



WHAT'S NEW AT SPRING GLEN

Hello Summer!



GRADE HIGHLIGHTS



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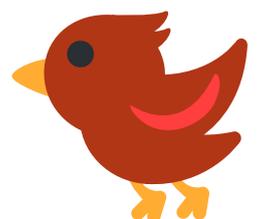
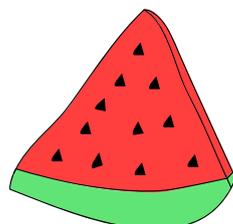
We want to thank all of the kindergarten parents for allowing us to get to know and love your children! The growth and independence we have seen is incredible! We are so proud of all they have accomplished this school year and can not wait to see what they will go on to do in the years to come!

Continue to engage your children in reading, writing and thinking over vacation. Summer is the perfect time for children to see that learning is fun and can happen anywhere! Plant a garden, visit free museums, take pictures and collect items on nature walks, use binoculars and bird watch, help with yard work, volunteer at a soup kitchen... the opportunities to build your child's vocabulary and background knowledge are endless!

We encourage all families to spend time reading with their children over the summer. Visit Hamden's public libraries. Sign up for the Summer Reading Challenges at the Miller Memorial Library and at Barnes and Noble (your child can earn a free book!).

We wish all of you a fun, safe and restful summer vacation! We look forward to seeing all of the children when they return for the 2017-18 school year!

