



DEFRANCISCO'S DECLARATIONS

March Notes

Half way through March and there is still snow on the ground.....fresh snow at that! No matter, because it is nice and warm in the halls of Hardy school and math abounds. I am very pleased with Math March Madness Week. Thank you to the school council, teachers, parents and presenters that make this week such a success. There was a spring in my step on Monday when parents were moving around the Hardy classrooms and enjoying math with their children. In addition, It was great to have Matt Coleman in the building to talk about the town vision for mathematics, Kirsten Silvermann was also an asset to our presentation

as she worked to challenge parents to think like Hardy students. Bravo!

As I type, I am looking forward to PI day tomorrow. It will be great to see the children working on math activities that will continue to strengthen their skills.

On a non-math note, morning drop off has been going very well! Thank you for making the necessary safety shift. Parents are doing a wonderful job saying goodbye to their children at the playground door. Please remember, front door arrival does not begin until 8:15. If it is not 8:15, you should be entering the building by the playground door. Those students that come in for morn-

ing breakfast are being buzzed in by Donna. Donna can also talk to you via the new camera that you see in the front lobby. How technologically savvy! Please remember, we are not trying to make our school seem like it is not an open school. You are welcome and we want you to feel that way. At the same time, at times of high traffic, it is very important for us to know who is in the building. It is very tricky to do that when everyone is in the building.....so thank you, thank you, thank you!

Kristin



This week Out and About, the Kindergarteners are following Jack and Annie through the Ice Age. They have been learning about all of the things they may find in the ice age and are making

OUT AND ABOUT

comparisons about what archaeologist did in Ancient Egypt. Tomorrow they will be participating in PI day celebration by going on a math scavenger hunt. They will get to use the iPads to do this. There will be QR codes placed in many differ-

ent places around the building. The children will scan the QR codes and a picture will be revealed. This picture will be of something mathematical in the Hardy school.....the search will be on. They will scout around the building to find this

Volume 1, Issue 19

March 14, 2014

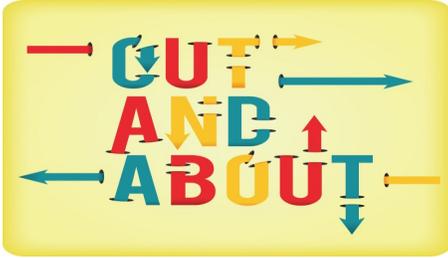
UP COMING DATES

- MCAS testing 3rd grade March 19th and 20th
- MCAS testing 4th grade March 18th, 24th and 26th
- MCAS testing 5th grade March 28th and 29th
- 1:00 Dismissal Tuesday, March 25th

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OUT AND ABOUT Continued



mathematic item and with it they will find the next QR code to scan for a new item to find. Happy finding Kindergarten!

First Graders First graders will also be participating in the scavenger hunt activity described in the Kindergarten section of Out and About. In addition, the results are in! When Ms. Sliney asked her class if they would rather fly or be invisible, they were off to collect data. The winner is.....flying! You can see a similar activity on the first grade bulleting board where data shows which Dr. Seuss book was most popular in Ms. Pierce's class. The board shows an example of the graph the children made to represent their data. In Ms. Mann's room, I watched a writing lesson that helped to tie in with this math data collection. The writing lesson they were doing talked about opinions and what it means to have an opinion. The students were making interest lists. They made two different kinds of lists. The first was a list things they like such as stuffed animals, transportation, arts and crafts etc. The second was a specific list about one of those things. For example, a list of all your stuffed animals. They talked about the fact that it is easier to write an opinion about something about which you feel strongly or something about which you are excited. The next phase was to think about

evidence that would support your opinion. It is great to see these connections across disciplines. It is these connections that will help children to make sense of their worlds.

