Tuckahoe Times

March 2019

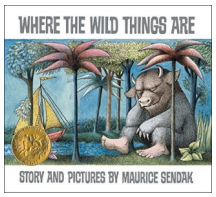
Principal Pascal's Perspective...

Cheering others success?

Every year America turns to one sporting event, March Madness. For a few weeks of the year it feels as though 90% of Americans are cheering on the success of young men and women they have never met in their life. The reasons for those cheers vary from winning the office bracket pool, to cheering on your alma mater, to the heart wrenching stories of the underdogs like Sister Jean and Loyola Chicago. With the start of March Madness Americans truly get to experience the phenomenon of cheering for the success of others. Each year America gets wrapped up in the frenzy of March Madness and the joy that is tournament season. We get lost in the rewind of stellar athletic achievements and the dream of Cinderella teams as they try to win the NCAA tournament. This month is a great opportunity for families to teach this character trait. Arlington Public Schools has dedicated March to the Arts. What better way for students to cheer on the success of others by enjoying the imagination and creation of artists in all aspects, as we go through the month here are some ideas to activate that cheer bone for the arts!!

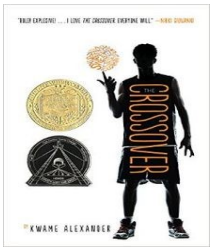
1. DessART Night/Open Mic Night: What better way to celebrate the success of others than right here at Tuckahoe. Join us March 12th for our very own night of artistic excellence. You and your family can appreciate the depth of skill and creativity of our very own homegrown artists. While touring take a break in the library and spend some time listening to the oratory skills of fellow Sliders during Open Mic Night. What a wonderful way to cheer on a fellow Slider!

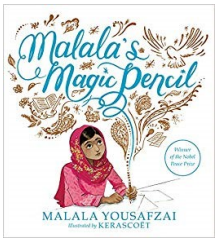
2. Imaginary Vacation (Kids imagination): Let your kids take you on an imaginary vacation for the afternoon. Explore a world in which your child's imagination shapes the adventure and experience. Build that fort, drink that tea, slay dragons, dance with the American ballet. Unlock your inner child and experience the joy of childhood again.



***3.* Explore the Arts in Arlington:** Take your family and attend a play, art exhibit, choral performance, or a band performance put on by fellow students throughout the county. If you have a future actor/actress perhaps a stop at the Yorktown or Guston theaters this month will inspire your budding artist. Maybe not a fan of the theater the musical performances of the county are plentiful and offer a wide variety of experiences for the whole family. Here is a list of this month's offerings. There is something happening every week for the whole family to enjoy.https://www.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/2019-AIS-brochure.pdf

4. Explore a book that's outside of your child's comfort zone. Find a list of books that challenge the way they think and ask them to experience the world through the eyes of an author's perspective. Are they a sci-fi fan perhaps a dip in the water of realistic fiction, fan of poetry maybe a turn in the world of historical fiction? Stop by your local library and see if you can inspire your child to read a new favorite.

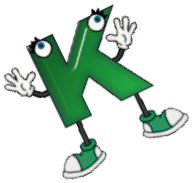




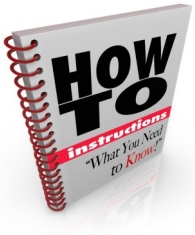
Guest Editorial writer: Francis Legagneur

classroom NEWS

February kept the **Pre-K** busy learning about friends and feelings. Our Social Thinking curriculum reminds us that our heart is the keeper of feelings and our brain is the keeper of our thoughts. We continue to learn about whole body listening, thought bubbles and group plans. These standards are well aligned with Tuckahoe's Positivity Project too! Please be sure to talk with your little ones about the positivity traits! Our highlight for the month of March will be attending the Big Apple Circus on Thursday, March 14th. We have a long history with his wonderful organization – the children cannot wait to sit ringside and to interact with the clowns, animals and other performers. Please keep in mind that our program gladly accepts gently used toys and other learning materials. Any questions, please see a member of the preschool team – Thank you!

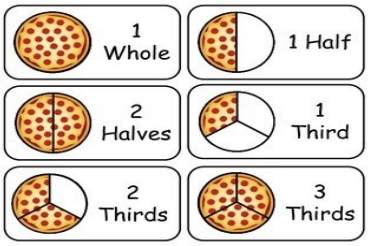


Kindergarten had a busy February learning about Presidents' Day, celebrating the 100th day of school, and of course exchanging Valentines. We are kicking off March with Read Across America activities and learning lots about Dr. Seuss. We will also celebrate St. Patrick's Day this month, and maybe even try to catch that sneaky leprechaun! In social studies this month, students will be learning about maps and globes, as well as needs versus wants. In math, kindergarteners have begun learning about fractions (ie: halves, parts of a whole, parts of a set, etc.) In Reader's Workshop, students are learning about nonfiction texts and improving their reading comprehension strategies. In Writer's Workshop, students are learning how to write instructional pieces and will be creating "how-to" writings. We are so proud of all of the children's growth thus far this year. We look forward to sharing more details at Parent Teacher conferences!



