
March 2019

Maple Lane Gazette

34600 Dryden, Sterling Heights, MI 48312

(586) 977-9170

Happy Spring! I want to start by thanking all of you who participated in our Annual Family Night. This year, we incorporated literacy into this fun outdoor-themed evening. I hope you enjoyed taking home a variety of books to share with your family. Families were also able to enjoy craft-making, the literacy game room, reading as a family and group photos. An enjoyable time was had by all! Thank you to all of our staff and friends who volunteered their time to make our annual event a success.

April marks the beginning of our state assessments. The MSTEP and MI-Access testing will take place for all 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. The specific test your child will take was determined at his or her annual IEP meeting; please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions. You may be wondering how you can help prepare for the spring testing cycle. It's important for students to have plenty of rest and eat a balanced, healthy diet. You can encourage your child that all we expect is for him or her to try his or her best. The testing will take place primarily on the computer, a format we found many students to prefer over the past couple of years. We are confident in continued student success!

Recent Mr. Dodd Award Winners include Jeremiah O. from Room 6, Xavier B. from Room 14, Nehemiah M. from Room 5 and Matthew B. from Room 6. Students enjoyed their choice of McDonald's lunch or a session shooting hoops with the principal. It is a great way to celebrate students who follow our Maple Lane STAR rules!

March 8 was our Professional Development day for staff. Our staff continued our work with English Language Arts, by working on a new tool to assess students. The information was presented by our own Mrs. Schon and Mrs. Frye. Then, in the afternoon, we all worked together to review behavioral strategies and prepare for the upcoming MSTEP assessment. It was a productive day for our team!

Spring conferences have been scheduled for April 17. You will receive more information about available times as this date gets closer. Also, please keep in mind that spring break is April 1 through April 5 and we will not have school during this time. Please enjoy the month of April, and as always contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Jack Dodd, Ed.S.
Principal



STAR BEHAVIOR

Safe

Try Your Best

Act Responsibly

Respectful

IMPORTANT DATES

March 30 – April 7

SPRING BREAK

April 19

NO SCHOOL

May 27

NO SCHOOL

R2

March is reading month! Michigan Chillers was elected as our door decoration and includes the books we've read, "Poltergeist of Petoskey," "Aliens Attack Alpena," "Gargoyles of Gaylord," "Terror Stalks Traverse City" and "Mayhem on Mackinaw Island."

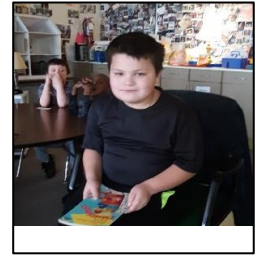
Seth was selected to read to one of our buddy rooms R3. He chose a Berenstein Bears book. Our class is voting on favorite books thought out the month. Detective Reese was our guest reader this week.

In Social Studies, we're learning about the purpose of the Michigan Government and Michigan's Constitution. Discussions included the rules and laws that make life safe for citizens. Also our rights and responsibilities of being citizens in the state of Michigan.

One of our enrichment activities include a classroom visit from Mr. Rollins for an art project. We're looking forward to see what is planned.

R2 welcomes 3 student, Brody, Aaron, and Kurhon. Also, celebrating a birthday this month is John.

Have a safe and wonderful spring break!



R3

R3 has been doing a lot of reading! The students enjoy picking out their favorite books to share with the class and to look at on their own. We have also been practicing our writing skills. Each week, the students pick a picture of something that they find interesting and write at least 3 sentences about it. They are doing a great job sounding out words and learning how to spell. We are also working hard at learning our sight words. Ask your student if they can sing the "Sight Words" song to you!

In science and social studies, we are talking about weather, changing seasons, and families. For our art projects, we made leprechaun traps and tried to catch a leprechaun, but he was too tricky to be caught. He did leave chocolate coins for us, though!

The students have been having fun with shaving cream sensory play and practicing writing their sight words in it.

For fine motor skill work, we have been beading and threading; making Froot Loop necklaces and coloring Shrinky Dinks. Coming up next, we will be planting seeds and watching them grow!



R4

The students in room 4 have continued to work hard! They have moved along in math and are working on dividing and measurement. We are working on zones and keeping our mind and body regulated. The students are working on typing skills and using technology safe and appropriately. We also work daily on filling our classmate's buckets, being kind and helping one another. We are all looking forward to the warmer weather!



