scene or Autumn scene drawing tutorial for kids. Students practiced accessing a website, selecting an appropriate level drawing task and following directions to hand draw images such as a haunted house, candy corn, jack-o-lantern, or a colorful fall tree.

World Language: This month kindergarten learned the basic shapes, learned to say how they feel and reviewed songs. 1st graders learned shapes in more depth and answered basic questions such as how are you and how do you feel in further detail while reviewing songs. 2nd graders identified classroom objects and questions on the days of the week and the date. 3rd graders identified other objects of the classroom and answered differing questions on the day of the week. 4th graders learned holidays celebrated in each month with a review of days of week and months and classroom commands. 5th grade finished their study of the map of the Spanish speaking world while reviewing the months by stating what happens in each of them. Differing classroom commands were discussed. In 6th grade students reviewed their pronouns and conjugated the three

main types of verbs in the present tense. All students finished learning the numbers for their grade.