Sincerely,
The Kindergarten Team



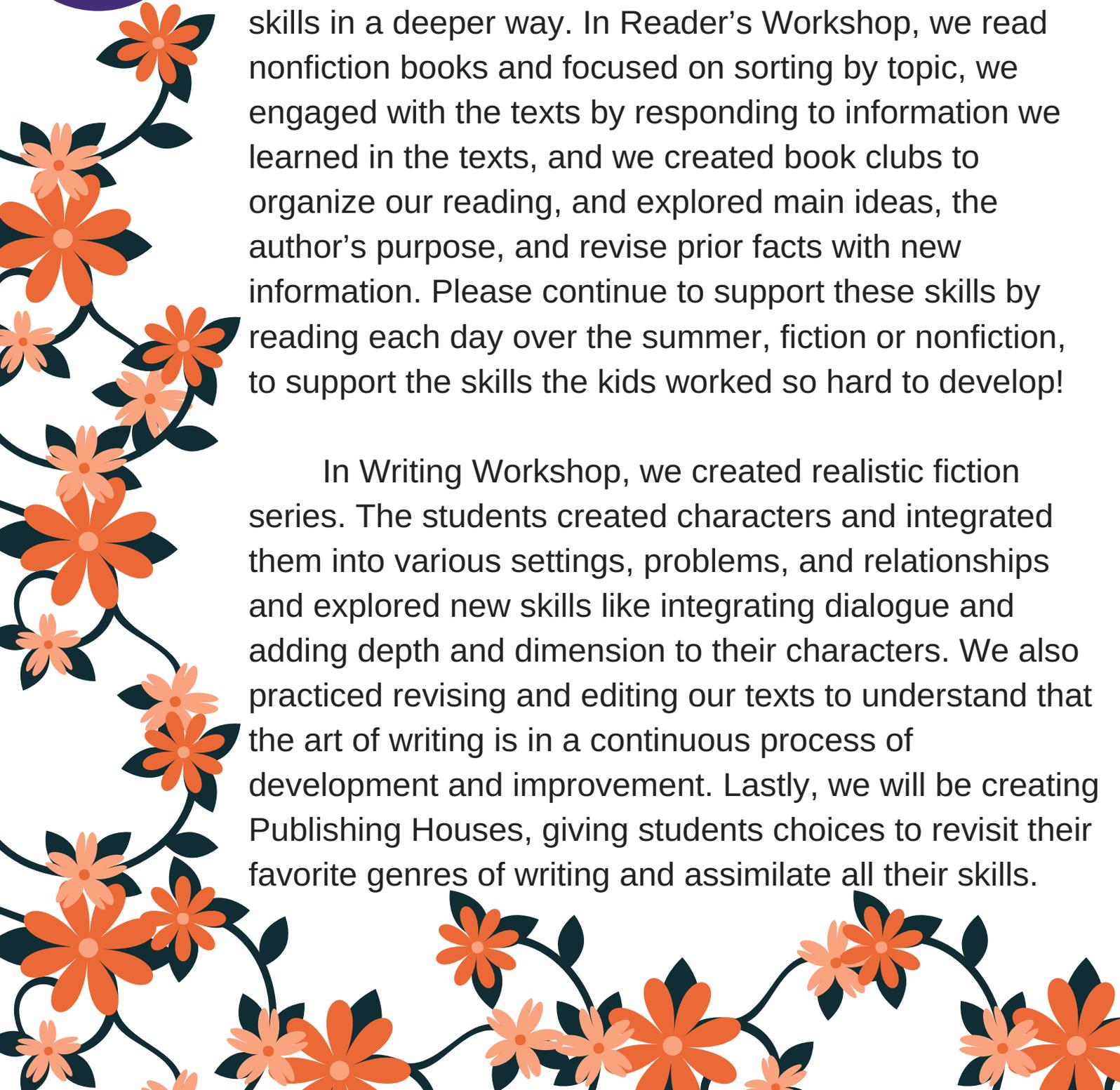
GRADE HIGHLIGHTS



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First grade has a lot to be proud of as we have grown emotionally and academically! As the year came to an end, first grade reviewed and explored prior literacy skills in a deeper way. In Reader's Workshop, we read nonfiction books and focused on sorting by topic, we engaged with the texts by responding to information we learned in the texts, and we created book clubs to organize our reading, and explored main ideas, the author's purpose, and revise prior facts with new information. Please continue to support these skills by reading each day over the summer, fiction or nonfiction, to support the skills the kids worked so hard to develop!

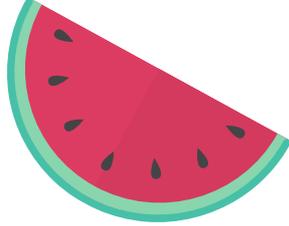
In Writing Workshop, we created realistic fiction series. The students created characters and integrated them into various settings, problems, and relationships and explored new skills like integrating dialogue and adding depth and dimension to their characters. We also practiced revising and editing our texts to understand that the art of writing is in a continuous process of development and improvement. Lastly, we will be creating Publishing Houses, giving students choices to revisit their favorite genres of writing and assimilate all their skills.



