

LOWER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER MARCH 2019



Early Childhood

"In like a lion, out like a lamb" was the focus during much of the month of March. We studied many different types of weather. We mostly enjoyed learning about the clouds and experimenting with making our own! March will end with our hands-on unit of study with reptiles and amphibians. With Shelly the tortoise, and our newest addition of tadpoles in the classroom, we have had many learning experiences right at our fingertips. Most of all, the traveling museum at CMOST visited us and we learned even more! They brought a corn snake and a box turtle for us to touch!



Kindergarten



Kindergarten inventors designed their own cat scratching posts. They knew that cats have claws and that they need to trim their claws. They thought carefully about what materials would attract the cat's interest, and they began working diligently to create the most appealing models. We have three students that own cats in our class. The children sent home the cat scratchers to be tested by the children's cats. We are beginning to receive live videos showing us what happened when cats were given the opportunity to use our models. We were excited to see that several of the cats seemed to be interacting with our inventions. Kindergarten is so much fun!



First Grade

First Grade had the privilege of leading the March Lower School Chapel. We read the book, *Eggbert: The Slightly Cracked Egg* by Tom Ross and then the First Graders each asked the audience a question about what was read. After that they all shared a positive message they learned from the story, along with a picture they decorated to look like the character, Eggbert. Be sure to ask a First Grader what they thought the moral of the story was. They all did a wonderful job presenting.



Second Grade

We are having a MOOvelous time in Second Grade! Students are working on the 5 elements of a story to strengthen their reading comprehension. This includes knowing and understanding the Setting (Time and Place), the Characters, the Plot (and what happened in the beginning, middle and end), the Conflict, and the Resolution. After reading *Click, Clack, MOO-Cows That Type* by Doreen Cronin, we discussed and wrote about the 5 elements. Then, we decided to draw and paint our own herd of cows. Come to the Red Pod to check out our adorable bovines!

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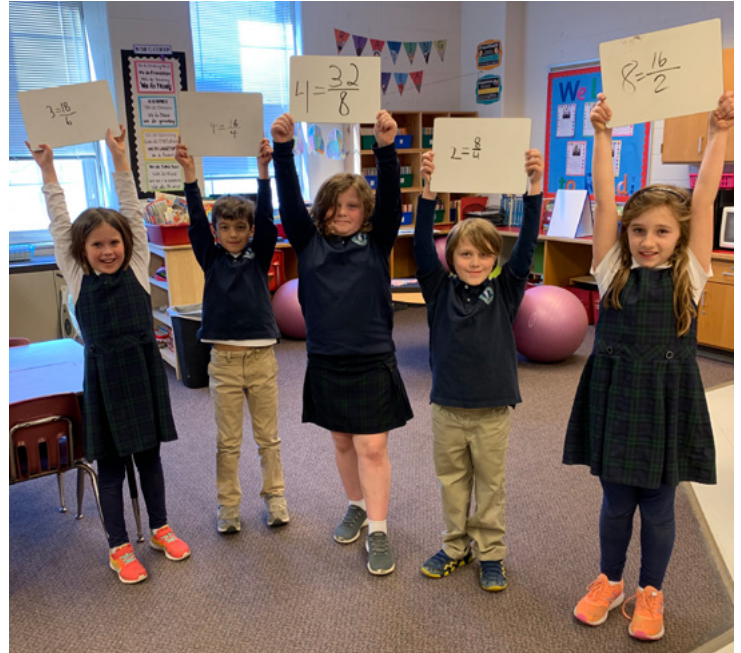
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Third Grade

This month, Third Graders have started to learn about fractions. We've been having fun dividing different things into fractions, especially when it involves food!

We are able to label fractions on a number line, relate fractions and whole numbers, and find fractions of an amount!



Fourth Grade

Teamwork is so important, especially in Fourth Grade where, as leaders of the Lower School, we learn to lead by example. This month, Fourth Graders were thrilled to work together on a joint project for the Gala. In consultation with art teacher Mr. Martinez, they came up with a plan to create a birdhouse for the Silent Auction that truly demonstrates their creativity and their teamwork. It was a perfect project, where they got to show the power of collaboration.





STEAM

In STEAM, Kindergarten has been learning about “Experimental Art” and how some artists use different tools and materials, beyond a paintbrush and paper, to create interesting and unique artwork. After looking at different examples of experimental art, students created their own masterpieces using baking soda, food coloring, vinegar, and popsicle sticks. Before adding the vinegar drops to their baking soda and colors, they made predictions about what would happen. Some thought the colors would mix and create new colors, while others thought they would see bubbles forming that might slide off of their plate! Everyone was excited to see the transformation of their experimental art and had fun using popsicle sticks to create pictures on their plates.

