

Cleveland Metropolitan Schools –Sunbeam PreK-8

Curriculum and Instruction Parent Newsletter

Highlights of the Year in Review

Sunbeam Administration (2019-2020)

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Sunbeam Staff



At Sunbeam this year, our school staff has put forth a great effort to incorporate inquiry based learning and rigorous literacy based learning opportunities in each classroom. We invite you to peruse what each grade level teacher in collaboration with his/her grade level self contained special education partner/s has accomplished and what is next on their agenda.

Preschool: Theme of the month in February was “I build, I create”. Students learned about construction words, tools and vehicles. Their next theme was about “I move”, they had a stuffed animal travel and name the different modes of transportation, (bus, cycle, car, van etc.)

Kindergarten class focus in Science is on weather changes during each season of the year and life cycles of butterflies. In literacy block, they Are working on Beginning, middle and ending sounds in a CVC word. CAT—KKK...AA. TTT, tap it out and then delete and add sounds (Cat without C is AT, B in front of AT is Bat)

First Grade: They completed a Black History Project by researching and creating a poster about a famous black person of their choice. They completed a unit on butterfly. In writing and comprehension, they learned to write a letter. They completed a report on Ohio Animals citing two different sources and a speaker - a Ranger visited the classroom with Flying squirrel. Focus in literacy is on Vocabulary and Phonemic awareness.

Second Grade: Researched and wrote biographies on American Heroes. They studied different habitats like rainforest, oceans and deserts and created a diorama and a rubric to evaluate their own work.

Reading Recovery: Pulls out students on RIMP and those who are at risk for failure in reading to work on reading fluency using LLI, comprehension strategies, and teach them how to write multiple paragraph essays.

VI program: Researched essential questions and shared information on “Bats” with other classrooms and learned why bats are important for environment. In literacy they targeted on scaffolding skills with word work, repeated fluency and guided reading.

Third Grade: Students learned about animal adaptations and biomes in science. They

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BIOMES

Chapter 19-3: Diseases Caused by Bacteria and Viruses

- Bacteria and viruses are everywhere in nature, but only a few cause disease.
- Disease-causing agents are called **pathogens**.



Highlights of the Year in review (cont...)

..were exploring unique traits in animals that help them survive. The three biomes students explored were: tropical rainforest, deserts and arctic Tundra. Third and fourth grade students collaborated on a presentation of life cycle of Frog.

Fourth Grade: The class focused on learning Mapping—create a legend key, understand map scale, landmarks, directions, and posing questions to find answers on a map. They read about seven wonders of the world, created a travel brochure and in writing concentrated on summarizing while writing opinion pieces. In math and science students researched and presented on Fossils and learned equivalent fractions using pizza sections. Nest unit was on states of matter.

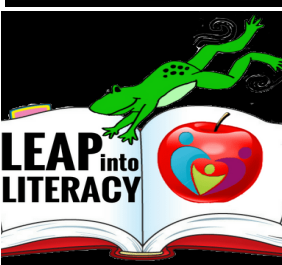
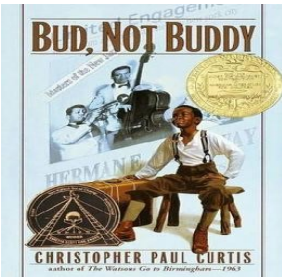
Elementary grade self contained classrooms: On world reading day read Dr. Seuss's Green Eggs and Ham and created a art project. During black history month, learned history of Obama and Ruby Bridges.

Fifth Grade: Students enjoyed learning about ecosystem and food chain, completed a project with community partner Ohio State on incubating chicken eggs—they were supposed to hatch on March 17th. In Reading the novel they read was Shiloh and students diligently worked on “Similes” in the chapter and writing reflections and opinion pieces.

Middle school self contained classrooms: Students learned about Earth's rotation and revolution around sun and hand-painted their own 3 D planets. In science completed a diorama of photosynthesis outlining the steps, read the novel “Bud, not Buddy”, made marshmallow shooters to look at the effect of force on acceleration in Science.