GRADE HIGHLIGHTS

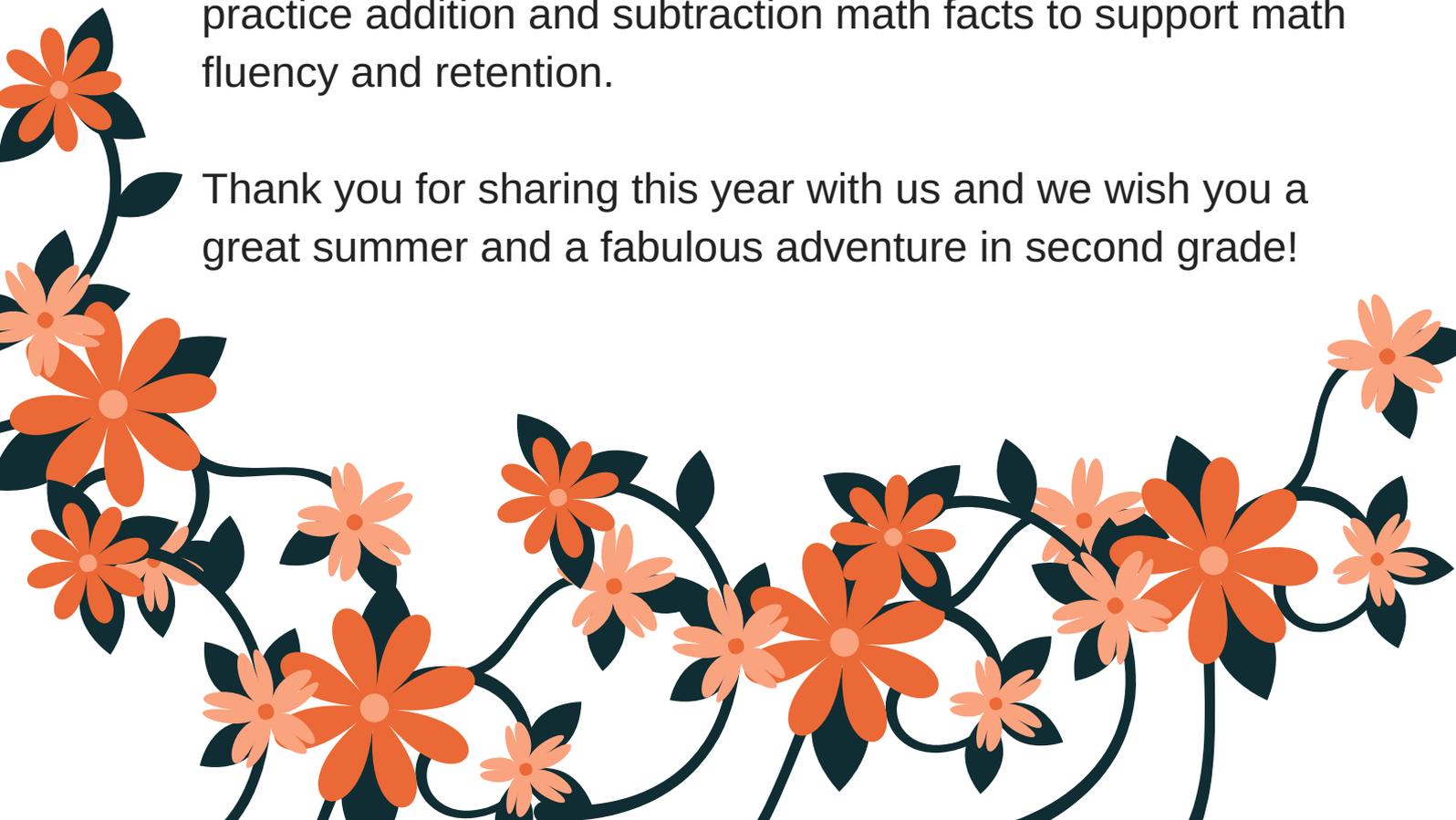


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Geometry helped us wrap up our hard work in Math. This subject included discovering the attributes of shapes, creating and mimicking shapes and patterns, and sorting shapes by their attributes. As an introduction to fractions, students worked on partitioning shapes into halves and fourths, and focusing on equality of portions. To develop our fluency, we revisited some tricky facts from the beginning of the year in both adding and subtracting. We also used our knowledge of fractions to continue our understanding of time, analog clocks, and phrasing to describe time to others. Please continue to practice addition and subtraction math facts to support math fluency and retention.

Thank you for sharing this year with us and we wish you a great summer and a fabulous adventure in second grade!

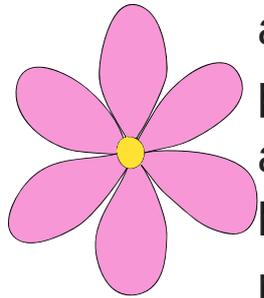


GRADE HIGHLIGHTS

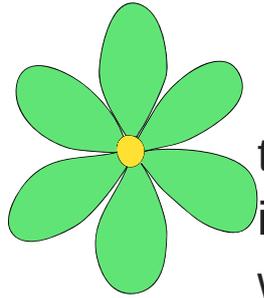


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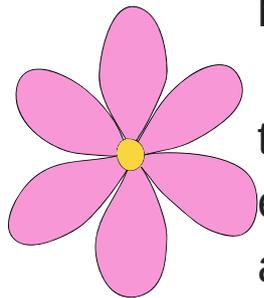
As the school year comes to a close, we would like to thank you for all your support throughout second grade. The children have made great strides both socially and academically. It has been a pleasure to watch their progress, and we are very proud of them! As third grade approaches, be sure to continue your routine of reading at home and practicing math facts. Practice each day does make a difference!



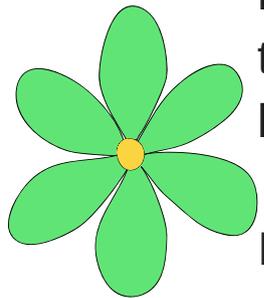
During the final month of school, students have been tracking their thinking while reading both fiction and informational text. They have been predicting, noticing, wondering, picturing, connecting, and figuring out. The focus has been using evidence from the text to support answers.



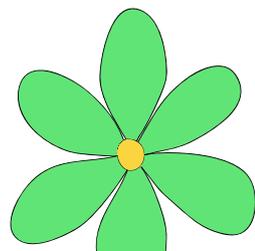
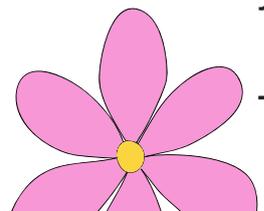
We have also enjoyed nominating books for awards and trying to convince our audience to share our opinions. To end the year, we will conduct hands on science experiments and learn how to write lab reports! In math, the children have worked on solving problems up to 1000! They are able to show their solutions in many different ways! We are also learning some math games from third grade.



