

Specialist Newsletter

April 2025

Music with Mrs. Cooper

Hoppy Harmonies in Lower Elementary!

Our youngest musicians in Pre-K, 1st, and 2nd grade have been having a ribbiting good time exploring the world of music through the lens of our amphibious friends! The music classroom has been filled with songs about leaping frogs, lily pads, and all things green and slimy (in a fun way, of course!). Through playful singing and engaging music games, students have been developing their sense of rhythm, pitch, and musical expression.

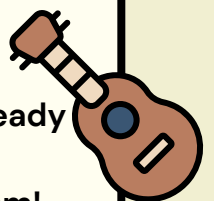
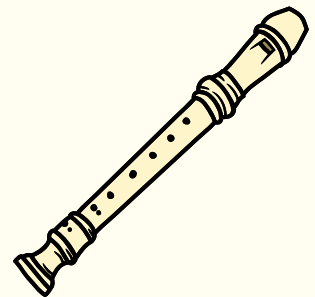


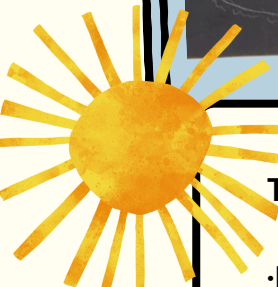
Ukulele Farewell and New Musical Adventures for Upper Elementary!

A big "Aloha!" to the end of our 5th and 6th grade ukulele unit! Students strummed their way through chords, and melodies. The air was filled with the sweet sounds of these versatile instruments, and we are so proud of the progress everyone made. But the musical journey doesn't stop there! Fifth graders have now picked up their recorders and are embarking on a new adventure in wind instruments. Meanwhile, Sixth graders are diving into a fascinating new unit on shadow puppetry! This interdisciplinary exploration will combine storytelling, visual arts, and sound design, allowing students to create their own captivating performances. We can't wait to see their imaginative creations come to life!

Recorders to Ukuleles for Middle Elementary!

Our talented 3rd and 4th graders have successfully completed their recorder unit! They have worked hard to master fingerings, breath control, and reading music. Congratulations to all for their musical achievements! Now, they are eagerly anticipating their next musical adventure: the ukulele! Get ready for some strumming fun as they learn basic chords and begin to play songs on this cheerful instrument. We know they will embrace this new challenge with enthusiasm!





Art with Ms. Dovey

The last few weeks of art have been busy and fun!

- In pre-kindergarten and kindergarten, students have been exploring with printmaking, paper collage, and clay materials.
- 2nd & 3rd grade students created works of art with collage materials that expressed the themes of flowers and foods from different cultures.
- The 4th grade students have created clay works of art using their knowledge of clay building techniques.
- The 5th grade students have been creating their own shoe designs.
- Students in the 6th grade also finalized their “future leaders” poster designs for the yearbook depicting what they wish to be as adults.

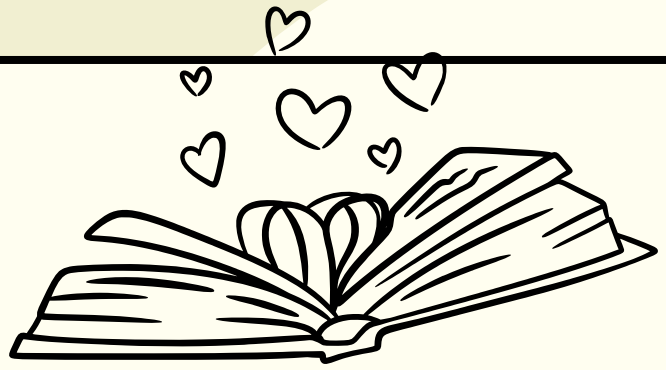
In the next couple of weeks, students in multiple grades will start different weaving and stitchery lessons!



VISUAL ART



Library with Ms. McKeon



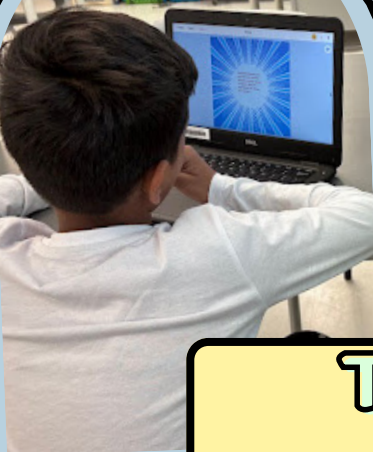
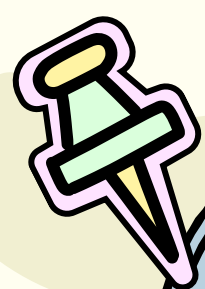
April was a wonderful month in the library!

We celebrated National Library Month with stories all about libraries — from magical adventures in book-filled worlds to tales of curious kids discovering the joys of reading. It was so much fun exploring how libraries make our world brighter, one book at a time! We also had a successful Spring Book Fair! Thank you so much for your support — your purchases help grow our library collection and bring even more exciting reads to our students.

As we approach the end of the school year, your child may mention books they need to return. Please take a few moments to help them check backpacks, shelves, under beds (and maybe even the car!) for any library books that might be hiding. Every book returned helps us keep our collection complete and ready for next year's readers!

Thank you for helping make our library a place where students love to read, explore, and grow.