First grade is feeling lucky this March! We have started our new Writer's Workshop unit on persuasive writing and writing various reviews of restaurants, books, etc. Keep that in mind as you go to various places during the weekend! In math, we have finished our unit on counting and producing sets of coins and will be learning geometry and making and extending patterns. In Language Arts we will practice describing characters not only based on characteristics we can see, but also on how they act and feel. Continue to read "Book Bags" as much as possible to practice building independent reading stamina and fluency! In content we are studying famous Americans and will start a unit on balance and motion at the end of the month. We have also started our spring unit in the garden and the 2019 Seed Olympics have begun. We will also start planting our spring crops as the weather warms up. Lastly, we say goodbye to Dr. Seuss and hello to our March author of the month, Mo Willems.

Love, love, love. It's all we need, right? Well, LOVE, was one of our positivity project themes so we posed and pondered this real question: should love be included as one of the basic needs? That was a topic of debated interest in more than one classroom as we learned about the classifications and needs of animals. **Second graders** worked with our STEAM teacher, Mrs. Egan, to design a new and unique animal with specific adaptations and characteristics. To make the project more fun, students randomly selected adaptations (such as "squirting ink", "horned fins", and "smelling bad") to incorporate into their designs. The animals that resulted from this brainstorm brought both awe and chuckles! In other content areas, students learned about fractions of the whole and fractions of the whole set. In addition to recognizing and labeling fractions, students were tasked to order and compare some of the unit fractions such as 1/2, 1/3, and 1/4 using pie and bar models. During library lessons this month, Ms. Brynsvold guided the students in being architect-engineers to redesign the Tuckahoe library. Who wouldn't have predicted that there would be so many requests for a gaming corner, chocolate machine, and stuffed animal check out? As final comment, the second-grade team would like to thank ALL OF OUR FAMILIES for being such generous contributors to our



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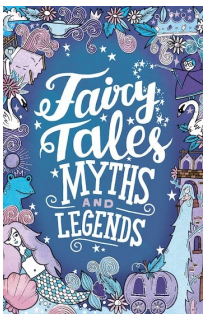
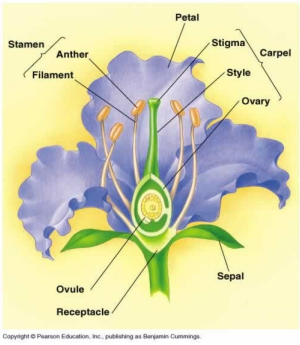
<u>Given the overwhelming success of the shoe drive, we are closing it down as of Friday, March 8.</u> Please pass the word and let all our supporters know that we are ENTHUSIASTICALLY overjoyed with the abundance of quality shoes that were collected for a community in dire need of such. We say it again and again, but it remains fiercely true: Tuckahoe Rocks!

Third Graders had a fun and productive month! We are well on our journey through different ancient civilizations and this month provided some hands- on experiences. The *Traveling Trunk* of objects from ancient China came to us from central office. Each class was able to spend time working with the 24 different objects and trying to deduce what each item was used for. Students enjoyed seeing how some objects were very similar to objects today, while others were very different to things we use today. We also had visitors from the Frontier Culture Museum in Stanton, VA bring the ancient Mali exhibit to us! Each class heard a presentation on daily life in Mali and were able to listen to an example of a Griot tell his story to music. Ask your child why these storytellers were so important to people living in Mali. Students were then given a chance to play the *balafon*, an instrument similar to a xylophone, and measure out salt to trade for gold. Third graders also finished their work on a project this month combining language arts and social studies.

They chose one ancient civilization to research, and wrote at three or more paragraphs teaching their reader about that civilization's daily life, geography, inventions, and other areas of interest. We have been very impressed by their learning and effort through this project! Students are putting the finishing touches on their writing now, and enjoying adding pictures to enhance their research. March will be an exciting time in science as students will learn about and create simple machines. In math, we circled back to multiplication and division and learned how to multiply 2-digit by 1-digit numbers. In March, we will return to fractions and will focus on adding and subtracting fractions with like denominators. In language arts, we will continue our unit on fairy tales and other fiction stories. We will focus on plot, recognizing the climax of a story, and observing how characters change and solve problems throughout a story.