In closing, the second grade team would like to wish you and your family a restful and enjoyable summer!



The 2nd Grade Team



GRADE HIGHLIGHTS



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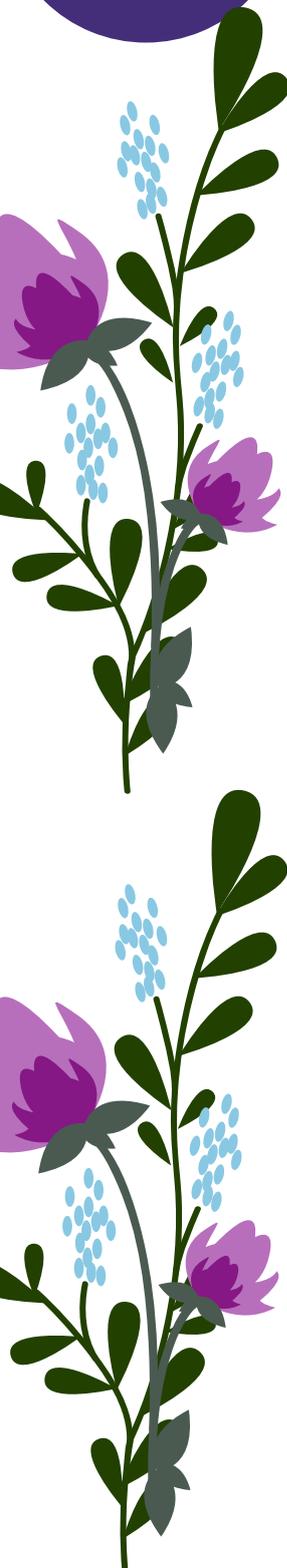
The third grade has been doing so many wonderful things these last few months of school. Students remain engaged and excited about learning as we continue towards mastery of all third grade standards.

During Language Arts, all three classes have been enjoying closely reading a novel together. Students have been discussing the text together, and completing different activities throughout the text that review all Language Arts standards. It is a wonderful way to end the year with such an engaging shared experience.

In math, we have moved to more complex multiplication problems, including two digit by one digit facts. Students who have mastered their facts are now able to apply their skills on much more challenging problems. Others, are able to use tools and images, like arrays, to help them build this understanding.

Overall, third grade students have had a wonderful year! We wish all our students and their families a wonderful summer.

The 3rd Grade Team



GRADE HIGHLIGHTS



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It's hard to believe that this year is coming to an end! We've had such a wonderful year getting to know your children, working with them, and watching them grow.

Thank you to those of you who attended State Fair! Your children really appreciated it and we know they thoroughly enjoyed it. We are so proud of all of their hard work.

Please enjoy your summer and make sure your child continues to read and practice math facts on a daily basis. Don't forget about Khan Academy on those rainy days! Journal writing is also an excellent way to help keep your child engaged in writing.

It has been our pleasure!

The 4th Grade Team



GRADE HIGHLIGHTS



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We finished our read-aloud of *The Thief of Always*. The kids loved it! They learned so much about fantasy and devoured several fantasy books during this unit. We hope this keeps the reading momentum going as they head into summer.

In math we finished our unit on coordinate planes. During the unit we read some nonfiction articles that contained line graphs so students got used to using data in context. We have begun our final unit on geometry and will end the year with an escape room planned by a group of fifth graders. We encourage your child to continue to use Khan Academy and review their basic facts over the summer to prepare for sixth grade.

In social studies, students have been researching the making of the U.S. Constitution and the first 10 Amendments called the Bill of Rights. Over the next weeks, they will continue their research and prepare for a quiz on June 11. In science, students were fortunate to have Mrs. Mesner come and share Moon Rocks and meteorites from NASA. Beginning next week, everyone will participate in an end of the year STEM project. During this project, students are engaged in problem solving using science, technology, engineering, and math skills.



GRADE HIGHLIGHTS



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In writing students are putting the finishing touches on their fantasy stories. The children need to be commended for working through not only the end of the year distractions, but also the tornado that temporarily kept us home. Through it all the students demonstrated flexibility and persistence, and I'm very proud at how they ended our last writing unit.

Throughout the final days of school, the children, in writing class, will explore poetry and different styles of poems. We will have some fun looking at some famous poetry and even take a stab at writing our own.

