

Botelle Elementary School

5th Grade Newsletter

December

December Accomplishments

- On December 7th we took part in Hour of Code! The Hour of Code started as a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify "code", to show that anybody can learn the basics, and to broaden participation in the field of computer science. It has since become a worldwide effort to celebrate computer science, starting with 1-hour coding activities, but available all year long through the links on the Media Center webpage and my webpage.
- In continuation of the Region 7 commitment to teach Social Emotional Learning, or SEL, 5th graders explored a little more about their identity and what makes them who they are today. The identity webs we created included things such as family, interests and activities, background (such as where we're from, religion and holidays), commonly felt emotions and different aspects of school (like favorite/least favorite subjects). We dug a little deeper breaking down our identities into four different categories. First, we identified aspects of our identities that are central to who we are and aspects that have been sources of vulnerability. Then we looked at the parts of ourselves that we are comfortable sharing and parts that we are uncomfortable sharing or discussing. Some reasons students shared that they felt emotionally safe to share specific identity traits included having common interests and feeling comfortable with who they're sharing with. Some reasons students noted as to why they keep some aspects of their identity more private is because of not having it in common with others, feeling uncomfortable answering questions about it, not wanting to think of a specific memory or having been teased about it in the past.

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On the Horizon

Math: Finishing unit 3 will be our priority the first half of January. The third and final section in the unit focuses on problem solving with fractions and pushes fifth graders to understand which situations require multiplication and which require division.

Reading: Our character study will continue through the month of January.

Writing: Writing in the month of January will focus on some of the language standards, which include the conventions of English (verb tense, capitalization, punctuation, spelling) and vocabulary (determining the meaning of unknown /multiple meaning words, figurative language, synonyms and antonyms, and homophones). Though these taught throughout the year in small groups or individually when needed, January's lessons will be more whole group focused.

Social Studies: In our first week back to school in 2022, students will be introduced to this unit's long-term project. Students will choose a colonial trade and be responsible for creating a trade sign, as well as posters explaining different tools and products of their craftsmen. Look for complete directions and examples to come home when we return!

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Important Dates

- 1/3:** First day back to school!
- 1/14:** Early dismissal at 12 PM (Teacher in-service)
- 1/17:** No school (MLK, Jr. Day)



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December Accomplishments Cont.

- In science, fifth graders have been learning about different ecosystems and the organisms that inhabit them. Students created posters and diagrams to demonstrate their understanding of food webs, abiotic (nonliving), and biotic (living) components within ecosystems. Students were careful to consider what problems these creatures face and what could be done to help support their own survival and that of their environment.

Once they researched these ecosystems and animal species, they went on to develop their projects and determine how they would choose to present their final work. Students were introduced to various programs such as iMovie, Animoto, and FlipGrid to complete digital projects. They've done an amazing job of adding audio/visual components and their own personalities to these projects. Some students even made movie style trailers to get people interested and excited for what was coming!

On the Horizon Cont.

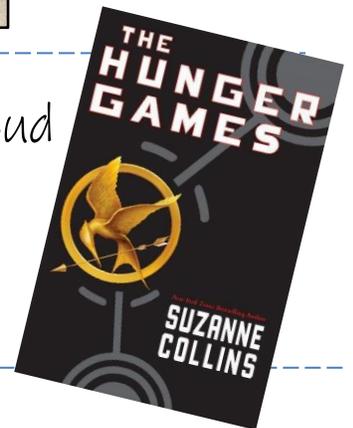
SEL: Our lessons for the month of January will focus on the feeling word "pessimistic", which is located in the blue quadrant of our Mood Meter. It will give us the opportunity to explore the difference between fixed and growth mindset and provide an opportunity to improve our lives in 2022.

Exploring parts of a New England town



Current Read Aloud

The Hunger Games
by Suzanne Collins



Supporting Your Child at Home

- ▶ Make sure your child is getting enough sleep! A consistent sleep schedule can help lead to higher energy, better focus and concentration, retention of information, control of impulses, management of emotion and creativity in problem solving.