



# Tuckahoe Times



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April 2021

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## Principal Pascal's Perspective...

### Math Connections at Home

There are many ways to help kids connect what they're learning in math through activities at home. Check out the following, excerpted from the *CCH Math and Science Connection*.

**Open-Door Angles:** Doors in your home are the perfect place for hands-on practice with angles. Take turns opening or closing a door and asking, "Acute, right, or obtuse?" Partially open a door and it's an acute angle. Open it straight out, and it's a right angle. Open it wider, and it's obtuse.

**Make it Fun:** If your child collects toy animals you might ask, "How many legs do 4 horses have?" He or she can skip count the legs by 4s (4, 8, 12, 16) to see that  $4 \times 4 = 16$ . Or if he or she has friends over and wants to divide 17 pretzels equally among 3 people, they can be "dealt out." He or she will see that each person gets 5 and there are 2 left over (17 divided by 3 equals 5, remainder 2).

**Use What You Know:** Encourage your children to look for clues to help them solve problems. For  $8 \times 7$ , they could consider other math facts they know. "I know 4 groups of 7 = 28. I need 8 groups so I can double that answer. If  $28 + 28 = 56$ , then  $8 \times 7 = 56$ ." For 30 divided by 5, they might say, "I know 10 divided by 5 = 2. There are three 10s in 30 and  $3 \times 2 = 6$ . So 30 divided by 5 must be 6."

**Measuring Volume:** Which popcorn container does your child want to eat from while watching a movie? Have him or her do this activity to find out....Ask him or her to roll two index cards into cylinders—one vertically and one horizontally—so the edges just touch, and tape them closed. One cylinder will be tall and skinny, and the other one short and wide. Then, have him or her predict how many same-sized marbles each tube could hold. Will the totals be the same? To test the prediction, have him or her fill each tube with marbles and count. How can the result be explained? Your child may be surprised to find the shorter, wider cylinder holds more. That's because the radius of a cylinder has a greater effect on its *volume*—the amount of space in a 3-D object—than its height does. So when he or she is fixing popcorn, the shorter, wider cylinder might be preferable to the taller, skinnier one.

**Fractions of Fun:** Understanding fractions is much easier when they can be visualized. Here are some ideas to help kids see and use fractions:

**Keep a Diary:** Show kids that fractions are part of everyday life. For a week, have kids record and illustrate each one they notice. For example, he or she might write, "We had a half day of school today," or "Mom asked me to measure  $1 \frac{3}{4}$  cups of flour when we baked cookies." How many examples can they find and draw?

*continued page 5...*

# classroom



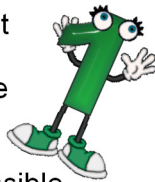
**Second Graders** displayed maturity and perseverance in the month of March as transitions took place between classrooms. We are proud of our young students for being such

adaptable citizens during such a complicated time! As learners, we continued to read nonfiction texts and “jot down” interesting facts. Concurrently, as writers, we used factual knowledge to script our own, research-based products. We remain impressed by our students’ willingness to share their original pieces of writing with their peers; the workshop model is thriving in all our classrooms. As scientists, we explored the life cycles and interdependence of plants and animals. As mathematicians, we demonstrated a variety of problem-solving strategies using one and two step word problems. Students even created their own unique, story problems to share and solve as a class community. We were once again delighted to host a virtual field trip with our friends at the National Museum of the American Indian. The program was appropriately titled “The Bison—One Stop Shopping” as it focused on the Native Americans of the southwest, and reliance on the buffalo for most of their basic needs. As the third quarter comes to a close, we look back, in awe, at all that has been accomplished this year and we look forward, with enthusiasm, for all that lies ahead in our final quarter!



The month of March was the start of some new beginnings — whether it was beginning in-person school, or beginning with a new teacher or new friends! **Kindergartners** have made a great transition to their new classes, especially considering all this year has held. We are so proud of them all! In the month of April, in math students will continue practicing ways to count to 100 and identifying numbers before and after. We’ll also begin a new unit on coins, and review patterns and their core. In reading, kindergartners continue to practice their reading “super powers” while decoding new words. Students have practiced identifying the number of syllables in words. They use this skill to break apart unknown words, and even spell small chunks of new words. Students will also continue their work with vowel patterns, and add to their sight word knowledge. In writing, students are still continuing to write “How-To” stories and breaking down the steps to teach something they know how to do. They are getting used to using graphic organizers and using transition words such as “then,” “next,” “first,” and “finally.” In science, students are working on a “Shadows and Light” unit as well as seasonal changes of spring. They will also be learning this month about Earth’s Resources and Earth Day. We look forward to (hopefully) the change to nice spring weather and continuing to grow and learn together!