Second Graders. I was a guest in Ms. deCifuentes room when they were sitting in Open Circle. Just a reminder that Open circle is where children have an opportunity to learn strategies for managing certain social situations. This lesson was about emotions and reading facial expressions. The children worked to identify pictures of faces that were happy, sad, angry, disgusted, surprised and scared. The children got to look at a picture and think about what they thought the face was showing. Ms. deCifuentes called on students to share their thoughts. Once the emotion was identified, every student in the circle was given the opportunity to share a time when they have felt a certain way. Allowing students to make connections to when they have experienced a certain emotion helps to create empathy. Ms. deCifuentes asked the children to ask family members when they have experienced these emotions. So if they forgot, you may want to bring it up :)On PI day, second graders will become paper airplane pilots! Please see the third grade section for a description of this activity.

Third Graders Third graders will become paper airplane pilots on PI day. They will craft the planes and then use the hallway to fly them. They will then be measuring the length of the airplane's flight. There will be a few different kinds of airplanes, so the children will try to figure out which design

was able to consistently fly the furthest. In addition, Kevin Guiney has also added another dimension to this activity which will involve a mock MASS AVE. The children will be able to measure the flight of the airplanes with MASS AVE landmarks like the capital theatre. What a fun way for children to think about distance. In addition, the bulletin board that third graders put together for math week focused on fractions. Third graders have been using brownies to think about different landmark fractions. They are doing a great job visualizing these fractions with the help of paper brownies, but I'm not sure that they will ever look at a real brownie the same way again, and they certainly will not take an un fair share when splitting a brownie!

Fourth Graders In writing, fourth graders were working on using sentence starters to help write a thesis statement. They began by studying examples of thesis statements. These examples then served as sentence starters to write theses for the topics they have brainstormed in their writing notebooks. These topics have to do with opinions. They will try to add evidence to their writing to support or defend their opinions. They are learning that this all begins with a strong thesis. One of the things that I liked most about this activity was that even though it was an independent activity, Ms. Trivino moved around the classroom and used different examples from different students as she was visiting students. Children were complimenting each other on work well done. They were also gaining even more examples. This activity



MARCH MATH ASSEMBLY

gives the students a real clear idea about what a thesis is before they actually settle on an opinion piece to write. I have asked them to please share their completed pieces with me. I look forward to commenting about the thesis statements I see! Please see the explanation of the fifth grade PI day activity as fourth graders will also be working on this activity.

Fifth Graders: What on earth is a SMOOT? Well, fourth and fifth graders will know very well after PI day. SMOOT is the last name of a 1958 MIT student named Oliver. Oliver SMOOT used his body length to measure the Harvard Bridge. You can still see the markings on the bridge. Since then, this has been used as an example of a non standard measurement and how they can be used to measure things. The fourth and fifth graders will be creating their own smoots. They will use these smoots to measure the perimeter and area of certain objects. This exercise will reinforce the concepts of perimeter and area, but it will also give the students an opportunity to think about how measurement was invented. Many of the first measurements in ancient civilizations would be considered non-standard today. However, if everyone decided to measure in Jellybeans, would that be standard? It would certainly be yummy! If you are Out and About this weekend, take your fourth or fifth grader on a trip over the Harvard Bridge so they can check out SMOOTS for themselves!

Mrs. DeFrancisco



As part of our Math March Madness week, we invited three community members to come and talk to the whole school about how their jobs involve math every single day. Here is what they had to say:

Quebrada Bakery owner Kay Wiggin came to see us dressed in her apron with cookie in hand! She explained to the students all the math that went into that chocolate chip cookie. I do not think the children will look at a chocolate chip cookie the same way. It involves lots of math. Kay explained that the measurement of the ingredients to make lots and lots of



cookies has to be done in weight. She also talked about making sure the cookies were the same size at each of her bakeries.....no one wants a small cookie. She talked about how much it costs to make the cookie and that she has to pay someone to sell the cookie for her. All of these things help her decide what to charge for the cookie. The children really listened and were surprised to learn about all the math that was

associated with one chocolate chip cookie.

