

SOUTH LYON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

GOOD NEWS

JANUARY 2012



BARTLETT ELEMENTARY

- Throughout the month of January, fifth grade students diligently worked with fractions and decimals. Their eyes were opened to all the places they could find these representations of a part or a whole number in real life such as price tags, Dewey Decimal system, etc. During this math unit, students developed their skills to fluently express fractions and decimals as percentages and vice versa.
- Third graders enjoyed making Native American headdresses while studying The History of Michigan in Social Studies. The students were divided into three tribes under the alliance, The Three Fires. They learned how the Ottawa, Ojibwa, and Potawatomi tribes lived hundreds of years ago. They also learned where the locations of the tribes were in Michigan, the food they ate, and how they constructed their shelters. The students came to the conclusion they are very lucky to be living in 2012!
- Monday, January 16th was a very special day at Bartlett. Every classroom in every grade level spent time honoring Martin Luther King Jr. and his nation-changing work during the Civil Rights Movement. Grades K-3 chose a different book honoring MLK to guide their lessons and discussions. Following the dialogue, students reflected upon what they had learned by drawing a picture and writing about how MLK used a particular Habit of Mind and about how they could use that same Habit of Mind to make the world a better place. Grades 4-5 watched a video clip of the Dream Speech followed by a discussion focusing on specific essential questions. An important part of every lesson centered around Habits of Mind that Dr. King used in his efforts to bring about change in our country.
- Bartlett third and fourth graders became essayists in January. After taking time to observe the world around them, they wrote a thesis focusing on something that was important to them. They then took time to come up with supporting details and stories to back up their claim. After the essays were published, the students had a writing celebration!
- In Mrs. Day's kindergarten, students are learning about what readers do! We know that readers think about the story before, during, and after they read. Readers ask questions, make predictions, and think what they liked about the story!

BRUMMER ELEMENTARY

- On January 6th, the Middle School 6th Grade Band visited Brummer School. Their performance to our fifth graders included demonstrations of the different instruments, as well as the presentation of a variety of musical pieces. Many of the fifth graders were excited about the prospect of taking Band at the Middle School.
- During the month of January, students are able to bring in their Game Boys on a certain designated day to use at lunchtime recess. They sure enjoyed spending their recess playing with their favorite game.

- On January 19th, our library was filled to capacity with families playing games together! At 6:30 p.m., over thirty-five families joined us, bringing with them one of their favorite family games to play at school. Each family also brought a snack to share with everyone - we had chips, popcorn, cookies, chocolate covered strawberries, to name a few of the treats that were shared. The hour went very fast and the parents and children remarked on how much fun they had at our Family Game Night.
- The second Bedtime Stories With The Principal was on Tuesday, January 24th, at 7 p.m. Approximately forty-five kindergartners and first graders came dressed in their finest pajamas to listen to Dr. Brun read stories. What a great way to end the day!

DOLSEN ELEMENTARY

- Third grade "Economists" learned the kid-friendly definition of Economy. The students added the term capital resource to the resources (human and natural) they learned about in second grade. Economists now know that even though Opportunity Cost is a big word, the concept is now easy to understand.
- Third grade teachers read Because of Winn-Dixie to students. As the students listened to the story, they learned how to bring characters to life. Third grade readers learned how to anticipate how a character would act on future pages, as well as identifying how a character changed throughout the book.
- In Math Workshop our amazing third graders have been working on representing data using different types of graphs. They were extremely excited to create their own graph from data they collected. Our third graders picked their own topic, surveyed their classmates and turned their collected data into a bar graph. Once they were finished they worked with their groups to compare data, graphs, and even made up some of their own questions to accompany their graph!
- Our third grade readers have just completed the unit of study: "Bringing Characters to Life and Developing Essential Reading Skills." Our students thoroughly immersed themselves in Because of Winn-Dixie and were able to describe characters, distinguish points of view, and compare and contrast views.
- Our third grade scientists have enjoyed "Finding the Moon." Though nature did not cooperate with us, (it's been cloudy) the students have enjoyed journaling the phases of the moon that they've observed in the night sky. Thankfully they were able to confirm their findings through internet research!

HARDY ELEMENTARY

- Hardy students were treated to a wonderful school assembly put on by Jim "Basketball" Jones. His message of respect, effort, and working as a team tied into the work we do with the Habits of Mind.
- Dr. Terri Spencer, new Deputy Superintendent of Oakland Schools, came to visit Hardy Elementary. Dr. Spencer, Dr. Schmeichel and Mrs. Kudwa visited classrooms of all

grades and contents. Their tour wrapped up with a visit to Hardy's Communication Café.

