

South Fayette Elementary School

Board Report

May 2021

Kindergarten

Kindergarteners have been enjoying learning outside in the Discovery Garden! They have gone on sight word hunts, secret CVC word hunts, and even used the walls and sidewalks to practice all the sight words they know!

In Math, they are exploring 2D and 3D shapes. They can find them in the environment and even make them with play-dough.

The Kindergarteners are looking forward to their first "field trip." The Police, Firemen, ambulance driver, and South Fayette Township librarian will be visiting us very soon.

Submitted by: Mrs. Noelle Gagliardino

First Grade

In the month of May, students are researching animals and writing informational reports. There is an emphasis on reading fluently and reflecting upon what has been read. Students are learning to recognize idioms and explain their literal meaning versus their intended meaning.

In math class, the students have just learned how to tell time to the hour and half hour. Over the next few weeks, students will learn about geometry, basic fractions, and how to identify and count coins.

In science class, the students are learning about organisms. They are learning to identify the characteristics of living and non-living things. They have planted flowers and are learning to identify the parts and life cycle of a flower.

Submitted by: Mrs. Norene Sarnowski

Second Grade

In Language Arts, second graders are working on nonfiction writing. They are practicing researching and note taking while focusing on proper construction of one- and two-paragraph writings that include topic sentences, a body, and conclusion sentences. We are using websites called Ducksters and PebbleGo for research.

In math class, second graders are enjoying the hands-on opportunities and real-life applications of measurement and graphing. We are measuring in inches and centimeters, but also learned about feet, yards, and meters.

Students will receive their caterpillars this week to begin our butterfly life cycle unit. They will make observations, learn about stages of the life cycle, as well as what caterpillars eat and how they molt. The students will get to watch them emerge from a chrysalis and eventually release them.

Submitted by: Mrs. Rebecca Colangelo

Learning Lab

It has been a busy month in the Learning Lab!

From building marble mazes with obstacles and traps, to designing Stop Motion animation movies that tell a story, first and second grade students have really been focusing on problem-solving and perseverance.

For their marble maze challenge, students first experimented with a variety of materials that they could use to create a course. They then had to test and refine their ideas in order to make sure their marbles could fit through each area.

For the Stop Motion animation project, students relied on their peers to provide feedback on their movies, and then improved their projects by adding additional scenes, sound effects, or details to ensure that their storylines came through.

As we get closer to the end of the school year, students are combining the skills they have learned in Learning Lab throughout the year to revisit some of their earlier engineering projects and enhance their design and functionality.

Submitted by: Ms. Melissa Unger

Physical Education

In physical education classes, first and second grade students kicked off spring with their very own soccer unit! The unit emphasized both physical fitness and muscular development while providing an opportunity for the students to further develop their coordination, balance, agility, and teamwork. Students practiced their dribbling, kicking, and passing skills while participating in a variety of fast-paced action-packed soccer activities. The unit started with Musical Chairs,

a soccer dribbling game that allowed students to improve their skills as they dribbled to a spot on the floor when the music stopped. The students loved the anticipation of when the music was going to stop playing and enjoyed the mad dash of players trying to dribble to the limited spots in order to avoid being left without a chair. Another crowd pleaser was Dice Bonk. In this game, the students worked with a partner to become the first team to reach 21 points. Students kicked their ball at foam dice which were placed on top of a cone in the middle of the gym. If they hit one of the die, they earned the points the die landed on. The excitement on the students' faces when they got a "6" was the best part of the game! Our soccer unit concluded with the students playing Soccer Bowling. For this activity, students kicked the ball at the pins instead of rolling them. The students loved getting a strike or trying to pick up a spare. As you can imagine, this combination of bowling and soccer was one of the students' favorite games. First and second grade students got a huge kick out of these soccer activities!

Submitted by: Mr. Wes Chappel