Our second speaker came from just down the street from Quebrada. Joey DaSpina is the owner of Continentale Salon. Many of the children have their hair cuts at this salon. They were so excited to see Joey. He explained that math is very important to a hair dresser. He talked about some of the same things as Kay, but unique to his business was talking about coloring someone's hair. This involves lots of measurement in ounces. A mistake here can turn someone's hair the very wrong color. In addition, this solution must only be left on someone's hair for a certain amount of time or, you guessed it, wrong color. Joey encouraged the children to pay attention to their math studies because no matter what career they choose, they will need math to be successful.

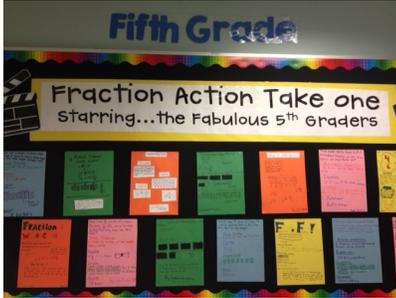


MAX AND RUBY'S DAD!

Max and Ruby Ide got to introduce their mathematical dad to the entire school! He has another name and that is Nicholas Ide. Mr. Ide talked about why and how he became so interested in mathematics and how math led him to many exciting jobs. He shared a video from his current job at Math Lab that highlighted many careers that involve mathematics. I think the most exciting was an astronaut, He open the children's eyes to all of the careers they could do when they grow up that involve math. When asked about the message they would take away from this assembly, it was unanimous,

MATH IS IMPORTANT!

SHOW IT OFF ALLEY MAKES ITS DEBUT



SHOW IT OFF ALLEY IS SHOWING IT OFF! I am so very proud of the bulletin boards that each grade level worked on for our math week. This hallway is the place where we invite parents to see what we are up to. It is our museum. In case you were not able to see these on math morning, Kindergarten-ers showed off subitizing.

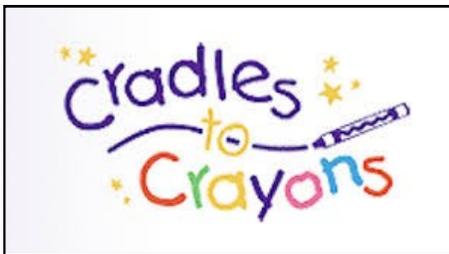
This is when we look at numbers as images, like the 5 pattern on a dice. First graders showed off the graph they made of data they took about favorite Dr. Seuss books. They also added in some fact family houses. Second grade showed off the way they solved story problems. You will see lots of open number lines and words explaining their thinking. Third graders show off their ability to make fractions. These landmark fractions become very important as students start to think about ordering fractions. It is important to know what they look like. Fourth graders are

all about the area and the perimeter. Each student shows how he or she figured out the area of shapes on a grid. There is a visual and they explain their thinking inside the display card. Fifth graders take action with fractions. They are multiplying whole numbers by a fraction and are thinking about whether or not they will end up with a whole number.

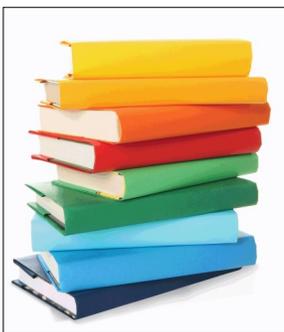
CLAP, CLAP, CLAP! Superintendent Bodie was in our school this week. She was very impressed with these boards and can't wait to see what we show off next.

Way to show it off Hardy School!

Hardy Takes the 3 C's Beyond the Building!



Please be looking for a flyer coming home about a Cradles to Crayons collection. One of our very own second graders, Stasiu Debrun. He is organizing these efforts with help from his mom and will be looking for donations. We will have drop offs in our lobby from April 7-14. See the flyer coming home on Monday for specifics.



We are also still working to donate books to the Peirce library. Their library was damaged due to a flood earlier in the year. Hardy students will donate new books to the children at Peirce. The fifth grade leadership team is working on this community service project.