- 3rd, 4th and 5th graders participated in the Hardy spelling bee. All participants did the very best they could and set a wonderful example of sportsmanship and respect. It also served as a reminder of how caring the staff is at Hardy. As several staff volunteered to work the bee and many others stayed after school to support the participants.
- Hardy students honored Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by discussing and reading about his message. Hardy's K-2 students made connections to Dr. King and the Habits of Mind, while the upper elementary students watched and discussed part of King's famous, "I Have a Dream," speech.
- Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Weiss were nominated for Oakland Schools Excellence in Education Award. Their work with the Communication Café and the impact it has made with children with special needs both socially and academically was recognized by Mr. Cory Heitsch, building principal.

KENT LAKE ELEMENTARY

- The first grade teachers read **Martin Luther King Jr. Day** by David F. Marx. After the reading, the teachers and students dialogued about the story and there was emphasis on how Dr. King used his Habits of Mind throughout his journey toward civil rights. The students were given a coloring page with Dr. King's picture on it and a song about him. The class sang the song and it was put into their poetry folders for future use throughout the year. Students also compared their life to Dr. King's using a t-chart. In addition, students were given a letter to take home that explained the 100 random acts of kindness activity in which all first grade classes will be doing. The goal for each class is to reach 100 acts of kindness by Feb. 14. Teachers have been keeping track of the acts on chart posted in their classrooms.
- On Martin Luther King Day, the second graders at Kent Lake focused on Dr. King's fight for equal rights through his "I Have a Dream" speech. Students first read and discussed a Scholastic News Article about Dr. King to acquire background knowledge. Then they completed a comprehension quiz that went along with the article. After completing the comprehension quiz, the second graders watched a short video about Dr. King titled "Martin's Big Words" to look more in-depth at his speech. Each student created their own "dream cloud" that described a dream that they have that could make the world a better place and how they are going to help make that dream happen! Lastly, the children explored the Habits of Mind that Dr. King utilized to contribute to his success. They focused on the following Habits of Mind:
 - Thinking interdependently-working together and learning from each other. Every student has different qualities and skills to bring and share with others.
 - Thinking and communicating with clarity and precision-MLK had to do this not only when he gave his many speeches, but also when he was communicating

with various national leaders. How can we do this to communicate in our everyday lives?

- The Kent Lake PTO Spelling Bee was held on Thursday, January 12th. There were forty-three fourth grade participants. This year's winners are:
 - 3rd grade: 1st place-Henry VanDyke 2nd place-Jack Petsch
 - 4th grade: 1st place-Marina McMahan 2nd place-Hope Leinen
 - 5th grade: 1st place-Amy VanDyke 2nd place-Kyla Faligowski

The first and second place winners will participate in the District PTO Spelling Bee. Good luck, kids!

- Mrs. Davis' and Mrs. Madeja's/Ms. Hewlett's classes engaged in a discussion on what the world would be like if everyone believed in and acted with non-violence just as Martin Luther King Jr. had wanted for the world. Students all agreed the world would be more peaceful and fair. They also debated if there would need to be a government to create laws if everyone believed in non-violence. After much debate, the children came to the conclusion of still needing a government but having fewer laws. Both classes watched a video from Discovery Streaming about the Civil Rights Movement. Students were very interested in a "sit-in" that occurred in Greensboro, North Carolina. They had to imagine what it would have been like to go to a segregated restaurant just as the four African American college students had done and sit down and order lunch only to not be served. With persistence, the "sit-in" proved to be effective and the restaurant changed its policy and desegregated a couple months later. The lesson closed with a discussion of a quote from Gandhi, who influenced King, "The future depends on what we do in the present."
- On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, fourth grade students watched a 30 minute video clip via Discovery Streaming. It had many film clips and photos of actual events that chronicled Dr. King's role in the importance of the Civil Rights Movement. Students participated in a class discussion before and after viewing the film, which included segregation and integration. Students reflected on not only the difference Dr. King made, but the non violent manner in which he led this movement. Then students drew pictures and wrote paragraphs demonstrating how Dr. King made the world a better place and how they could continue Dr. King's work. During reading, they read an article on Dr. King, answered constructed response questions, and matched new vocabulary to sentences by using definitions and context clues. Finally, students filled out a graphic organizer using examples from the text to support 6 different character traits for MLK Jr.