This has been a very exciting year for us working together for the first time as a fifth grade team. We have had a truly memorable year with your children. They have brought out the best in us! Thank you all for your support throughout the school year. Enjoy the summer with your children!

The 5th Grade Team



GRADE HIGHLIGHTS



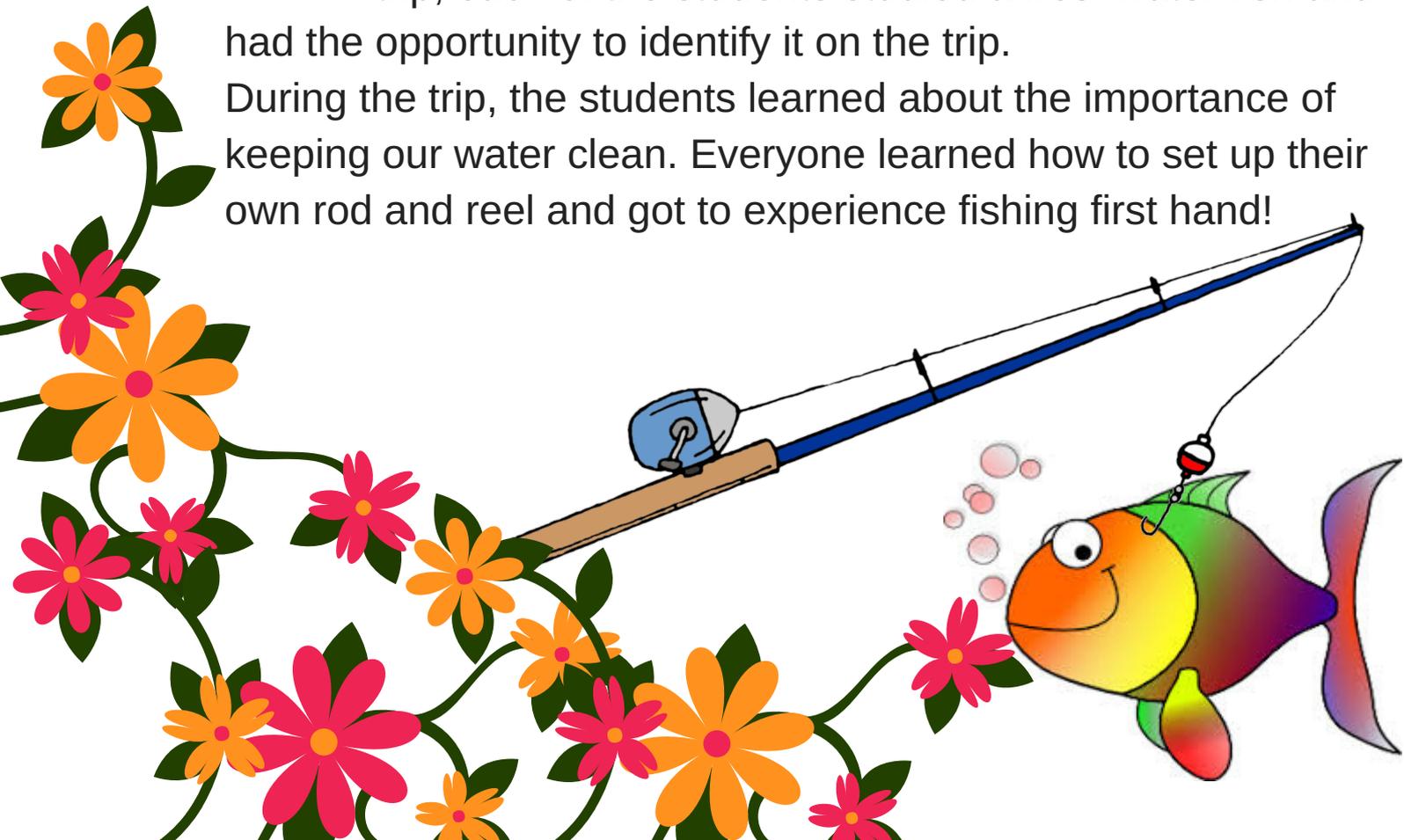
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As we began to wrap up the school year, our sixth graders balanced learning with fun! As part of our Social Studies Immigration unit, we spent a beautiful day in New York City, where the students visited The Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. They were able to climb up to the pedestal at The Statue of Liberty, and explore the location where immigrants first arrived at Ellis Island.