Physical Education

The students in Grade 2-4 recently started a unit on tennis with equipment provided by the United States Tennis Association through a grant designed to grow the game. Mr. Yakubowski is helping each student develop the fundamental skills of basic strokes.



Library

To celebrate Women's History Month, Lower School students researched and read about a diverse group of women. Fourth Grade contributed to a book display, using the library catalog to find books on historically-significant figures such as Coretta Scott King, Rosa Parks, Sally Ride, and Mother Teresa, to name a few. They then wrote short blurbs to place in front of the books.



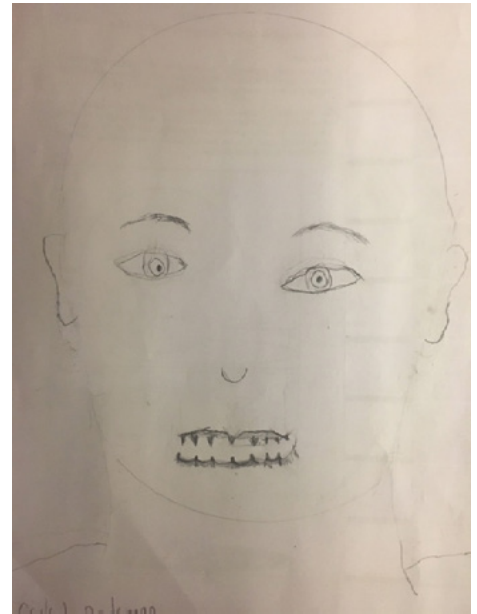
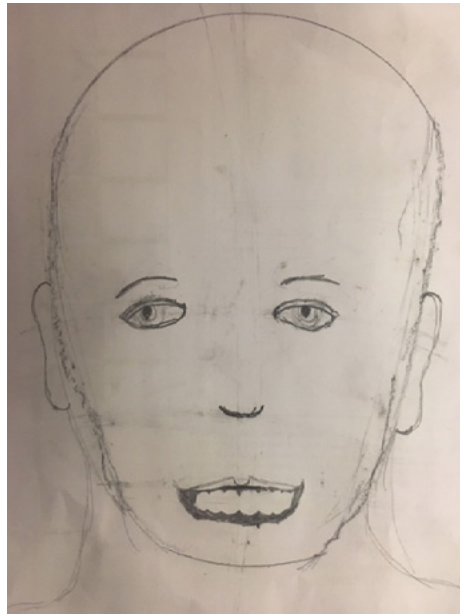
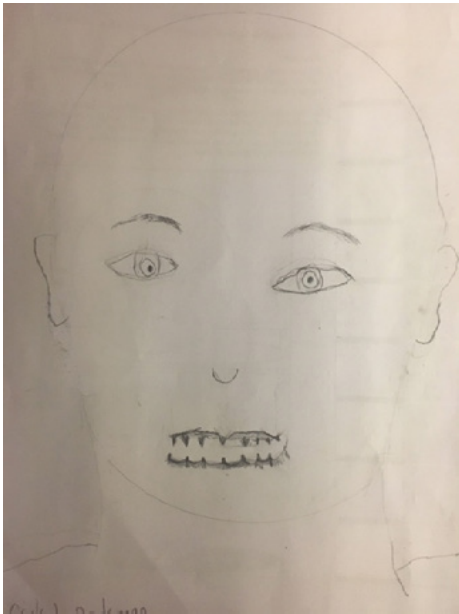
MUSIC NOTES

This month our students have enjoyed so many different ways to make music!

Many of our students shared their talents at our Lower School Recital. Several students served the crowd at our French Cafe and Cabaret, which was a huge success! Our Lower School Chorus (Grades 2-3-4) is preparing to perform at the Holy Week and Passover Chapels, and they will sound beautiful! Our Early Childhood, Kindergarten and First Grade classes are exploring more storytelling through music, learning to read and play rhythms, and learning about the 'Carnival of The Animals,' by Saint-Saens. Our Second Graders are working on their own compositions, which they will be conducting in class. We all enjoyed the Saratoga Opera performance, and the Second Grade is now also working on their own opera, 'Barefoot Johnny Appleseed,' to be performed in early April. Third Grade has been learning piano skills and ukulele. Our Fourth Grade musicians have been learning to cooperate in creating 'STOMP' style rhythm compositions, which will lead to more advanced composing using our computer lab and musescore. In Band, these students are also playing well! We are looking forward to our next performances: Second Grade Opera, April 12; All-School Band and Chorus Concert, May 13. Please mark your calendars!

Art

Third and fourth grade are learning how to draw the proportions of the face. We will be studying shading individual parts including the eyes, nose, and ears as well.



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