



# Happy Holidays! 2020-2021 School Year

## The Education Academy Newsletter:

### Mrs. Dawn Sisco's Class

Mrs. Sisco's class demonstrated their STEAM knowledge by learning about the qualities of different fabrics. These qualities include texture, durability and absorbency. With their new vocabulary they then created hats that were strong and able to hold off the rain! This "Mad Hatter" activity was a big hit. Cultural Diversity was the theme for Social Studies this quarter with the children learning about all different cultural traditions around the world with their own peers in class. The students successfully use Math Bamboozle to practice and review their Math skills while also learning team building and peer sharing.



### Mrs. Rader's Class

Mrs. Rader's virtual students are learning about novel study and the decisions authors make regarding the layout of a novel, and in particular, how to keep the pace of the action going to keep the reader engaged. The students are collectively engaged in numerous STEAM activities that revolve around winter scientific experiments and the age-old question - Are there really no identical snowflakes in the world? and How can we really state that as a fact and not just a hypothesis?

### Mrs. Kimberly Rusch's Class

Mrs. Rusch's class reviewed the character traits of altruism and generosity and tied these into Social Studies with the Pilgrims and the Indians and the First Thanksgiving. The development of The Constitution of the United States along with the Electoral College processes illustrated for the students how the study of our past helps us learn direction for a better future for today's world. Science revolved around the systems of the human body and the importance of keeping the human body safe from harm inside and out. This led to a timely discussion of influenza and diseases that can be kept at bay with proper care such as vaccinations, hygiene and good nutrition. The students are practicing recall of math facts and formulas to assist them with moving forward with higher level math formulas such as Pre-Algebra and Geometry and how these facts are used daily in the real world.

### Mrs. Laura Starner's Class

Mrs. Starner's students have been corresponding back and forth with their favorite author, Dan Gutman. Grids, direction concepts and map skills were taught and utilized as a STEAM activity with an emphasis on time and distance and recording their findings. Personal and civic leadership qualities were reviewed and discussed in Social Studies by reading about past U.S. leaders such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King and Cesar Chavez. World Holidays rounded out the on-going cultural diversity lessons by reading about Diwali, Hanukkah, Las Posadas and Kwanzaa.

We are so proud of our students who took the New Jersey Start Strong Assessments. They worked hard and did their best!!!!!! A big Thank You to Mrs. Kane and Mr. Neaves who assisted them!

### Mrs. Brianne Hojnacki's Class

Mrs. H's class has been working on literature analysis and in particular, how to conduct an extensive novel study. This Language Arts class has also become familiar with the use of graphic organizers where they can summarize, use the sequential method, contrast people, things, and their findings together in small groups. With their newfound skills the students are learning how Math is utilized in many activities such as recipes and in particular, cake baking. They also learned that without precise measuring you do not get the baking results like in the picture! I think we have all learned that along the way.

Together there is Nothing we cannot do!!



### Ms. Dawn Holly's Class

The Puppies With A Purpose Program has been keeping these eager young students very busy. From learning how to safely plan a plane's itinerary and flight plan to calculating how much weight in puppies the plane can hold. We never want to leave a puppy behind on our rescue missions. These children have covered many subject areas, from geographical map skills to Math ratios, to the importance of reading and checking theme-based learning. They continued with reviewing multi-digit multiplication, phases of matter and reading comprehension.

### Physical Education

This year has presented schools with many challenges, but thank goodness the weather could not have been any better for having our much-needed Physical Education classes outside. The children were able to properly social distance with outside and utilized sanitation facilities for cleanup and hygiene maintenance. The children thus far have experienced soccer, frisbee throwing, jump-rope skills, and golf. Golf was a big favorite this year as it was not just golf as mere mortals know it. It was *Haunted Golf*, as this physical activity was scheduled right around Halloween. The kids had a great time setting up a mini-golf course that utilized Mrs. Mathis' extensive collection of Halloween and Fright Fest figures, gadgets and gizmos so all delightful screams and giggles could be heard outside the school building. It was a sight for sore eyes and the students and staff loved it.

### SPOT Group (Speech and Occupational Therapy Together!)

Mrs. Laduca and Mrs. Pesciotta utilized all their creative talents to provide our students with their therapies. They maintained their participation by individualizing the activities and making them challenging and fun at the same time. They enhanced their speech and language capabilities, mastered their motor control and executive functioning skills (in particular time, management and sequencing). Various board games that we all remember as children are all the rage now as families are digging them out and making the best of the closeness of family time during this pandemic. These talented therapists took advantage of this and introduced additional games of interest as well as the old tried and true, Uno, various card games, games of strategy and competition and turn-taking. The students could be observed working with one another verbally and non-verbally to gain understanding of their teammates strategies and reading their facial cues and gestures. Fantastic!

### Counseling

Counseling with Mrs. Quinn and Mrs. B also had to get creative to reach all the children. They emphasized and worked on the most important skill a child can utilize-their inner tool kits that help them make good choices and excel academically, socially and emotionally. The focus this quarter became one where Career Exploration was the theme and each class was guided by the counsellors to work on setting goals that involve responsibility, coping skills and managing stress and anxiety. Students were challenge to attain those goals throughout their daily school schedules as well as working with their family dynamics. This was a great topic to show the students that stress is manmade and it is man that must figure the best way for the elimination of it in one's environment. The Pandemic has caused stress and anxiety for all our Education Academy members and by our wonderful counselors taking these two tough subjects and having Career Exploration as a theme-they were able to tackle the stress and anxiety that a lot of the students brought into the building. Their feelings, fatigue and emotionality were shared to illustrate for the children they were not alone and they will see these feeling again. They now need to take the energy it takes to be anxious and stressed and use it to work their way through their own personal goals. They need to take care of themselves so they can help their families and their own futures. What a great lesson strategy!

This Newsletter is dedicated to Nurse Debra Nademus who headed our Pandemic Response Team and who has and always will take great care of our Education Academy Families.