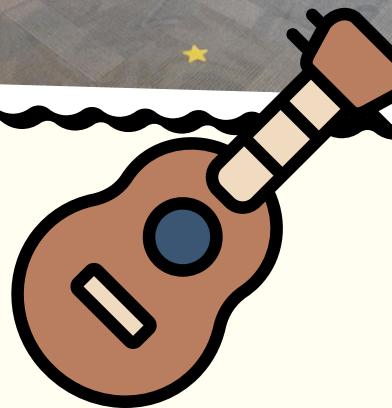


Specialist Newsletter

March 2025

Music with Mrs. Cooper

It was awesome to see all the families at the Garfield Dance Assembly! I'm really enjoying being back in the music room. This month, the K-4 kids have been getting creative with improvising and composing their own music. They've been playing on percussion instruments, xylophones, and recorders to come up with music for stories, poems, and rhymes. The fifth and sixth graders have kicked off a ukulele unit and are learning to strum chords along with songs.



Library with Mrs. McKeon



SCHOLASTIC

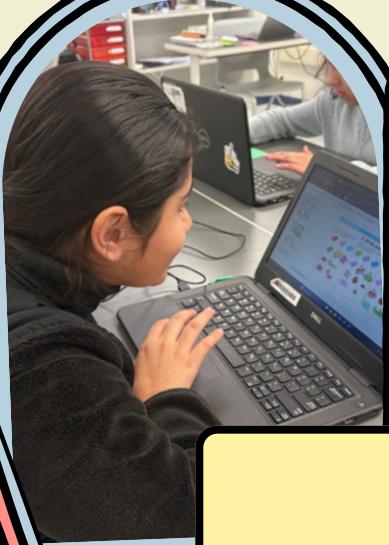
Book Fair

March has been an exciting month in the library! We kicked off the month by celebrating Read Across America Week, where we shared our love of reading and enjoyed some of our favorite stories together. Students explored wonderful books and had fun celebrating the joy of storytelling.

As spring begins, we have been reading stories about the changing seasons, new beginnings, and the beauty of nature. It has been wonderful to see students excited about these seasonal tales!

Looking ahead, we are eagerly preparing for the Spring Book Fair, which will take place April 8-10 in the library. This is a great opportunity for students to find new books to enjoy at home. Stay tuned for more details as we get closer to the date!

Happy Reading!



Welcome to Technology

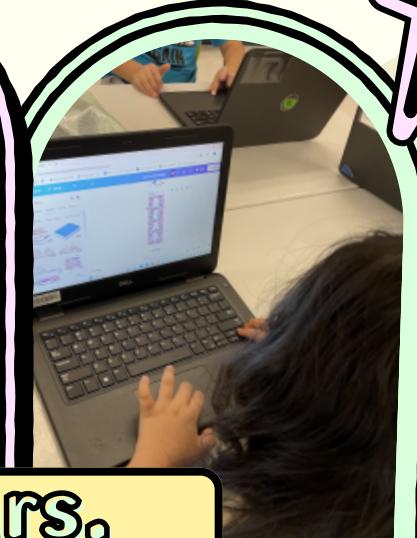
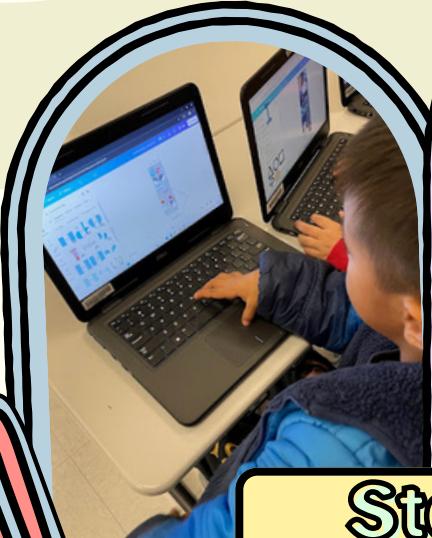
This past month in tech class, we've focused on building essential computer skills, graphic design fundamentals, and basic animation. We've practiced core functions like copying, pasting, resizing, and ordering elements, which are crucial for working with digital content. We then applied these skills to learn about graphic design and digital coloring, exploring how to create visually appealing projects. Finally, we combined these skills to create simple animations using Google Slides, bringing our digital creations to life.