**First Grade** is looking to start the last quarter off strong! In reading we are continuing to identify story elements. We are also emphasizing that reading fluently helps with comprehension. Please continue to read as much as possible to practice these skills. In writing we are continuing to work on our persuasive pieces. We are also placing a strong emphasis on our narrative writing through our journals. It is a good idea to talk over the weekend about what your child is going to write and encourage him or her to write across multiple pages. In math, we are finishing our unit on fractions and moving to word problems. Your child will be asked to articulate his or her thinking when solving problems to build math vocabulary. In science we are continuing our Seed Olympics and studying parts of the plant. We will next learn about famous Virginians and their impact still felt today.



Quarter 4 begins this week. Our third graders have gained so much new knowledge, learned to adapt quickly to ever-changing plans, and have surpassed all expectations! We are very proud of the studious, dedicated learners they have grown into this year. They are going to make a great group of fourth graders next year! In math, our cycle continues! We just finished our return to fractions where we worked on adding and subtracting like fractions (fractions that have common denominators). We are excited to be moving on to geometry! We’ve written adapted versions of classic fairy tales and will now begin to develop our own original stories. We are paying close attention to developing characters, back story, and bringing scenes to life with added detail and



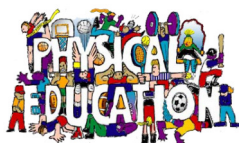
## Department

## NEWS



Hello everyone! Spring is here and the **Art** team is excited to dive into the 4th quarter. We will continue to use materials from our Art packs, so be sure to have all those tools and items collected and in a convenient spot to grab and pack for school! Students may need assistance in remembering what days to pack their art supplies and which ones to bring. This information is relayed to parents via email from the students' homeroom teachers.

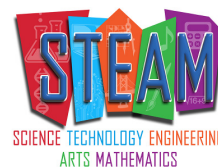
Spring is in full bloom and the **PE** staff is excited but sad, because we are entering the last quarter of the school year. In April, all students will be learning about muscle endurance and agility through a variety of activities. The 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders will also be learning about RDA (Recommended Daily Allowance) and macronutrients. Over this quarter, part of our lessons will revisit previous skills taught along with the new skills. Because of this review, we are asking students to please have on hand some supplies we have used in past lessons. The supplies needed are: either 3 beanbags or 3 rolled up pairs of socks, 3-5 balloons (9-12-inch size), 1 jump rope, either 4 tightly rolled up & taped newspapers or 4 paper towel tubes (12-24 inches long), either 2 boxes, 2 buckets or 2 containers with 12-inch openings, 1 bouncing ball 6-8 inch in size, 1 small bouncing ball (tennis ball size) and a few pieces of nose tissue or toilet paper squares. The week before a certain piece of equipment will be needed, we will post the required equipment on the weekly Specialist Supply List that is sent home by classroom teachers. In addition, we will also post a notice in Canvas & Seesaw of the needed equipment the week before and we will remind students in class as well. Not having the equipment on hand will not prevent students from participating in the lesson. All lessons are videotaped & can be reviewed in Canvas if a student misses class or just wants to review a lesson again to improve their skills.



In **Music**, we are excited to share that the Arlington school district has been recognized for its outstanding commitment to music education. For the 5th consecutive year, APS has been honored with the NAMM Foundation's Best Communities for Music Education award. The National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) *recognizes and celebrates schools and districts for their support and commitment to music education and efforts to assure access to music for all students as part of a well-rounded education.* Our 5th graders have finished their cross-curricular unit on the role of art and music in ancient Egypt and started practicing Irish step dancing. Some of our most daring students even attempted to break Michael Flatley's world record of step dancing 35 times per second! The 4th grade students are enjoying learning about Jazz, moving to music, and performing different body percussion and rhythm activities. Our learning goal is to understand the Rondo form in music. In third grade, students are alternating between recorder and rhythm reading activities. The students were introduced to the dotted note. For our younger students, we aim to include fun improvisational movement activities in every class to ensure that all students stay active and engaged. Second graders are practicing notating, decoding, and performing Sol-Mi-La patterns, as the first-grade students work on Sol-Mi songs. Through a variety of singing and rhythm sticks activities, the kindergarteners work on reading iconic rhythm notations in preparation for learning the traditional system (quarter and eighths notes) next year.

The many signs of spring in our beautiful schoolyard remind me of the loving care it has received from students and volunteers over the years.

Please enjoy the beautiful tulips, planted by girl scouts, now coming up just outside the main entrance in our Friendship Garden. Living things have been the theme in **STEAM** recently. Grade 5 students have continued to discuss ecosystems and had time to explore the amazing shark tracker on [Ocearch.org](http://Ocearch.org). Grade 4 is delving into human effects on watersheds and



## Classroom News *continued from page 2*

narration. In reading, we enjoyed our class read aloud [Because of Winn Dixie](#) and will soon start [Dyamonde Daniel](#). We wrapped up book clubs using texts that display great character development. We are continuing to closely monitor patterns of behavior and language from our main and supporting characters to better understand them. This year, we've explored the ancient civilizations of Egypt, China, Greece and Rome. We will continue on to ancient Mali next! Our social studies units are exposing us to different geographies, economies, cultures and ways of life. It's so much fun to compare and contrast them all! We wear our scientist caps quite often. We are still growing our own snap peas in the classroom to keep our soil unit in mind. We will study work, force, simple and compound machines this month and look forward to noticing these great tools day to day. We have a lot left to learn before June, but we must recognize the wonderful progress our students have made during the first three quarters of the year. We plan to end this last quarter just as strongly as we started! Go third graders!