We also traveled to the CARE Center in Killingworth, Connecticut for a fishing trip as part of our last Science unit about protecting water. Prior to the trip, each of the students studied a freshwater fish and had the opportunity to identify it on the trip.

During the trip, the students learned about the importance of keeping our water clean. Everyone learned how to set up their own rod and reel and got to experience fishing first hand!



GRADE HIGHLIGHTS

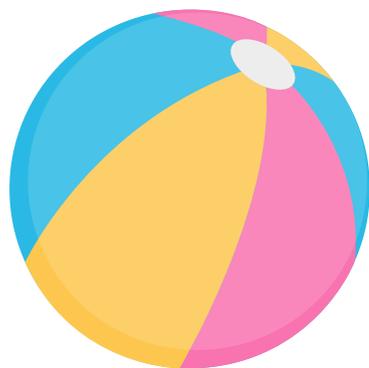


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The sixth graders were fortunate to engage in a STEM Design Challenge project the last month of school. Brian Nolan, parent of third and sixth grade students, brought this project to our school as a wonderful way to wrap up the hard work our students did this year in science. They were challenged to build a prototype of a machine that would pick up trash from a body of water. The students worked extremely hard in teams and came up with some very creative designs!

We finished the school year with our Recognition Ceremony on June 15th. It was a great opportunity to celebrate the students and all of their hard work. We would like to thank the fifth grade parents for putting together the beautiful reception for our sixth grade families. Lastly, we want to wish the Class of 2018 the best of luck in middle school and beyond. We know they will be successful in their futures and hope they remember their experience at Spring Glen School fondly!

The 6th Grade Team



MRS. MANGINI'S MATH CORNER



MATH

As the school year winds down, I would like to encourage all families to have some fun with math this summer!

I know it's tough to imagine filling a lazy beach day with fractions or stretching out in the back seat on a road trip and practicing long division. For many, summer and mathematics just don't seem to mix.

But across the socioeconomic spectrum, kids arrive back at school every fall much worse off in mathematics than they finished in the spring. On average, students lose approximately 2.6 months of learning in math over the summer — and teachers have to give up weeks of class time, or more, to make up for that loss. To counteract this problem, I am asking families to consider spending some time practicing math to avoid the summer slump.

Here are four fun ways for parents to help their children practice math skills over the summer:

- Highlight the math in every day activities. When shopping, help kids calculate change or discounts. When watching a baseball game, talk about what players' statistics mean. When cooking, try halving or doubling a recipe, and assist kids in figuring out the new proportions.
- Read short math stories together. Studies have shown that reading math-focused stories to children, such as Bedtime Math books or the Family Math series, can help boost math scores in school.
- Play math games. Games like Yahtzee, Racko, Blokus, Monopoly, and Set all rely on skills necessary for math, such as counting, categorizing, and building. Even playing with blocks and assembling jigsaw puzzles can help kids learn spatial skills and recognize patterns.
- Find small ways to practice math at home. While worksheets alone won't solve summer math slump, small amounts of practice with basic formulas can help. Problem-of-the-day math calendars are a great way to practice basic math problems on a small scale. Parents can also find resources on Investigations about what types of mathematical procedures they should be practicing with their children.

MRS. MANGINI'S MATH CORNER



MATH

You should have received information about the Commissioner's 2018 Summer Math Challenge: Solving the Mystery of Math. This program is designed to help students retain math skills learned during the previous school year. Please let me know if you have any question.

Another great way to squeeze in some extra math is to have your child practice on-line. Here are some great sites sure to keep your child engaged and learning all summer long.

Xtramath

<https://xtramath.org/#/home/index>

Greg Tang

<http://www.gregtangmath.com/summer>

Fun Brain

<https://www.funbrain.com/>

How to Videos:

- Khan Academy
- Learn Zillion

It has been a pleasure working with your children at Spring Glen School this year. As I work in classrooms I continue to be impressed with the growth they are exhibiting. While using a standards-based approach, children have been able to explore mathematical concepts as well as develop and apply strong mathematical strategies when solving problems.

Have a great summer!!

Mrs. Mangini



MRS. NUTCHER'S LITERACY CORNER



Well, another successful year has drawn to a close. The upcoming eight week summer vacation is a long time for children to be away from academics and as a result many vital skills get rusty and even forgotten. The following article solidifies the idea that there is no better way to connect with your child than enjoying a good book together and keeping skills fresh for the start of the new year!

Gina Natcher
Literacy Specialist

What's Going On In Your Child's Brain When You Read Them A Story?