Sixth, Seventh and Eighth grades: Created posters of past and present heroes for black history month in ELA, wrote personal narratives and argumentative essays. Next unit was on informational essays. The students completed a public service announcement project by actively re-searching organisms, bacteria and viruses. In math, they worked on positive and negative integers, experimented on understanding probability using shoe sizes, flipping coins, understanding independent and dependent variables using manipulatives –dice, desk cards, coins etc. and focused on slope intercept.

Encore (music, art and PE): Students researched artists, composers and sportsmen and sports-women. Winter concert, art displays and displaying sportsmanship were the highlights of the year.



Parent Literacy Night and Inquiry

Sunbeam school held two significant parent academic events this school year. The Literacy Night which was primarily led by Sunbeam staff providing professional development sessions on important literacy topics to parents. It was held on December 11th on following topics:

- Hooked on Literacy for Pre-K/Kgt. Grades
- Fun with Fluency for Kgt.-1stgrades
- LLI (Levelled Literacy Intervention) for Kgt. -2nd grades
- Technology in Literacy for 2nd -8th grades
- Third Grade Reading Guarantee: easy and fun reading strategies for K-3rd grades
- Parents as Reading Buddies for 4-8th grades

Mrs. Carlisle, Ms. Simonsky, Mrs. Fehlman, Ms. McHugh, Mrs. Pope-Oulds, Mrs. Swol, Mrs. Niforos, Mrs. Lokhandwala, Mrs. San Filippo and Mrs. Aspden were the presenters. The FACE committee held their Bake sale and students and families enjoyed raffle baskets and a warm dinner and students participated in dance, hoola-hoop contest, face painting, craft and vocabulary contest.

The Inquiry night, primarily led by students showcasing their inquiry-based class projects, was scheduled for Monday, March 17th. Community partners were also available to showcase resources on both days.

World Read Aloud Day at Sunbeam

Sunbeam Jaguars took a trip around the world by celebrating “World Read Aloud day” in February, 2020. Teachers let their creative juices flow and made it into a very fun activity with good academic engagement hooks. It was a huge hit with students. The books were inquiry based with multicultural and diverse themes. Some classes did extension projects with writing prompts (4th, 1st, 2nd, middle school self contained classroom, and 5th grades), some did activities like passing the smile around the world (kindergarten and 1st grade), creating a world of hands (elementary self-contained classroom), looking at globes and world map on Clever (VI and 3rd grade), discussing religions, food, population, how children in other countries go to school, what chores they do (2nd grade) and how water connects us across the globe (middle school). Preschool read books and used laminated big picture cards for key words in the story and toy figurines of people dressed in costumes from different countries. All around a fun day and a very literary experience for all our students!!! Middle school students read the book “The boy who harnessed the winds” and discussed life in Malawi, Africa. First how the students’ perceptions of life in Africa differed from reality, and then how the children in Africa might perceive the life of Americans. They went back into the past to the beginning of slavery and then traveled with the Atlantic Slave Trade back into American History. They discussed World Geography, how regional climate affects lives, and how geopolitical issues affect the movement of people. Most importantly they discussed William Kamkwamba’s advice: *never give up on your dreams*. Here are pictures of your children in some classrooms.

