



Tuckahoe Times



November 2021



Principal Pascal's Perspective...

A Time for Thanks

I think this may be my favorite time of the year. I love the change in weather, the beautiful, colorful leaves, and Thanksgiving. While it's been a rough 18-months for everyone, I still find myself reflecting and giving thanks for what I have.

I'm thankful that my family is safe and healthy. I know others who have not been as fortunate, and I feel for them. Staying healthy has truly been a blessing.

I'm thankful that my older daughter has settled into graduate school in Cincinnati, pursuing a program that she loves and is excited about.

I'm thankful that my son has also found a passion and is (finally) in an internship where he gets to put his energy into practice as he gets ready to graduate college next month.

And I'm thankful that my youngest has acclimated to middle school, after more than a year of at-home learning. She tends to focus on her social life more than her academics, but she is doing ok and appears happy.

I'm thankful that we have our Sliders back in school every day and they are getting readjusted to being in school. There are challenges, but we face them together as a team and I appreciate the support of our families in making things work.

This year I asked our staff what they are thankful for and wanted to share a sampling of responses:

Mr. Corkins: I'm thankful for my family and all the people who have helped me throughout my life.

Ms. Cogen: I'm thankful for my amazing team and my relationships with staff and students.

Ms. Egan: I am thankful for community support for our Discovery Schoolyard and for seeing all of our students having frequent, happy, safe, and productive outdoor experiences at Tuckahoe.

Mrs. Reed: I am thankful for making art together in class and being able to display artwork in the hallways again!

Mrs. Birotte: I am thankful for the parent support, understanding and patience. The past year and half has been very challenging and I need to give thanks to my team for supporting me through a difficult time personally. Through such a crazy time there are silver linings that make this time more manageable and thankful.

Ms. Moody: I am thankful for genuine smiles (which can be seen in the eyes of someone wearing a mask) and laughter shared with students.

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The **Preschoolers** are continuing to settle into Tuckahoe and are loving being in the building and learning how to “go to school”. We were busy in the month of October – we started using the Heggerty Pre-Kindergarten curriculum and Lexia Core 5. We are excited to be using these 2 phonemic awareness programs to supplement our language arts curriculum. During our math rotations, we are learning to rote count frontwards and backwards to 10, creating sets/groups of objects based on numbers 1-5. Ms. J introduced many songs and dances during Hispanic Heritage month! In Art, we learned about stamping and practiced using many different objects. During our STEAM time with Ms. Egan, we explored the inside of a pumpkin and gave “Serafeen the Skeleteen” her annual bubble bath! Please ask one of our super duper preschoolers for an explanation of this favorite activity! The wet weather on Halloween did not dampen our spirits or excitement! We trick or treated around the building, participated in the parade and explored classroom centers full of fun sensory activities!



We’re looking forward to a great November with our **Kindergarteners** and sharing all the things we are thankful for this month. In November, we will build students’ understanding of the past versus the present by looking into the history of Thanksgiving from different perspectives. We will also begin to talk about different holidays and the traditions that people have to celebrate those holidays. We will read a variety of fiction and nonfiction books about weather to build our vocabulary and comprehension of books as we read. Students will continue to build their foundation in reading with our phonics program and will continue learning how to blend sounds to read and write words. In writing, kindergarteners will begin to plan and write



true stories about themselves. In math, we will learn how to compose and decompose numbers up to five, and we will begin to learn strategies to solve story problems. We also look forward to observing the weather and temperature changes this month!



First Graders continue looking forward to November themes. Focusing on the tradition of Thanksgiving allows us to continue exploring the concept of Past & Present as well as Virginia symbols. We are looking at the difference between deciduous and evergreen trees, as well as the different parts of a tree. In reading, we will be learning about non-fiction texts. In writing, we will be working on making teaching books. In math, we will practice counting up to 75. We will also explore different shapes and how they relate to each other. We will also start our unit on fractions! We wrapped up our unit on the Zones of Regulation and developed tools to help us get from the yellow and blue zone, back to the green where we are ready to learn. This month we bid farewell to Eric Carle as our author of the month and say hello to Tomie dePaola.

Second Graders have been busy learning all kinds of things this past month! In math, we learned strategies for adding and subtracting to solve word problems to 20. We have also been working to name, transfer, and extend patterns. Students have had practice with both repeating and growing patterns. We are now getting started on our geometry unit and will learn all about symmetry and shapes. In writing we have been editing our personal narratives using CUPS (capitalization, understanding, punctuation, spacing). We’ve also been learning about how nouns and verbs are used in a sentence. Our students have enjoyed learning about many important figures currently and in history during our interactive read alouds. So far, we have read about Jackie Robinson, Rosa Parks, Cesar Chavez, Sonia Sotomayor and Malala Yousafzai. We learned how to find the theme or “lesson” in a story. We have talked about theme being like crème filled cupcake. Cupcakes have a crème filling hidden inside, like books have a theme or lesson hidden inside. In our science lessons we



Department

NEWS



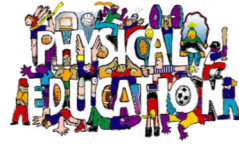
We are feeling the beautiful fall weather and using it as an inspiration in the **Art** room!

