



THE
**DOANE
STUART
SCHOOL**

Lower School Newsletter

September / October 2018

SEPTEMBER

Early Childhood



Early Childhood loves apples so much! We have integrated apples into our language arts, math, science and social studies curriculum. Apples are juicy and sweet so we had an apple taste test to see which one was our favorite. Then we made a graph to show which apple we liked the most. The GREEN apple had the most votes!

Attention Lower School Parents

We hope you are enjoying our Lower School Newsletter and getting a glimpse of your child(ren)'s day! Please note that for the remainder of the school year, the Newsletter will not be printed but will be posted monthly in both the parent portal (doanestuart.myschoolapp.com) and on the Doane Stuart Website.

In September, Kindergarten learned about what it means to be a good citizen. During one of their social studies activities they learned how to collaborate with their classmates. The children worked together to build a replica of our own Doane Stuart building. Each child added several blocks to complete this project. Accepting that others have creative ideas to share can be challenging for young children. We set several rules before we began. The most important rule was that everyone's idea was important, and accepted without judgment. It was delightful to see how well they cooperated with each other. As you can see from the smiles on their faces, they were very proud of their creation.

Kindergarten



SEPTEMBER

First Grade



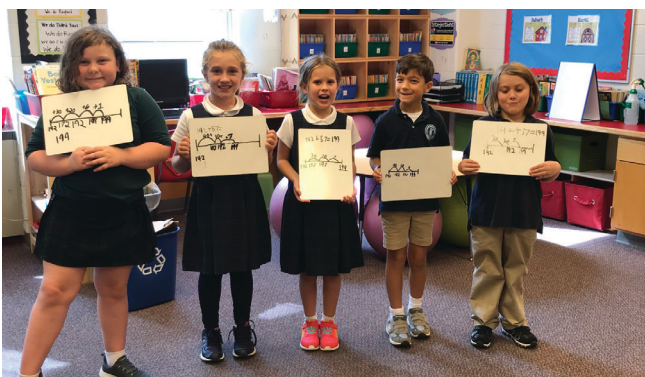
One exciting thing the First Grade did in September, along with the Kindergartners, was completing 3 weeks of Daily 5 “Boot Camp.” This is a time when the students learn all about the five Daily 5 ELA components. After the three weeks are up, the students are all experts at what is expected of them during this time. The five components include: Read to Self, Read to Someone, Listen to Reading, Work on Writing, and Word Work. During this time students will also be a part of a small teacher group. Be sure to ask a First Grader about Daily 5.

Second Grade

Welcome Back! In September Second Graders learned about having a GROWTH MINDSET and that the brain is like a muscle and that it gets stronger when we embrace challenges. Having a GROWTH MINDSET means that we can solve problems, learn from mistakes, work until we are proud of our results, and do hard things.



Third Grade



Third Grade has been developing a deeper understanding of place value and applying this knowledge to round numbers to the nearest ten and hundred. We have had fun estimating calculations before finding the actual answer. We have also been using a range of strategies to add two and three digit numbers mentally. One of our favorites is using an empty number line to jump to the next number.

SEPTEMBER

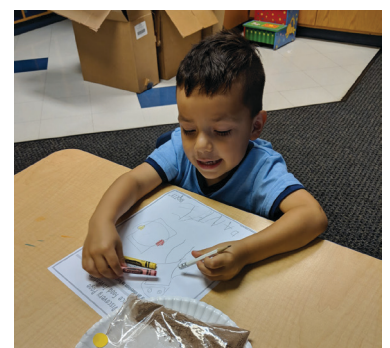
Fourth Grade



Here we go! We're the leaders of the Lower School, setting examples for cooperation, teamwork, and community spirit. We write every day, and we present our writing in class. We are great readers, diving into ***Journey to Nowhere***, about a family's travels to New York's western wilderness in 1815. It's part of "getting our bearings" studying the history and geography of New York State. In Math, we devoured place value, number sense, and even started algebra. This year we're developing new skills and honing old ones, and we're taking our awesomeness to a whole new level!