Tech with Ms. Sadowski

This month in Tech, we've been diving deeper into our Google application skills, sharpening our digital know-how! Students have also explored the world of coding, learning about the different types used to communicate with computers—like binary code and directional coding. They learned the importance of coding and how humans use it to relay messages to machines. Coding is everywhere! They had a blast creating their own codes and cracking secret messages to uncover hidden meanings.

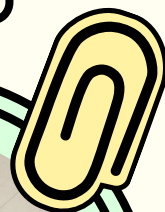
On top of all that, we've begun working on a special surprise to celebrate our incredible teachers for Teacher Appreciation Week. 🥰🌸

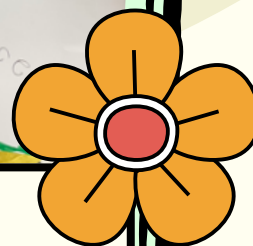
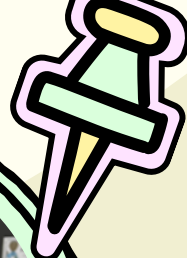
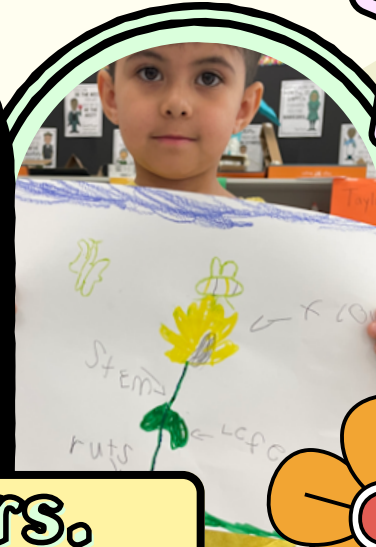
Stay tuned... we can't wait to share what we've been up to!

Think Tank with Ms. Jenkins

Our fourth-grade students are developing their skills as architects. They have explored the issue of water rising banks caused by the rainy season in Rwanda and the impact on resource access. In pairs, students are applying their creativity, mathematical understanding, and collaborative skills to design and build model bridges.

Sixth-grade students are utilizing Canva to create promotional materials for an open house, showcasing their homes designed on Tinkercad. They are constructing physical models of their digital designs. These students will organize a school-wide open house, during which the community will have the opportunity to view the models and vote for their favorite design.





Steam with Mrs. Strotman

In kindergarten, scientists are exploring the wonderful world of plants and flowers! Through hands-on learning, students are discovering what plants need to survive. They've also been learning to identify the different parts of a flower. To bring their learning to life, the class conducted a fun and colorful experiment using paper flowers and water. By folding paper petals and placing them in water, they watched in amazement as the flowers slowly "bloomed," showing how flowers respond to their environment. It's been an exciting blend of science, creativity, and curiosity!



K-2



STEAM

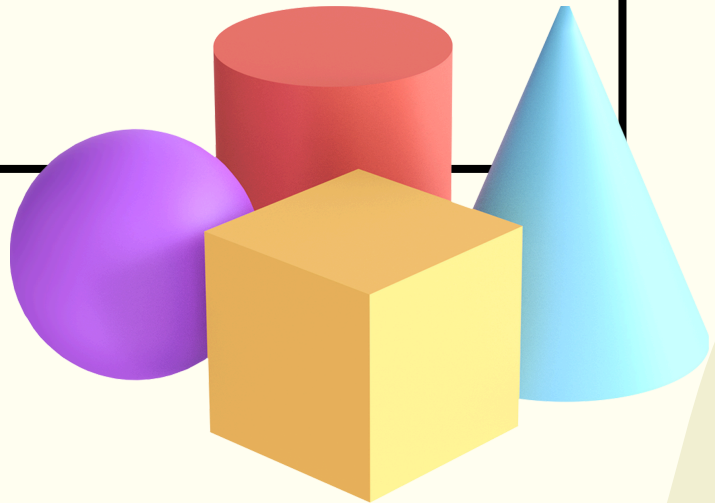
Our first graders have been busy learning all about Earth Day and the many ways they can help take care of our planet! From recycling and reducing waste to saving water and protecting nature, students explored simple but powerful actions they can take every day. To celebrate their learning, they went on an exciting Earth Day scavenger hunt. Along the way, they discovered all kinds of plants, insects, and animals that call our school home. It was a fun and meaningful way to connect with nature and understand the importance of caring for our environment!



EARTH DAY

STEAM Cont.

Our second grade students put on their architect hats and dove into an exciting project—designing and building their very own 3D cities! Using a variety of 3D shapes like cubes, cylinders, cones, and pyramids, they created buildings, parks, and roads to bring their imaginative cities to life. But the learning didn't stop there! Our second graders became communicators as well, sharing their creations with younger students and teaching them all about 3D shapes. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to lead, explain their ideas, and inspire others through creative design and collaboration.



GYM with Mr. Geck

Happy Spring!

Down in the gym we are finishing up our striking unit with primary students where we have practiced using ping pong paddles to strike and volley an assortment of balls and objects. The 5th and 6th graders are deep in their volleyball unit where they are gaining the skills to hopefully beat the teachers in the annual "students vs teachers" volleyball game.

As school starts to wind down we have all of our fun end of the year events coming up including Field Day, which I know we are all looking forward to.

Have a great day and I'll talk to you next month!

Mr. Geck