It's the perfect time to practice drawing from observation. Leaves, pumpkins, scarecrows, and fall landscapes are some of the subjects students have been focusing on in art! These lessons have allowed us to focus on warm and cool colors, lines, patterns, and so much more. It's also been exciting for us and the students to introduce new materials. We've been exploring blending oil pastels, using a variety of paints, printmaking, and recently started working on a larger scale with india ink daubers. We are proud of our artists and the creativity and problem solving skills they are demonstrating so far this year!

The beautiful warm autumn days have passed, the temperature has fallen and the chilly season has begun. This past month in **Music**, we celebrated the beauty of Hispanic culture with folk dances that originated from different regions. Students learned the history behind traditional dancing and had so much FUN performing the dances outside in the beautiful weather. We thrilled our students with fall and Halloween-themed songs, poems, listening games, and other fun activities during the last week of October. Eerie sounds helped 4th and 5th graders explore dynamics in music. Upper grade students were expressing the dynamics while they were reading and singing songs. They also learned the "Four Beats After" body percussion game, "Papa Moses," and "Beat and Rhythm" poems in two parts. The most exciting activity was the students learning "Ostinato" in music and playing Ostinatos on different types of unpitched percussion instruments. Younger students learned about four different types of singing, speaking, whispering, and shouting voices, and played the "Four Corners" game to practice recognition of the different kinds of voices. Also, the students learned some game songs



such as "Who Took the Candy," "I'm A Little Pumpkin," "Pass Around the Broomstick," and "Skin and Bones." It was a treat helping our Tuckahoe Sliders learn through so many fun lessons!

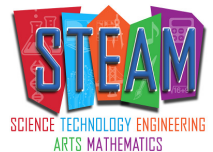


As we move into November, the PreK & Kindergartners will be learning about how the heart and lungs work together to make one's body grow and become stronger in **PE**. They will also be playing Turtle Tag and other fleeing and tagging games. The 1st grade students will be instructed on making proper hydration choices and practicing locomotor skills, as well as dancing to a rhythm. The 2nd and 3rd grades will be learning about the major muscle groups of the human body and performing ball-handling skills. In 4th grade, students are being instructed on the definitions of integrity and etiquette during activities and showing these important character traits within their community. Fifth grade students are participating in and reporting their Wellness Assessment test/scores. They are also learning about the cardio-respiratory system and in how it functions with heart rate. These students will also be performing activities that focus on dribbling and throwing.

As a reminder for all 4th grade families, our Swimming Unit at Yorktown Aquatics Center will begin on **Wednesday, November 3rd – Wednesday, November 10th**. Please be sure your child has the proper swimsuit, towel, goggles, and extra mask (if needed) available for this activity.

With the holidays fast approaching, we would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

It has been a busy and exciting month in **STEAM** with each grade level delving into activities based on different core science concepts. Pre-K did nature studies, looking under logs for critters, and investigating our fall garden beds. K students collected and examined dry flower seed heads and made connections to plant life cycles. Grade 1



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Classroom News *continued from page 2...*

have been learning how to think like a scientist. We have learned The Scientific Method and the Engineering and Design Process. As October came to a close, we were SO EXCITED to celebrate Halloween with a party and in costume!

Are we really preparing for the end of quarter one? We have had a strong start to the school year, and our students are working very hard each day! **Third Grade** continues to learn how to summarize by using the tool: Somebody Wanted But Then So, often abbreviated SWBTS. Students are learning to identify the theme and plot in a story; these reading skills will continue throughout the year. Writing narratives, learning to edit and revise has made them storytellers using their own words. Grammar, punctuation and word skills are taught through mini lessons in our literacy block. Our third graders are becoming wonderful mathematicians. They have strengthened their knowledge of identifying place value and will continue with rounding to the hundreds and tens, while learning how to estimate to solve addition and subtraction problems. Students will continue to learn strategies for adding and subtracting larger numbers. Throughout the year third graders will sharpen their skills with word problems advancing to multistep word problems. As scientists, students have learned about the six different simple machines and went on a scavenger hunt around Tuckahoe looking for different examples. Ask your third grader to tell you what he or she found!



