

Ms. Speno's & Mrs. Forbes'

May Newsletter

Language Arts- We have officially begun our new Reader's Workshop Unit on theme. Together we have discussed how theme is not just a keyword but so much more! This has allowed our readers to extend their thinking and to recognize that the theme reflects the author's interpretation and a message about our world that we live in. Together we have modeled this with our class' current read aloud Out of my Mind by Sharon Draper. Through this mentor text, we have studied the protagonist, Melody and have used her experiences, emotions, and interactions to determine the various themes within this text. To apply this learning, students have been grouped into book clubs. A book club is when a small groups of students read the same text, prepare to discuss a part of it, and then meet for discussions. For this unit, we have decided to implement an author study of Newbery Medal writer, Kate DiCamillo. The children have been enjoying reading DiCamillo's Because of Winn Dixie, The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane, and The Magician's Elephant. We look forward to our students' ideas, book club discussions and Reader's Notebook entries as they record their thinking about the themes of these stories.

Math – After completing our unit on geometry, we began our new unit on decimals. This unit applies students' understanding of fractions as they are expressing the given quantity using both fraction and decimal form. So far, our mathematicians have demonstrated this understanding using tape diagrams, area models, and number lines. This unit will serve as a solid foundation for our mathematicians' future work with decimals in fifth grade!

Science - In Science, we have been exploring a variety of topics such as energy, matter and electricity. In class, we have had the opportunity to complete various hands – on activities that supplement our current Science curriculum. Ask your scientist about building electrical circuits, completing magnetism activities and our volume displacement lab! Additionally, the fourth grade team has collaborated with Hillside's STEAM teacher, Mrs. Robin Farrell. Mrs. Farrell has done a great job of supporting our Science curriculum work with engaging projects and activities that bring our science curriculum to life.

Social Studies – After concluding our Colonial America unit, we began our new study on Immigration. Six times over the month of May and June, the fourth grade at Hillside was lucky enough to work with "Arch for Kids." The PTSA sponsored event allowed students to compose authentic buildings using recycled materials and various other donated goods. Together each class then created our very own New York City village depicting various ethnic neighborhoods! Our artists were very engaged and creative during this fun classroom activity! In addition to working with the "Arch for Kids" program, our historians are also working to create the infamous "Immigrations Heads." Thank you for your support with providing the paper mache foundation for this project. We look forward to having you see our completed work later next month.

Announcements

- On May 2 and May 31st, our school counselor, Mrs. Snyder came for her monthly Counseling lesson. We look forward to her June lesson as she collaborates with FMS Counselor, Ms. Perez as we begin to transition our students for fifth grade!
- As explained above, the fourth grade was lucky enough to work with "Arch for Kids" for six days throughout the month of May (and June). Thank you to the PTSA for their generous grant for this program.
- Various times throughout the month of May, Donnie visited our class for lessons within the "Steps to Respect" curriculum. Please continue to check your child's green take home folder with information regarding these instructional sessions.
- On May 9th, Hastings' Mayor Nicola Armacost visited Hillside. We were very proud of the third and fourth graders that generated and presented questions for the Mayor to answer.
- On May 14th, Claudia Heitler visited our class for Current Events. We have one more session with her left this school year!
- On May 21st, our class attended a STEAM Nature Walk with Mrs. Farrell. Thank you to the family members who attended this learning activity with us!
- On May 29th, our class attended the Multicultural Book Fair. Thank you to the "Race Matters Committee" who sponsored and organized this event and provided such a rich collection of titles for the students to view and purchase.

Upcoming Events

- June 3 - Hastings Library Summer Reading Program Visit
- June 3 - NYS Written Science Test
- June 5 - Second Steps Lesson with Donnie
- June 6 & 13 - Arch for Kids
- June 7 - June Scholastic Book Orders Due
- June 10 - Middle School Visit at 10:20
- June 14 - Hillside Field Day
- June 17 - Counseling Lesson with Mrs. Snyder and Ms. Perez
- June 18 - Immigration Display @ 10 - 10:45 (Small Gym)
- June 18 - Current Events
- June 20 - Fourth Grade Graduation @ 9:30 (Pool Party to Follow)
- June 21 - Rain Date for Fourth Grade Graduation & Pool Party
- June 22 - Hastings Famer's Market Display of Immigration Projects
- June 24 - 26 - Half Day of School for Students
- June 26 - Last Day of School for Students



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

Warmest regards,
Ms. Speno and Mrs. Forbes