

# Ms. Speno's & Mrs. Forbes'

## February Newsletter

**Language Arts-** After returning from vacation, we began concluding our Non – Fiction reading unit. As explained in our January newsletter, students were introduced to a variety of text types. After identifying these text types, students then have been using their Reader's Notebook to generate entries that reflect this text type. In order to further extend this reading/thinking process, students were introduced to the reading skill, synthesis. In our mini – lessons we have revisited previously read mentor texts, analyzed the text's details and applied inference based thinking in order to synthesize a “big idea.” To practice this reading strategy, our students have been exploring a variety of texts from the Non – Fiction bins that we have in our classroom. Some of these Non – Fiction topics include, animals, sports, Social Justice and Science. Also in Language Arts we have been publishing our Dutch Letters. For this Social Studies infused writing assignment, students experience the whole writing process as they first researched, composed a rough draft, revised and finally published their letters on tea stained paper. To make our writing more authentic, students enriched their writing with Dutch vocabulary words and names. Ask your child about this writing experience and inquire about how they composed their final draft using Google Classroom and tea stained paper.

**Math –** Prior to vacation, we completed our Mid – Module Assessment for module five on fractions. So far, in this unit we have worked on decomposing fraction equivalence, identified fraction equivalence using multiplication and division, fraction comparisons and explored basic fraction addition and subtraction through word problems. Our students have done a great job of applying all of the math strategies taught specifically, decomposing improper fractions to mixed numbers using number bonds. Ask them to share this strategy with you! As we progress through March, we will continue our unit on fractions. The following unit objectives relate to extending fraction equivalence greater than 1, addition and subtraction of fractions by decomposition, repeated addition as multiplication and exploring fraction patterns. As students are exposed to more advanced math concepts, please continue to support their understanding by encouraging them to practice their multiplication facts.

**Science –** In Science, we concluded our unit on Matter. Within this unit students were exposed to concepts regarding properties of matter, classifying matter and changes of matter. To supplement our provided curriculum, our scientists completed various hands on and observation labs as they applied their understanding of how to classify a solid, liquid and gas. A class favorite was our hands on observation lab using marbles and bands to demonstrate the molecule movement and structure of the three main states of matter. Ask your child about these learning experiences!

# Announcements

- On February 1<sup>st</sup>, Hillside celebrated “World Read Aloud Day.” To celebrate this day, our school library, Ms. Nedwick organized special guest readers. Our class was lucky enough to have a story read aloud by Farragut Middle School Principal, Ms. Gail Kipper. Our students enjoyed her book addressing Mindfulness which is a practice that is emphasized in the Middle School.
- On February 6<sup>th</sup> we enjoyed “Current Events” with Claudia Heitler. Please remember to ask your child about the news that they learned during this informative session!
- On February 7<sup>th</sup>, Hillside students were asked to wear green in honor of perseverance. Our school Counseling Department does a great job of organizing school wide assemblies that connect to the Social/Emotional learning we do in the classroom with the Second Steps curriculum.
- On February 14<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated Valentine’s Day together as a class. The students distributed their valentines and decorated envelopes, which served as their valentine “mailboxes.”
- On February 27<sup>th</sup> we were lucky to have another Technology lesson with our district’s Google Consultant, Amber Klebanoff.
- A special thank you to families who are placing Scholastic Orders using our class code! From your orders, we earn rewards and our students are loving our growing classroom library!

# Upcoming Events

- March 1, 11 & 28 – Collaborative Library Sessions with Ms. Nedwick
- March 7 – PTSA Used Book Fair @ 11:00 a.m.
- March 8 – Late Start for Students
- March 11 – Current Events
- March 14 – Field Trip to see Annie
- March 22 – Superintendent’s Conference Day – No School
- March 29 – S.E.L Assembly – Wear Yellow (Respect)
- April 1 – 8 – New York State ELA Testing Window
- April 11 – 13 – NYS ELA Testing Window



As always, please reference our class website for more information, pictures and updates on our class!

Warmest regards,  
Ms. Speno and Mrs. Forbes