SALEM ELEMENTARY

- Salem students continue to complete Habits of Mind worksheets so that they can practice their HOM at home and make families aware of expectations at Salem. Additionally, students have received transmissions from the Habit of Mind master on

YouTube. The HOM Master is from the planet HOM and tells students about Habits of Mind in a very accessible manner.

- For the Celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Students in grades K-3 read grade level appropriate books and even created some of their own pages to show how they will use their Habits of Mind like Dr. King. In grade 4 and 5, students watched a movie highlighting King's work and engaged in discussion thereafter.
- As an extra step in understanding Dr. King's message, students in grades 4 and 5 engaged in a chalk talk about topics related to The Civil Rights Movement. The Chalk Talk routine is one piece of our Cultures of Thinking work.
- Salem third graders had a taste for something yummy! They celebrated the end of their social studies unit on the economy of Michigan by tasting some of the delicious goods that they learned about during their studies. Items included Faygo pop, Better Made chips, Kellogg's cereals, and even some tortilla chips that are made right here in South Lyon! Michigan Pride!!!
- Students at Salem are immersed in math workshop. Students are not only learning new math concepts and having a chance to practice a variety of math skills, but are also working on reflecting on their mathematical thinking and effectively working together.
- 4th grade math students have been working diligently on their division skills. These students have been working hard on becoming more fluent with one of the great mathematical milestones of upper elementary: LONG DIVISION. No longer is this concept a scary one; students applied this newly found skill and can attack situations requiring division with ease.
- Students in Mrs. Hass' 2nd grade class are working on their graphing skills during math workshop. Students are engaged in hands on graphing practice that makes students think deeply about reading and creating graphs individually and in groups.

SAYRE ELEMENTARY

- Sayre fourth graders have been studying the major movements of people throughout the United States, including the Great Migration, the Underground Railroad, Orphan Trains and Westward Expansion. Students read and enjoyed books depicting the experiences of individuals in these movements. They also discussed the push and pull factors, or the reasons why, groups of people chose to move.
- The first graders in Mrs. Stafford's room have been working on creating mental images as they read. They have noticed the descriptive language authors use to help you create a picture in your mind and set a scene. Students have also begun to add this type of descriptive language into their own writing.
- On January 22nd, many of Sayre's fifth graders participated in a bowl-a-thon at Novi Bowl. The bowl-a-thon was the last fundraiser for fifth grade camp. The teachers and students had a wonderful time bowling, eating pizza, hanging out with friends, and practicing the bowling techniques they have learned in P.E.!

- In January, first graders at Sayre learned about the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. They learned how he bravely faced challenges and worked to solve those challenges through peace and patience. First graders learned we could use those same qualities, peace and patience, to help solve challenges in our lives too.
- During the month of January, students in PE worked on the Foot Dribble for Soccer. The students needed to remember their persistence- they kept trying but sometimes the soccer ball just didn't go where the students meant it to. In doing this, they remembered to find their humor, as well.

CENTENNIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Eighth grader Marshall Thelen was the proud winner of Centennial's 2012 National Geographic Bee. Marshall competed against 28 other class winners in the school-level of the Bee on January 10th. His next step is to qualify for the state-level competition. Congratulations Marshall!
- The 8th grade Algebra students at CMS practiced their equation solving skills by completing the Algebraic Ocean. The four levels were: Pollywog, Minnow, Turtle and Dolphin. Students completed a basic solving equations worksheet. Once a student scored 90% or higher, their name was put on a pollywog and placed on the board. If a student did not score 90%, their worksheet was returned for corrections. Students could move on to the next level once the previous level had been passed. As levels increased, so did the intensity of the math problems.
- Centennial held its fourth annual Spelling Bee on January 12th after school. This competition was open to all students in grades 6, 7 or 8. Mr. Montie served as pronouncer, and Mrs. Sanderson and Mrs. Steffes were the judges for the Bee. The top spellers were: 6th grader Nicholas White, (3rd place), 6th grader Natalie White (2nd place), and 7th grader Dale Sanford (1st place). Dale will go on to represent Centennial at the Oakland County Regional Spelling Bee in March.
- The 8th grade Annual Jigsaw Jeopardy was a huge success. Students began their day becoming an expert in one core area. They were then matched up with students from other expert areas and taught each other what they learned. Afterwards everyone played a competitive game of Jeopardy. Students had a wonderful lunch celebration, then attended a 5th and a 6th hour class based on what they noted as their "weakest" subjects. Jigsaw Day is always one our favorite days of the year!
- Martin Luther King Day was celebrated by students with informational packets used throughout the day along with video clips on Rosa Parks, Woolworth's Lunch Counter Sit-ins, Little Rock Nine, and other images depicting how changes came about during the Civil Rights Movement. They learned how Dr. King peacefully and courageously spent a lifetime fighting for equality and justice. Final activities included student's choice of creating a poster, comic strip, or poem on what they learned.