R5

Spring has sprung. The birds are chirping and hopefully the weather warms up. This is a great time to begin our life science unit; learning about plants and animals. We will be exploring our state of Michigan soon.



March is reading month. We have enjoyed many stories about Amelia Bedelia and her silly misunderstandings of the English language. We decorated our door with her crazy interpretations. Representative Shannon, our guest reader, came and read a book about shamrocks to our group. He gave the students toothbrushes and book marks. He also gave us books, *Getting to Know Michigan* which we will be using for social studies. Our buddy room read books to our students. Our students loved having the older students read to them, and some of our students took a turn and read to them.



R6

March is reading month, and we have been trying to spend more time reading independently. At this age, kids should be reading for 20-30 minutes per day AT HOME as well as at school. Check out the pictures of our class reading to the younger students in R5, they were great role models.

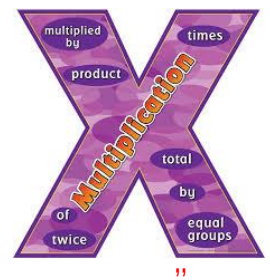


In math, we have been working on geometry during our whole group math lessons. We started our Life Science unit in science and have been working on opinion/argument writing and informational text in language arts.



R7

We have been busy trying to get back into a routine after having so many recent snow days. We are doing our best to catch up on academics. Students have been coming up with ways to help make learning fun! We plan on having spelling bee contests to help us remember correct spelling. We are visiting the library once a week. Students will be selecting books and they will then take turns reading aloud to the class. Mrs. Earle made some really cool math fidget : students practice their multiplication tables. Our new classroom motto is "make



R10

March went by too fast! We spent a lot of time reading in R-10 for **March is Reading Month!** Between having guest readers, taking part in a classroom reading challenge, reading at least 1 book a day in class, and our novel "Hoot".....we were reading all month long! We even decorated our door like the cover from "Hoot", for the door decorating contest! 😊

Another reading and research activity we did for social studies, was in Time for Kids; we read about and researched Wigwams! Did you know a Wigwam is made out of the bark on a tree? And, did you know people actually lived in them in the 1800's? We decided to make our own...a smaller version, of course, out of paper. 😊

We jammed out to Irish music on St. Patrick's Day, had Green Eggs & Ham on Dr. Seuss' birthday and made slime for fun! See ya March, and we welcome April to come with some warm weather and some time outside! 😊



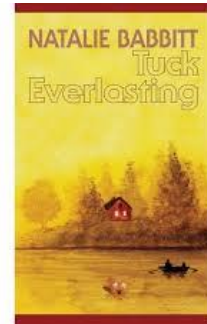
R13

There are lots of exciting things happening in R13. Mr. C is reading the prize winning novel Tuck Everlasting to the students. The students are enjoying the book and are able to complete many comprehension and writing activities related to the novel. They are looking forward to seeing the movie when the novel is finished.

In Social Studies the students have learned about Michigan's state symbols. They are in the process of creating their own book of state symbols. The students will be learning about threats to our natural resources, mining and how to work together to make a change.

In Science they are working on a unit about soil. They are learning vocabulary such as organic and inorganic, decomposing and composting. The students are actively engaged and enjoy playing Science Jeopardy with Mr. Rollins.

Every Monday the students set a weekly goal for themselves and Friday during circles we discuss if they have made their goal. The students continue to set goals weekly and are making great progress meeting their goals. They have also been learning words like achievement and compassion and how those words can be related to their everyday lives.



R14

Boy did March go by fast!! It seems like just yesterday I was writing our February newsletter. This month, R14 finished up their unit on Earth Science. We will begin our Life Science unit after the break. The students also finished their opinion writing pieces; they did a great job, I can't wait for you to read them!! Socially, our students continue working with their Peer-Pals every Thursday. Also, yesterday, many of our students at Maple Lane went to see Junie B. Jones at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts. Lastly, I hope everyone has a wonderful and relaxing break. See you in April. ☺



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SATURDAY: 10am - 9pm
SUNDAY: noon - 6pm

For more information or to register your school, contact Sue Rizzo at (248) 312-9049

Have a wonderful spring break!

See you on Monday, April 8!

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Assistant Superintendent Justin Michalak joined us for reading month!