Fourth graders have worked with points, lines, line segments, rays, and 2D and 3D shapes, including quadrilaterals, in our geometry unit. Geometric vocabulary can be kind of tricky, so you can review the terms listed at home. You could also go on a geometry hunt and find these shapes everywhere around you! The ecosystems unit is a perfect way to start out the spring season in science. We focused on the concept that the survival of plants depends on their structure and process for obtaining energy. We learned about photosynthesis and the parts of the plant and their roles in helping the plant get energy. We will learn about animal adaptations and their role in our environment. In writing, we learned about different forms of poetry (analyzing and writing). We focused on Haiku as a way of sparking the five senses. In reading, students are enjoying discussing their opinions and sharing their predictions, inferences, and summaries with their classmates in their book club groups. In social studies, students completed their New Nation unit, where they learned about founding fathers from Virginia, and about documents that influenced the new country they helped establish. Your child might enjoy a trip to the National Archives when it reopens, to see original founding documents, including the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.

Spring has sprung in fifth grade! We are learning about the rock cycle in science this month. Ask your child to tell you about some different types of rocks and their properties. In math, students are wrapping up our angles and triangles unit and will learn about circles and polygons next. We are continuing to learn about ancient India in social studies. In language arts, students are working on a research based argument essay, so be sure to ask your fifth graders what their writing pieces are all about!



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## Department News *continued from page 3*

just looked at this cool interactive [USGS watershed map](#). Grade 3 is wrapping up an investigation of fossils including using [kids' paleontology resources](#) from the American Museum of Natural History. Grade 2 has been exploring animal adaptations, such as an owl's ability to fly silently as seen in [this amazing BBC video](#) on YouTube. Grade 1 is also studying living things including birds. If you haven't already checked out the [Bird Cams](#) on Cornell's All About Birds website, please do : ) K students are checking out patterns in nature and Pre-K students will be planting seeds soon to observe their growth.



March was a fantastic **Library** month—we got to reopen for checkout, and it was so fun seeing students back in the library. Plenty of books were checked out, and students got to explore lots of new titles! In-person students will be able to visit for checkout every other week, and our at-home students are still able to place books on hold and pick them up Thursday afternoons. Students can return books any day by placing them in the bin outside their classroom door or in the bin outside the front door of the school. This is also a great time to look for any library books still out from last year—we'd love to have them back! Looking ahead to 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, we are planning some exciting things. Fourth and 5<sup>th</sup> grade will work on some creative writing, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will continue work with visual literacy, 2<sup>nd</sup> will learn about the origins of the children's library, and K and 1 will spend some time learning about our Schoolyard. We're looking forward to getting some last shipments of books in for the year, with some really great new releases! Students can keep an eye out for them on the library shelves, or in the "recently added" ribbon in Discover.

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## Thought of the Month:



- April 12: Teacher Work Day
- April 12: School Pictures
- April 15: Library/Materials Pickup, 3:00PM
- April 16: Slider Spirit Friday
- April 20: PTA Meeting
- April 22: Library/Materials Pickup, 3:00PM
- April 23: Slider Spirit Friday
- April 29: Library/Materials Pickup, 3:00PM
- April 30: Slider Spirit Friday



**Put in Order:** Together, make a set of fraction cards, with one fraction per index card (1/4, 1/2, 3/4, 1, 1 1/4, 1 1/2, 1 3/4, 2). Shuffle the cards, and see how quickly your child can put them in order. Then, while he or she closes his or her eyes, lay the cards in order but leave out a few. Give him or her the missing cards, and have him or her put them where they go.

*Perspective continued from page 1...*

**Play a Game:** Have each player cut a sheet of construction paper into six horizontal strips. The first one should be left whole and then cut the second one in half (fold it, and cut along the fold), and the others into thirds, fourths, sixths, and eighths. With bits of masking tape, label a die 1/2, 1/3, 1/4, 1/6, 1/8, and "wild." To play, roll the die and lay the matching piece of paper on your whole strip. For wild, choose any piece. The goal is to be the first one to fill your strip without overlapping any pieces (example: 1/2 + 1/4 + 1/4 = 1 whole strip).



THE POSITIVITY PROJECT

The remaining Positivity Project character traits for April are:  
 April 12: Fairness  
 April 19: Appreciation of Beauty and Excellence  
 April 26: Purpose

Just a reminder that families can access resources to support discussions taking place at school. They can be found at <https://posproject.org/p2-for-families/> and the password is P2.



**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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