

SPECIALIST NEWSLETTER

February 2025 | Grades PREK-6

STEAM with Mrs. Strotman

Our students celebrated the 100th day of school with hands-on STEAM challenges that put their creativity and problem-solving skills to the test!

Cup Stacking Challenge – Students worked together to stack 100 cups, building the tallest and most stable structures.

Building 100 – Using different tools like LEGOs, straws, and Magnatiles, they creatively formed the number 100 in unique ways.

Strong Tower Test – Using just index cards, they engineered towers strong enough to hold 100 grams of weight!

100 Domino Chain Reaction – Carefully setting up 100 dominos, students created an exciting chain reaction to watch science in action!

Students also got creative by disguising the number 100 in their drawings! Using their imaginations, they turned "100" into fun and unexpected designs, such as pikachu!

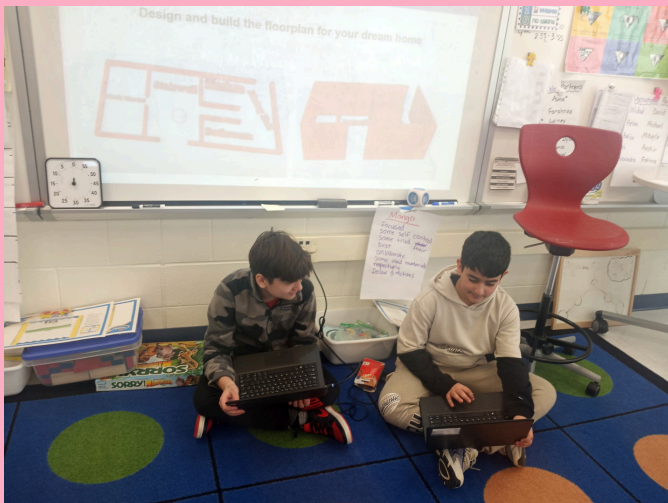
Through teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving, our students showed how much they've grown in the last 100 days. We can't wait to see what they accomplish next!



Think Tank with Mrs. Jenkins

Our fourth-grade students participated in an exercise using a technique called SCAMPER. The technique serves as an acronym to foster creative thinking. This approach enables students to explore various possibilities and outcomes. The components of SCAMPER include Substitute, Combine, Adapt, Modify, Put to Other Uses, Eliminate, and Reverse/Rearrange. As part of this activity, students had the opportunity to design and create a new sled using the SCAMPER framework.

In sixth grade, students have taken on the role of architects. Over the coming weeks, they will design and construct their dream homes using the computer application Tinkercad. The project began with students researching homes that align with their interests. Aspiring architects are encouraged to incorporate their preferences into their designs, considering factors such as location, sustainability, and eco-friendly options.

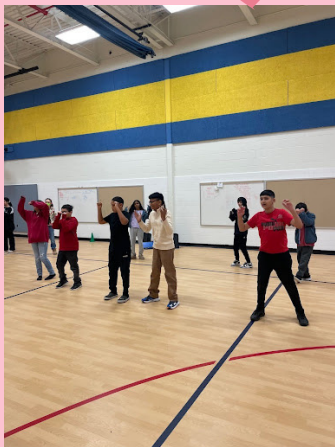


Gym + Music with Mrs. Cooper and Mr. Geck

During the winter months our dance unit has been in full force with all grade levels learning and rehearsing their dances. Ms. Cooper and I have combined all Music and PE classes this past month to make sure all students are feeling comfortable and confident heading into the big performance. At the time you're reading this we will have completed our dance assembly and everyone will be resuming their regularly scheduled specials with Music taking place back on the other side of the building.

Ms. Cooper and I want to take a moment to thank all of you for attending and being an incredible audience. We will see you next dance season! Hopefully this warmer weather is here to stay and we can start taking our activities outside.

Until next month...



Art with Mrs. Dovey

In pre-kindergarten and kindergarten, students have been exploring printmaking. They started by creating a printing plate: they cut and glued shapes onto a cardboard surface.

In the 2nd grade, students have been using their knowledge of domesticated and wild animals in our community. We looked at various artists who use cut paper collage in their art, and we created our own cut paper animals using patterned paper.

For the past couple of weeks, the older elementary students have been creating different kinds of books that reflect the themes in the FCPS Visual Arts Curriculum. For example: in the 4th grade, the students created a book with pockets for the art lesson "Pockets Full of Memories". This is a connection to the 4th grade theme of time in the visual arts.

ART

