



Intermediate News

Spring 2019

Language Arts

Although, it felt like Spring would never arrive, it now seems to be here and the Intermediates are growing physically, socially and academically!

We just wrapped up our NJSLA testing. The Olders handled the process very well and the Youngers were very flexible and accommodating. This test is just one measure of the work that we have been doing all year long, and we have been very busy in all subjects!

As readers, we analyzed characters and books in a series and learned to support our ideas with text evidence. During that unit of study, readers thought about characters more deeply - noticing how they respond to problems, how they interact with others and how they behave across chapters and across series. Getting to know characters well made the work of predicting much easier! It also helped us to understand "plot" as we followed our character along his or her journey.

We used what we learned about characters and plot to adapt our own fairy tales during Writing Workshop. Some students changed characters from male to female, or from wealthy to impoverished. Others changed the obstacles their characters faced or how they responded to challenges. It was a fun way to revisit childhood favorites and learn about cause/effect relationships too.

After these fiction units, the Intermediates returned to nonfiction for the second time this school year. Students are digging a little deeper into text features, text structures and ways to take notes. They are researching animals and will be presenting this work to their peers.

Mathematics

In math, students continue to explore number sense and computation strategies. Olders focused on strategies to multiply large numbers - including a cool strategy of partitioning rectangles. Olders also hit fractions hard and learned to name fractions of regions and collections, to compare fractions and even to identify improper fractions. Youngers have learned the characteristics of two and three dimensional shapes and strategies to add and subtract multi-digit numbers. Youngers are also dabbling in multiplication with arrays.

Social Studies

Our trip to Waterloo Village is coming up. We will learn more about New Jersey history, commerce and life in the past. During social studies we have been learning about the economics concepts of wants/needs and supply/demand. We also have worked on lessons for our social/emotional growth.

Each month throughout this school year, guest teacher, Farmer Tina has visited our classroom and taught us about nutrition and farming. On her last classroom visit, we planted seeds and have been watching them sprout and grow in our classroom. We will plant our seedlings when we visit the Urban Farm in June. These little plants are a nice metaphor for academic growth too!



The Intermediate Teachers