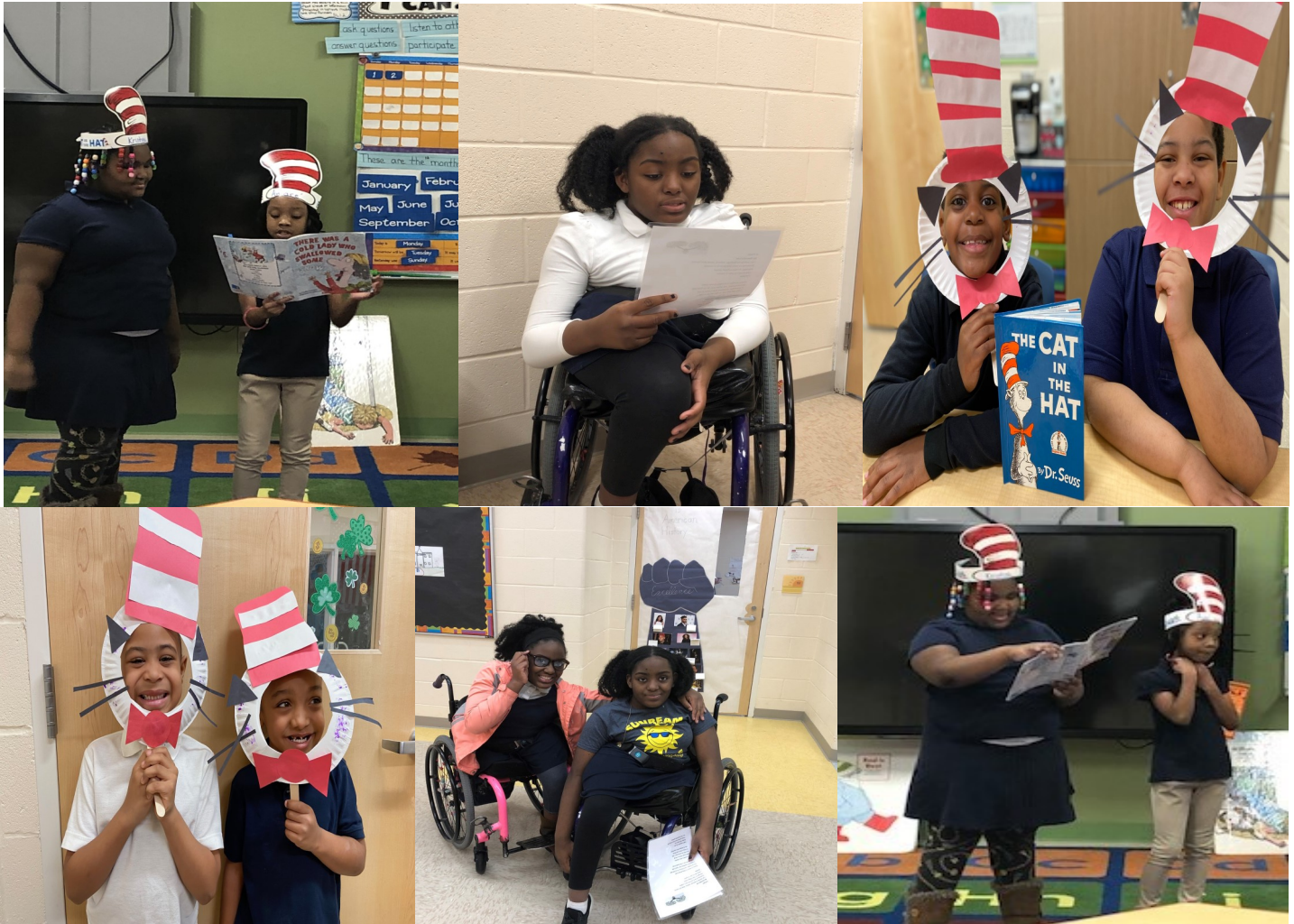


World Read Aloud Day at Sunbeam cont...



Dr. Seuss's Birthday - March 2, 2020

Sunbeam Jaguars commemorated Dr. Seuss's birthday in March. Second grade students from Ms. Evan's class performed a "Reader's theater" based on the book "There was an old lady who swallowed the Snow" in primary grades and practiced public speaking techniques. A 7th grade student, Daniella Lee, read a poem she wrote about her life and her dreams in upper elementary classes. Ms. Coughlin read aloud novels for middle school students. Kindergarten students created Dr. Seuss's hats.



Few excerpts from Daniella Lee's poems—"Myself" and "what can I do?"

"Perhaps if I had a magic potion,
I would set my plan in motion";

"I talk to myself as I am she,
Another half of she is me,
Though goodness knows that is still just me,
I carry myself quite gracefully."

"Songs I write, portraits I drew,
Are only glimpses of what I can do ."

"I am a living ghost of time,
Writing my songs that don't rhyme,
Wish I had my own power sublime,
I will just sit back and read a mime."