Taken From: nprED
May 24, 2018

ANYA KAMENETZ

"I want The Three Bears!"

These days parents, caregivers and teachers have lots of options when it comes to fulfilling that request. You can read a picture book, put on a cartoon, play an audiobook, or even ask Alexa.

A newly published study gives some insight into what may be happening inside young children's brains in each of those situations. And, says lead author Dr. John Hutton, there is an apparent "Goldilocks effect" — some kinds of storytelling may be "too cold" for children, while others are "too hot." And, of course, some are "just right." Hutton is a researcher and pediatrician at Cincinnati Children's Hospital with a special interest in "emergent literacy" — the process of learning to read.



MRS. NUTCHER'S LITERACY CORNER



For the study, 27 children around age 4 went into an fMRI machine. They were presented with stories in three conditions: audio only; the illustrated pages of a storybook with an audio voiceover; and an animated cartoon. All three versions came from the Web site of Canadian author Robert Munsch.

While the children paid attention to the stories, the MRI, the machine scanned for activation within certain brain networks, and connectivity between the networks.

"We went into it with an idea in mind of what brain networks were likely to be influenced by the story," Hutton explains. One was language. One was visual perception. The third is called visual imagery. The fourth was the default mode network, which Hutton calls, "the seat of the soul, internal reflection — how something matters to you."

The default mode network includes regions of the brain that appear more active when someone is not actively concentrating on a designated mental task involving the outside world.

In terms of Hutton's "Goldilocks effect," here's what the researchers found:

In the audio-only condition (too cold): language networks were activated, but there was less connectivity overall. "There was more evidence the children were straining to understand."

In the animation condition (too hot): there was a lot of activity in the audio and visual perception networks, but not a lot of connectivity among the various brain networks. "The language network was working to keep up with the story," says Hutton. "Our interpretation was that the animation was doing all the work for the child. They were expending the most energy just figuring out what it means." The children's comprehension of the story was the worst in this condition.

MRS. NUTCHER'S LITERACY CORNER



The illustration condition was what Hutton called "just right". When children could see illustrations, language-network activity dropped a bit compared to the audio condition. Instead of only paying attention to the words, Hutton says, the children's understanding of the story was "scaffolded" by having the images as clues.

"Give them a picture and they have a cookie to work with," he explains. "With animation it's all dumped on them all at once and they don't have to do any of the work."

Most importantly, in the illustrated book condition, researchers saw increased connectivity between — and among — all the networks they were looking at: visual perception, imagery, default mode and language.

"For 3- to 5-year-olds, the imagery and default mode networks mature late, and take practice to integrate with the rest of the brain," Hutton explains. "With animation you may be missing an opportunity to develop them."

When we read to our children, they are doing more work than meets the eye. "It's that muscle they're developing bringing the images to life in their minds."

Hutton's concern is that in the longer term, "kids who are exposed to too much animation are going to be at risk for developing not enough integration."



MRS. NUTCHER'S LITERACY CORNER



Overwhelmed by the demands of processing language, without enough practice, they may also be less skilled at forming mental pictures based on what they read, much less reflecting on the content of a story. This is the stereotype of a "reluctant reader" whose brain is not well-versed in getting the most out of a book.

One interesting note is that, because of the constraints of an MRI machine, which encloses and immobilizes your body, the story-with-illustrations condition wasn't actually as good as reading on Mom or Dad's lap.

The emotional bonding and physical closeness, Hutton says, were missing. So were the exchanges known as "dialogic reading," where caregivers point out specific words or prompt children to "show me the cat?" in a picture. "That's a whole other layer," of building reading Hutton says.

In an ideal world, you would always be there to read to your child. The results of this small, preliminary study also suggest that, when parents do turn to electronic devices for young children, they should gravitate toward the most stripped-down version of a narrated, illustrated ebook, as opposed to either audio-only or animation.



P.E. WITH MS. B



Reflecting back on this school year and all the fun we had in the gymnasium brings such a smile to my face! Students learned a variety of skills, sports, and concepts, from dribbling to tennis to sportsmanship. My favorite memories include watching the students try new things, physical fitness test buddies, and enjoying a few months with Miss Williams, our PE student teacher! And let's not forget THE BEST DAY EVER, which was truly a wonderful day.

Best
DAY
ever!