STEAM

In STEAM, the Kindergarten class made their own version of "space food" after learning about how astronauts eat their food in space, and why some food might get very messy as it floats around! With a bag of pudding as their test model, they were given classroom materials to find a way to attach their space food to a plate or tray, to keep it from floating off. Some discovered that two magnets would do the job, as well as a variety of clips, combined with strong tape. After completing the task, they created a drawing of their design. A few students found that the small, colorful stickers could help astronauts distinguish which food belonged to them, without having to label with names!



OCTOBER

Early Childhood



Community Helpers are very important people. We are studying who they are and what they do. Maybe one day we would want to have a job that helps out our community. We used many books, puzzles, movies and songs to help us decide which job might be best for us when we grow up.

Kindergarten

In the winter, we all want our homes to be warm, but cold air can come into our houses. The cold air that leaks into our homes is called a draft. Kindergarten scientists identified this problem in our school building. They invented a tool to find drafts. The children used feathers, ribbon, popsicle sticks, paper and glue to complete their invention. We explored the school building to find drafts and reported our results to Mr. Snavelly our Building Supervisor. Kindergarten engineers gave Mr. Snavelly some ideas on how to eliminate the drafts that we found. Mr. Snavelly was grateful, and so surprised to see that we were so thorough in our investigation. Identifying problems and creating solutions to our everyday needs, are activities that are part of Kindergarten's weekly science discussions. Who knows, we may have some budding inventors in our midst!



First Grade



First Graders tried their hand at making boats out of aluminum foil. The object was to build a boat that could hold a lot of unifix cubes before it sank. They did amazingly well.

OCTOBER

Second Grade



Inspired by a fall walk in our neighborhood, second graders wanted to learn more about trees. Specifically the trees that grow in our area and on our campus. Mesmerized by the changing beautiful colors and using our newly established scientific classifying skills, we got to work. First, we collected leaves from the ground in several different places. Next, we classified

the leaves by shape and color. Then, we researched online various leaves from trees in our area and tried to determine what types of trees we had leaves from. Oak, sugar maple, red maple, birch and a burning bush were the most common. We still have a few that we haven't deciphered yet. We will be going back out to further investigate in the near future. We will be looking at the bark, the size of tree, seed carriers and any other clues to help us. Wish us luck!

Third Grade

Third Grade has finished reading our class novel ***Sarah, Plain and Tall*** and we are excited to move on to read ***Bunnicula*** by Deborah and James Howe. We are enjoying the mystery so far and are having fun visualizing what the characters look like, and making predictions about what is happening to all of the food in the Monroe Family's house! Third grade loves to read!



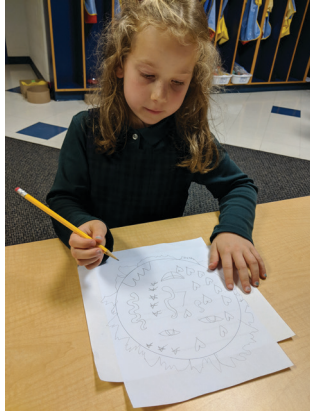
Fourth Grade



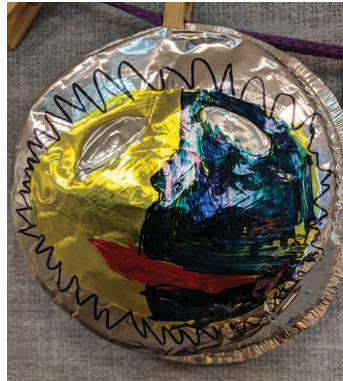
Fourth grade loved Grandparents Day! We were thrilled to share an art project with them where we used watercolors, Sharpies, and isopropyl alcohol to blend our designs. We also shared a little bit about how we learn and spend our day. We loved sharing our stories and supporting each other.

OCTOBER

STEAM



In STEAM, the first and second graders created their own Mexican tin art, in honor of Hispanic Heritage month. They learned that many artists use tin to create candle holders, sun faces, and other artwork to sell at open markets. After designing their sun face, they used special tools to carefully emboss the tin pans with just enough pressure to indent, but not poke through. Finally, students used sharpies to allow their colorful faces to jump right out at you!



BE SURE TO VISIT
DOANESTUART.ORG/GALLERIES
FOR PHOTOS OF MANY
MORE LOWER SCHOOL
EVENTS AND PROJECTS!