Welcome and Farewells at Sunbeam



Spring brings transition every school year. This year, it is bittersweet as we practice safe social distancing and give a warm farewell to our outgoing eighth grade seniors, who are leaving us and making their high school choices from an array of options available to them. We wish them well in their future endeavors. We always like when our students come back to see us.

Transitions are not limited to students. Sunbeam was very fortunate in growing our family by hiring several new members on our faculty and administration this year.



We started the school in our brand new facility welcoming our principal, Mrs. Jessica Humphrey and our dean of engagement, Ms. Alexandria Berry. Both of them bring wonderful experience, great synergy, vision and new ideas to our administrative team. Sunbeam was very fortunate in hiring the following staff this school year: Mrs. Susan Coughlin – middle school ELA, Ms. Amanda Seidlecki –middle school IS, Mrs. Charlene Jackson-Harvey -middle school IS, Ms. Stephanie Gunter – Upper school IS, Mrs. Morgane Weekley – 5th grade IS, Mrs. Tzoulia Niforos -3rd grade, Ms. Deandra Stone – long term substitute, Mr. Michael Myers -elementary school IS, Ms. Robin Prokop- elementary school IS, Ms. Elizabeth Simonski -preschool IS, Mrs. Nicole Hagey - Music, Ms. Tia Heard- Paraprofessional, Ms. Linda Deloach – paraprofessional, Ms. Jenifer Edler -nurse and Mrs. Robertina Sims -Beechbrook therapist. Each one of them has been a wonderful addition to our school and brought enthusiasm, caring, leadership and professionalism with them. We welcome and thank them for their successful first year at Sunbeam



After several years of remarkable service, Mrs. Irby, a familiar face at Sunbeam door every morning, a paraprofessional in preschool, will retire at year's end to spend time with family. Her powers of empathy and her insistence on protecting the dignity of every child in her care are qualities that have distinguished her work. We will miss her a lot but wish her the best and hope to see her come back to visit.

Congratulations and celebrations are in order for Mr. Curtain Terrance, our assistant principal, Ms. Tzoulia Niforos, our 3rd grade teacher and Mrs. Alexandria Berry, our dean of engagement. They all welcomed baby girls in their families this school year. We are “girl strong” this year!!



Black History Month Celebrations

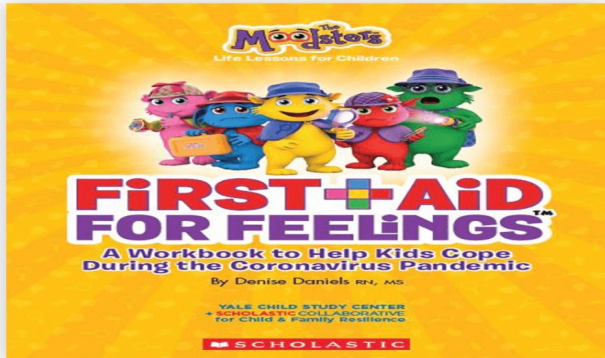
Black History month was celebrated for the entire school through out the month of February with daily quiz during morning announcement and students working on classroom projects. The end of the month culminated with students, staff and families enjoying a fun talent show in our gym with students holding a fashion parade –"Pride of Africa", dancing, singing, and speaking on the significance of the black history month. Here are a few highlights of the day.



The Yale child study center and Scholastic collaborative has a resource to help children, educators and parents cope during this pandemic. Click on the [link](#) below for a **FREE** 16 page downloadable workbook available in English and Spanish that shares ideas about structure for the day, knowing the safe space, knowing helpers, what to do when you feel scared, etc. It is fun and informative.

First Aid for Feelings:

A Workbook to Help Kids Cope During the Coronavirus Pandemic



First Aid for Feelings:

Un cuaderno de trabajo para ayudar a los niños a sobrellevar la pandemia de coronavirus



The Link to download the workbook is:

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/education/coronavirusworkbook/index.html>

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**You are enough.
You are whole.
You are loved.
You are full of wonder.
And today, you are going to shine.
We are Sunbeam, we are Sunbeam !!!**