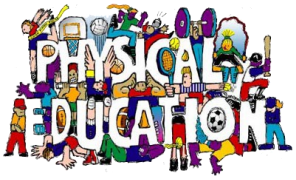
Fourth graders have ended their fraction unit in math and are beginning to explore decimals. Please continue to support your child at home by encouraging them to work on their multiplication and division facts. We cannot stress the importance of automaticity with the facts and how it impacts other concepts in fourth grade math. In science, we have been learning about plants. Ask your fourth graders about the flower dissection! In Social Studies, we have been getting to know our Virginia presidents and founding fathers, in addition to the important documents they wrote. It is exciting to see how Virginia's history has shaped the great state we live in today, albeit not without hardships. Next up - the Civil War! Nonfiction writing is a focus in fourth grade and we are currently challenging our thinking and writing skills by organizing debates. Our debate project focuses on teamwork, reading and summarizing nonfiction texts, note-taking skills, and thinking about issues through different lenses. We're also expanding our vocabulary and decoding skills through Caesar's English. Fourth graders are reading and writing up a storm!



Fifth Graders, are "Marching" their way into a productive third quarter! Our measurement unit is in full swing, and our fifth grade mathematicians seem to be enjoying the various Math Workshop menu items. In language arts, our young authors are preparing to write compelling informational essays and continuing their work on their fictional "passion pieces." We are also exploring the many ways that non-fiction texts become more complex. We are continuing our study of Ancient China in social studies. We'll investigate the first emperor of China, the Han Dynasty, and the Silk Road. Our fifth grade materials engineers are exploring the rock cycle this month, as well as incorporating some of our new hands-on Engineering is Elementary materials engineering curriculum into our unit. We have some very exciting things in store!

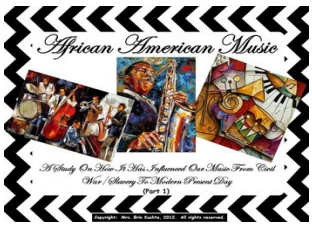
Department NEWS

March is National Youth Art Month. Students and teachers around the country are celebrating creativity and problem solving through visual arts. We will be celebrating here at Tuckahoe with our school wide art show- DessArt Night! Each student will have one piece of artwork on display throughout the building. There will also be desserts for sale by the PTA, as well as Open Mic Night to honor the performing arts. Please join us on Tuesday March 12th from 6:30-8:00pm. Here are a few photos highlighting some of the amazing work our students have been creating in art class.

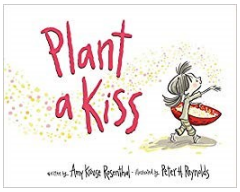


Punxsutawney Phil forecasted an early-Spring, but it feels as if we are due for some more of 'Old Man Winter'! The PE Staff is looking forward to getting back outside as soon as the weather begins to break. Over the past month, the 3rd, 4th and 5th graders have been practicing and playing Volleyball games. We are quite pleased at their skill development thus far. All grades have been working on their jump-roping skills and were instructed on the Cupid Shuffle Dance. The 2nd grade through Kindergarten have been learning about what a healthy snack is along with identifying the 5 Food Groups. These same students also learned about the Major Muscle Groups by reciting the 'Notion of Muscle Motion' song. Students also played Lobster & Crab Soccer along with developing their manipulative skills utilizing: scarves, feathers, balloons, spin jammers and foam noodles. As a reminder, all 3rd grade students will be swimming this month. Please be sure to turn in the Field Trip Permission slips for this event. The PE Staff is looking for 3rd grade Parent Volunteers to chaperone at the Yorktown Aquatic Center. Please coordinate with your classroom teacher if you are available to assist us.

Strong arts, strong schools! March is Arts in the Schools Month. We strongly believe that excellence in education and excellence in the arts go hand in hand. APS will hold a number of art and music events, and we encourage you to join in the celebration!
The February schedule disruptions prevented our 4th and 5th graders from finishing their composition projects, so the students will continue working on their songs in March. A few groups were able to finish and share their compositions, and we all were truly amazed by their musical creativity! In March, the students will be exploring the roots of African American music. The third grade families may hear their students practice at home recorder songs such as "Lucy Locket", "Que LLueva", "Fur Elise", "Old MacDonald", "Mary Had a Little Lamb", or "It's Raining". Our younger grades loved celebrating Dr. Seuss's Birthday with singing games, movements, and voice exploration activities. "Horton Hears a Who (or a What)? "sound guessing game was definitely a huge hit with the younger kids! We also enjoy watching our kindergarteners as they demonstrate an understanding of steady beat and rhythm patterns, and the first graders developing the skill to notate simple rhythmic and melodic patterns.