We can't believe the end of the first quarter in **Fourth Grade** has arrived! In math this month we will be exploring equivalent fractions and learning how to compare and order fractions. Fluency in multiplication and division facts through the 12s is very important, so keep practicing at home! Our Earth/Moon/Sun unit in science will be starting soon, we will be taking a nightly view of the Moon, stay tuned for more details. In social studies, fourth graders have learned about the first people to settle in Virginia - Virginia's American Indians. Fourth graders can learn a lot about Virginia's history through our Studies Weekly newspapers. Histor-

ical fiction is another excellent way to enrich our learning. We're encouraging students to expand their imagination by reading more historical fiction this year. Come along with us on the voyage to Virginia! Next stop: Jamestown. Language arts is packed full of new ways of thinking, new writing techniques, formulating deeper understandings, and practicing critical thinking skills. In reading, we practiced making inferences, using context clues identifying genres, and summarizing. In writing, we planned, drafted, edited and published personal narratives. This month we are going to start our first document-based question writing assignment. Fourth graders are ready to take on the second quarter!

Our **Fifth Grade** students are really getting settled in to the second quarter! To start off the second quarter in science, students will do a brand new unit on Force and Motion. Get ready to hear about all the engineering investigations! In math our 5th graders will create and extend patterns. In social studies, the fifth grade students will finish studying Mesopotamia and then begin to study Ancient Egypt and all it has to offer. In language arts, the children will write a research-based argument essay, building on their knowledge of ancient civilizations. We are looking forward to the busy, but productive month ahead of us! Ask your child to show you how they see what assignments they need to submit in Canvas, by locating their "To Do" list. It's a great way to stay in touch with our activities!



Department News *continued from page 3...*

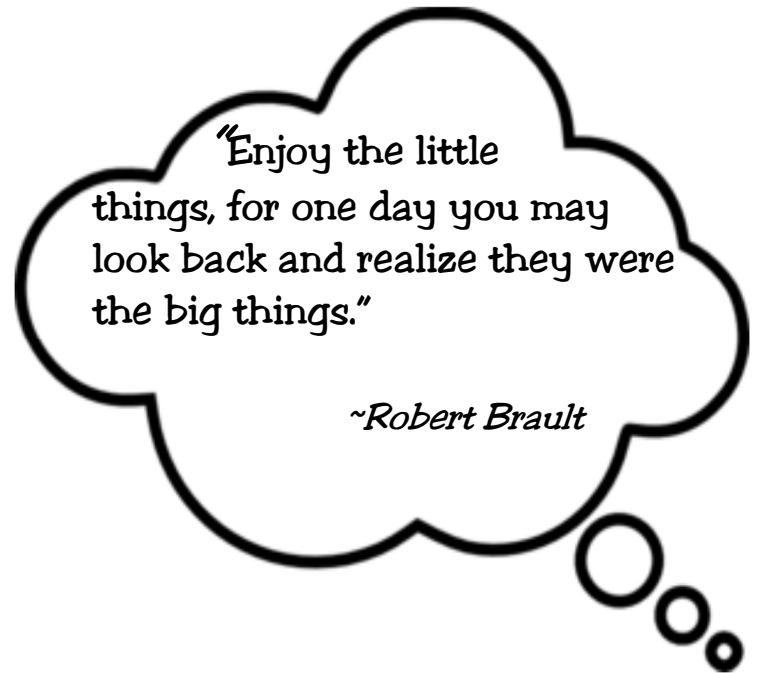
discussed weather and made pinwheels to check wind speed in our schoolyard. 2nd graders did hands-on investigations to learn the properties of magnets. Grade 3 students explored the workings and benefits of simple machines. 4th graders practiced the proper steps for scientific investigation in a fun activity involving hex bugs. 5th graders also got experience with experimental design by connecting their studies of energy with an experiment on converting kinetic energy to heat energy by shaking containers of sand. Some grades finished the month with seasonal science involving pumpkins (grades Pre-K, K, 1, 2) and applying engineering skills to make paper bat gliders (grade 3). Our next community garden workday for Discovery Schoolyard will be Saturday, Nov. 13th, 9AM - 12PM. All are welcome. For details and sign up visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4fafad2da3fd0-tuckahoe>.

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Thought of the Month:



- ◆ November 1: End of 1st quarter
- ◆ November 2: Election Day
- ◆ November 2: Teacher Work Day, No School for Students
- ◆ November 4: Diwali Holiday, No School
- ◆ November 5: Slider Spirit Friday
- ◆ November 5: Harvest Fest, 6:30PM
- ◆ November 11: Veterans' Day, No School
- ◆ November 12: Slider Spirit Friday
- ◆ November 15: PTA Meeting, 7:00PM
- ◆ November 16: Picture Retakes
- ◆ November 19: Slider Spirit Friday
- ◆ November 19: Progress Reports Available
- ◆ November 24-26: Thanksgiving Holiday

~Robert Brault



Perspective continued from page 1...

Mrs. Kaplowitz: I am thankful to see Tuckahoe's gardens being enjoyed by students and staff more than ever before. Our gardens have been my labor of love for 10 years, and knowing they are now helping to keep our learning community safer, brings me immense pride and gratitude.

2nd grade team: 2nd grade is thankful for our teammates. We are also thankful that we get to see each other and our students in person.

Music Team: The music department is thankful to have our students in person to sing, play and create music together.



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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