Summertime is a GREAT time to get out and play with your child! Ask them about the activities we did in the gym and try them out at home. Please also feel free to check out my website www.PERockss.com for ideas on how to stay physically active outside of the P.E. setting.



www.GoNoodle.com is also a GREAT resource to get moving at home, as well as www.cosmickids.com for some YOGA with our friend Jaime.



ATTENTION incoming 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th grade students, please do what you can this summer to prepare for the Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment (CPFA) which we will begin during the first weeks of school. You can find specific info on these tests via PERockss. Under the CPFA TAB and feel free to email Ms. B with ANY questions you may have! KBertolone@hamden.org

Have a fantastic summer, and keep on moving!! I look forward to seeing you all in August!

ART WITH MR. SULLIVAN



Hello my friends! Thank you for another great year of art at Spring Glen. I am so proud of all the hard work that everybody did this year. You have fostered so much creativity and I'm looking forward to all of the wonderful projects we will do next year.

Remember this summer when you are on vacation, there are so many opportunities to enjoy the many museums and art exhibits around the state. Take some time to visit a new museum, or create some original artwork of your own.

<https://artgallery.yale.edu/exhibitions/exhibition/permanent-collection>

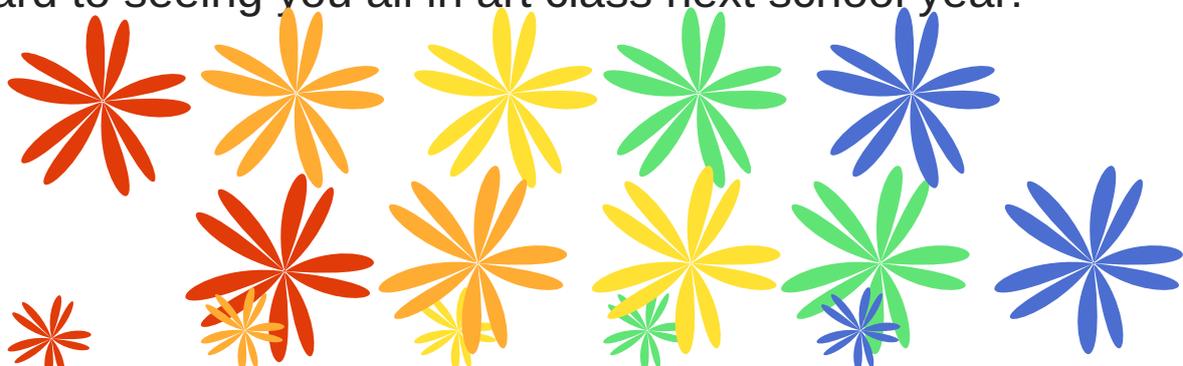
<https://www.eliwhitney.org>

<http://peabody.yale.edu>



If you go away on vacation, maybe research what museums or exhibits are available where you are visiting. Wouldn't it be awesome if they have any Alexander Calder exhibits you could check out?

Have a great summer my friends and keep on being creative! I look forward to seeing you all in art class next school year!



MUSIC WITH MRS. MEURS



Reflecting back on the 2017-2018 school year Spring Glen students should be proud of their many accomplishments! Your students have made great strides in their music learning; from singing, to playing a variety of instruments, to applying their music reading skills to their performances, each student at this school has grown as a musician.

Summer is a great time to explore a great variety of music genres, and continue to develop your child's understanding and appreciation of music. Check out the recordings your local library has to offer, or even better, check out the many musical performances around the state during the summer months.

If your child is still looking for more music enrichment, check out some of these great websites:

-<http://www.nyphilkids.org>

-<http://pbskids.org/games/music/>

-

<https://www.echalk.co.uk/music/training/blobChorus/blobChorus.html> (better used in the app format)

Have a great summer, and I look forward to another great year of music with your students in September!

NEWS FROM THE MEDIA CENTER

WITH MRS. REDMOND



There are some great free programs at all 3 branches of the Hamden Public Library this summer. Try a few! Please try to complete your BINGO card and return it to any branch of the Hamden Public Library. (Make sure Spring Glen is written on it. They will send them to our school.) Or bring the BINGO card to school by August 31. The grade that returns the most BINGO cards will win a prize from the media center. There is a link to summer reading recommendations on the Hamden Public School website. The list was made by students and the media specialists. Many of the recommendations also have links to book trailers. If you are not sure what to read, check that out. Also, don't forget you can check out eBooks from Destiny all summer using your Destiny log in. They will automatically be returned to the catalog.

Have a wonderful summer! I can't wait for you to share all the fantastic books you loved reading over the summer!