Even with the snow, February was a great month in the library. 2nd graders are ready to present their finished maps as part of our Library Architects project, where they designed their perfect children's library. Third grade did an excellent job studying illustrations in Caldecott-winning books; they had great discussions in small groups and as whole classes about how the artwork tells a story, and how the artist used elements like line, color, and shading to convey meaning and story elements. Fourth grade worked on some STEM challenges and proved that they are creative problem-solvers and budding engineers. If you noticed the hearts hanging in the library, those were kindergarten's and first grade's work—after reading Plant a Kiss, they wrote down something kind someone did for them on their hearts. The hearts were so fun to read! Things to look forward to in March: new books coming in, a book trailer project, and spring-related reads. Stay tuned!



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Weekly garden lessons for first graders have started up again; I enjoyed visiting all of their classes for hands-on lessons about earthworms! Second graders have been studying animal adaptations, and I look forward to March STEAM lessons on biomimicry - human inventions inspired by nature. It was fun exploring measurement around the 100th day of school with 3rd graders as they investigated questions including: "How far can a Hexbug go in 100 steps?" 5th graders on Green Team have been doing an impressive job reaching out to all classes and collecting used markers to be repurposed through the Crayola Colorcycle program. The next garden workday will be March 17th. All are welcome and encouraged to enjoy some time outdoors and help get our gardens student-ready for spring. Info/signup: **https://goo.gl/M4cyrF**

In Spanish, we are wrapping up the unit about calendar and will soon begin discussing seasons and weather. Ask your student to sing the Rockalingua songs about the days of the week and the months of the year in Spanish! Students in all grades are also working on their interactive projects related to the calendar and will begin a new unit looking at the seasons and weather. Upper grade students will be integrating science into their daily lessons and learning how the seasons are different in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. They will also use the Tuckahoe weather station to keep track of weather patterns.

PTA Spotlight: Grant Funding

Thanks to the generous donations that our Tuckahoe families make throughout the year (at events, by purchasing the school directory, through the no-pain fundraiser, etc) and through the hard work of our PTA volunteer grant committee, the PTA is able to fund our annual Grant Program.

Ever wonder where the money goes that the PTA collects? One of the major initiatives is to provide funding to the school to support student learning in the classroom and beyond by funding materials, projects, and experiences beyond the core basics provided by Arlington Public Schools. The Grant Program prioritizes those requests that benefit the largest number of students possible or to meet a community identified need otherwise unmet by APS resources. Grants are targeted toward items that provide a long-term or sustainable benefit to the school.

Our children directly benefit from the grants through items such as flexible seating, the 3rd grade Scholastic Story Works subscription, and various classroom organizational tools. For a larger list of grant items funded already this school year and to learn more about the grants generally, visit out PTA website - https://tuckahoepta.membershiptoolkit.com/teacher_grants.

2019 Upcoming Activities:

March:
- 3/5 - PTA Meeting
- 3/12 - DessArt Night

April:
- 4/2 - PTA Meeting
- 4/4 and 5 - ETC Play
- 4/24 - Silver Diner Night

May:
- 5/7 - PTA Meeting
- 5/11 - Home & Garden Tour
- 5/17 - Basketball Game

June:
- 6/4 - Book Swap & Ice Cream Social

dates to Remember

March 5:	PTA Meeting 7:00 PM
March 7:	Early Release Day; 1:26 PM
March 7:	Parent-Teacher Conferences
March 8:	**NO SCHOOL**; Parent Teacher Conference Day
March 12:	Author Visit: Susan Stockdale
March 12:	DessArt Night; Open Mic Night
March 13:	Curriculum Day
March 13:	Early Release Day; 1:26 PM
March 17:	St. Patrick's Day
March 14 –27:	3rd Grade Swimming

CULTURAL HEROES

As we continue our monthly celebration of people from diverse back- grounds who have contributed in various areas, March recognizes those who have made specific contributions in the area of **fine/performing arts, including actors, musicians, dancers, and singers.** Our Cultural Heroes Board already highlights several heroes in this area, and students are encouraged to identify others who have made contributions and add to our board!

Tuckahoe Spirit Fridays are here! Students are invited to wear any Tuckahoe gear they have. Don't have any yet? No worries! Wear blue & yellow to show your Slider Pride!

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