About Ms. Sadowski

My name is Nadia Sadowski and I am the new School-Based Technology Specialist and Tech Teacher at Garfield Elementary.

With a background in ESOL and special education, I am excited about engaging Garfield's students in technology and learning about all of its possibilities!





Steam with Mrs. Strotman

This month, our 2nd graders have been diving into exciting STEAM projects. During Read Across America week, they stepped into the shoes of graphic designers, using Canva to create their very own custom bookmarks—combining creativity with digital skills. Now, they're bringing their imaginations to life by designing and building a 3D city. From planning the layout to constructing the buildings into cubes and rectangular prisms, these young innovators are exploring design and engineering in a hands-on, creative way!

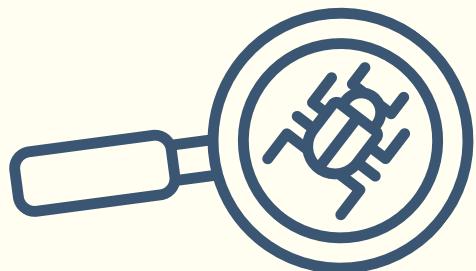
K-2 ❤️ STEAM

Our first graders have been buzzing with excitement as they learn all about insects—discovering what makes a creature a true insect, from six legs to two antennas. To put their knowledge into action, they designed and built their own traps to catch the elusive Hexbug Leprechaun! Using creativity and engineering skills, they crafted clever contraptions in hopes of capturing the tiny, tricky robotic insect.



STEAM Cont.

Our kindergarteners have been discovering what happens to insects during the winter. They've learned how some insects hibernate, while others migrate to warmer places. To bring their learning to life, they designed and built cozy homes to keep their Hexbug insects warm and safe during the winter. Using creativity and problem-solving skills, they crafted shelters that would protect their tiny creatures from the chilly season.



Think Tank with Mrs. Jenkins

Our fourth-grade students participated in a lesson focused on analogies, which can enhance their writing by fostering deeper connections. In their science class, they explored various features of the ocean. To further enrich their understanding, the students listened to the story "We Are Water Protectors," emphasizing the critical importance of conserving our limited natural resources. Following this, the students created mind maps to illustrate the significance of water and addressed the question of the potential consequences if we fail to protect this essential resource. The sixth-grade architects have been actively working on their projects. They are currently adding intricate details to transform their dream homes into remarkable works of art. As students utilize Tinkercad, they are learning to manipulate various features of the design software. Once their 3-D dream homes are complete, students will use Canva to create advertisements for their creations.



GYM with Mr. Geck

We have completed the transition from dance back to our traditional PE classes. To help with the transition we began the month with some cooperative games to help us get back into the swing of things down in the gym. We have also revisited our PE routines and procedures as we begin the transition into Spring.

We have our volleyball unit coming up which will be especially important for the sixth graders as they begin to prepare for the Teachers vs Students volleyball game in June. Hopefully our weather cooperates and Spring stays relatively dry so we can continue getting outside and enjoying these mild temps. Have a great weekend and we'll talk next month.



Art with Mrs. Dovey

In pre-kindergarten and kindergarten, students have been exploring shapes, lines, and textures with paper and paint. The theme has been the spring season, and the students created imaginary trees and flowers.

1st Grade students learned about self portraits and family portraits!

2nd & 3rd grade students created works of art based on observation (painting and drawing flowers).

The 5th and 6th grade students created clay works of art using different clay building techniques.