MILLENNIUM MIDDLE SCHOOL

- A school wide Geography Bee was held in January. The first round was held in each Social Studies class. The top 100 students in the school moved on to round two, with 10 students making it into the final round held on January 6th. Our top 10 finalists competing were:
 - 6th graders: Natalie Aulicino, Aidan Hughes, Michael Trajkovski
 - 7th graders: Joe Diakonis, Andy Mattison, Alex Ruddy
 - 8th graders: Maddie Kohne, Charles Marchand, Connor Nally, Parker Schmidt

The overall champion was: Charles Marchand, who will move on to the state competition. Congratulations.

- On January 9th, Dentists R Us came to Millennium Middle School to provide preventative dental care services for 26 of our students. Dentists R Us is a non-profit, community outreach service program to assist and support educational institutions in improving and maintaining children's oral health using licensed, experienced dentists. Participating students received personalized educational instruction on oral hygiene and tooth brushing technique. Dentists R Us will be returning to MMS in the fall for follow-up visits with the students.
- Students in 8th grade science classes were exploring the fascinating concept of seismic waves. Using springs, they simulated primary (p) and secondary (s) waves. It was an "Earth-shaking" good time for all.
- Mrs. McKenzie and Mrs. Santeiu's 6th grade science classes used Oreo cookies to review moon phases. Students used the cookies to create all 8 phases of the moon. And, yes, they were allowed to eat the cookies after the teacher checked their work! Thank you to Mrs. Bardsley for generously donating all of the Oreo cookies.
- Mr. Eibler's Performing Arts classes were studying settings/sets and props. Students were given the assignment to make a realistic, scaled representation diorama of a scene from the movie "Willy Wonka and The Chocolate Factory" and write a one page description of the scene.

SOUTH LYON HIGH SCHOOL

- Congratulations to Mark Thomas , the Head Coach of the South Lyon High School Football team, who received the Award of Regional Coach of the Year (Division 2) from the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association. This is quite an honor!
- Mr. Simovski's AP Government classes attended a MLK day symposium the Henry Ford Museum. Guest speaker was Dr. Thomas J. Sugrue, a Professor of History and Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania who then served as the moderator of a student panel. Two juniors from Mr. Simovski's AP class were selected to be on the panel - JP Couling and Timothy Harbaugh, who were with 3 other students (one from the Henry Ford Academy, one from Livonia Churchill and one from U of M-Dearborn). The discussion

centered around forms of discrimination that still take place and how much has changed since Dr. King brought these issues to a national audience.

- Auditions for the spring musical "Once Upon a Mattress" were held this January upon return from the two-week break. Most of the roles are double cast and one is even triple cast due to the excellent turn out. Rehearsals in acting, dancing, and singing are underway, as well as costuming and set building. The students and volunteers involved are working hard and can't wait to share the final products with you this April.
- Cookies and Cram was an event co-sponsored by NHS and PRIDE. Over 100 students filled the library to prepare for midterms exams. NHS tutors and SLHS teachers worked with students helping answer student questions. We had a great turnout and we thank everyone who participated.
- SLHS Seniors Karoline Kinjorski and Lainee Foster performed with the Michigan School Vocal Music Association's State Honors Choir on Saturday, January 21 at the Michigan Music Conference. Both singers have also been selected for the All-State Honors Choir, which performs as part of the Michigan Youth Arts Festival in May on the campus of Western Michigan University. The All-State Honors Choir represents the very highest achievement in choral performance in the state of Michigan.

SOUTH LYON EAST HIGH SCHOOL

- The Adopt-A-Family fundraiser that Student Council put on was a huge success. All the items asked for and more were donated. The family received essential products as well as food for a holiday dinner. They also had a large number of food items come in for the Active Faith can/food drive. South Lyon East student body really stepped up to bring countless cans and boxes of food. Active Faith was very grateful for the large donation. A donation of that size can really make a difference in our community! Way to go SLE Student Council and students.