



## Skamania School Newsletter February 2016

Skamania School District 2  
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### Mid-Year 2015-16



#### **Dates to Remember**

**Friday, Feb. 12**

Snow make-up day  
**School will be in session**

**Monday, Feb. 15**

Presidents Day  
**No school**

**Friday, March 11**

Snow make-up day  
**School will be in session**

**Wednesday, March 16**

End of Second Trimester

**Friday, April 1**

Snow make-up day  
**School will be in session**

**April 4-8**

Spring Break

#### **Falcon Nest Theatre**

Early in the school year, the kindergarten through 3rd grades were invited to participate in Beginning Drama Club. There was an outstanding turnout of aspiring thespians! They had fun learning the basics of live performance theater, and showcased their talents in two performances of “The Day the Crayons Quit.” It was an outstanding production!

The Advanced Drama Club began meeting during the last week of January. Nearly 75% of our 4th–8th grade students are participating! “The Stone in the Road” and “James and the Giant Peach” will be presented on Friday, April 1. The show times will be announced soon.

#### **Snow Days**

We have already used up all of our built-in snow days—Feb. 12, March 11, April 1, and May 27. School will be in session on those days. If we miss any more days, they will be added on at the end of the year.

#### **Box Tops for Education**

We’ve sent off two submissions of Box Tops for Education so far this year. Our school has earned over \$200! We will use the funds received through this program to support our reading program, Read 2016. Please keep on clipping and sending those Box Tops to school!

### Robotics

Skamania School entered two teams in the FIRST Lego Robotics competition on December 12th. Fourteen students worked with the Robotics Teams twice a week throughout the fall, learning and practicing programming skills and constructing the robots.

The teams studied problems related to trash: how it is handled, processed, or recycled. Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Gilbert, and Mrs. Carlton were assisted by Stan Hodgkin and several other terrific volunteers. Thank you coaches, for the many hours of patience and guidance!



## Kindergarten & First Grade

This fall has been a whirlwind in the K/1 class! We have a wonderful schedule with something exciting to look forward to each day. In the morning the class loves going to music on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, Art with Mrs. Bolles on Tuesday, and Library with Ms. Molle on Thursday. In the afternoons we go to PE on Monday and Friday, work with our new Science kit about force and motion called Push, Pull, Go! on Tuesday and Thursday, and have early release every Wednesday. During the rest of the day we do math, calendar and weather, vocabulary, phonemic awareness, reading, and spend a good chunk of time in our reading and writing centers. There is a lot of learning going on in our class!

In math we have learned how to tell time on an analog clock to the hour and the half hour. We are just starting to tell time to the quarter hour. We have looked at pennies, nickels, and dimes, know their names and values, and can count piles of money! We are also learning about standard units of measure, especially the foot and the inch. We learned last week that the typical height of a student in our class is 48 inches.

We started the year with a unit on Mother Goose Rhymes for our Language Arts. We worked on vocabulary, phonics, sight words, reading fluency, characters and setting through a variety of favorite rhymes. We ended the unit before the winter break and the students took home a fairly large packet of rhymes they could all read. Since school resumed in January we have been using the Storytown reading anthologies for our guided, shared and independent

## Second & Third Grades

We started our school year learning about communities. The students made a poster showing places where people live, work, play, and solve problems. We drew pictures and learned about the advantages and disadvantages of urban, suburban, and rural communities.



Then we chose where we would like to live and why. Rural and suburban were the most popular choices.

In science we are studying Solids and Liquids. We discovered that solids and liquids have properties that we can use to describe each. Solids have color, hold their shape, are flexible, can pile up, and have some kind of texture. Liq-

uids are wet, may have color, be viscous, transparent, translucent, bubbly, and foamy. Solids and liquids may change when put in water. Some liquids are both solids and liquids which makes it difficult to classify. We are beginning our study of air and weather and have learned that air can move objects, make noise, and make bubbles under water. It can also be contained and change the shape of its container such as a balloon.

Our first science unit this fall was all about Wood and Paper. The students looked at the properties and the uses of wood. We tried to sink different types of wood, and we also sanded it and looked at sawdust and wood shavings, learned the term “waterlogged” and made our own samples of particle board and plywood. Then we looked at ten different types of paper, from corrugated cardboard, to construction paper and facial tissue. We tested each paper sample to see which was easiest to fold, which was best to write on with pencil, crayon, or marker, and we experimented with water, too. We finished the unit by changing paper; we made our own recycled paper and made a Humpty Dumpty from paper mache.

One highlight of the Fall trimester was the field trip we took to the Skamania County Fair Grounds to visit the “Pumpkin Patch” at the end of October. The students listened to a seasonal story, fished for treats at the fishing booth, constructed a craft, tried on costumes, explored the hay maze, knocked bowling pins down with a pumpkin, and picked out their very own pumpkin to take home. They came away with a goody bag filled with treats and with wonderful stories about their adventure to share with their families. It was a great field trip. We are already looking forward to going again next year.

In math, all students have been working on telling time to the nearest minute and mastering addition and subtraction facts. Third graders are working on measurement, perimeter, and area in their daily work as well as beginning multiplication and division. The second graders are learning how to count and make change using both coins and dollar bills. The second grade students are also working on 2 digit addition with regrouping and the third grade students on 3 digit subtraction with regrouping. Both grades are becoming more skilled and confident in their new skills.

## Fourth Grade

The fabulous 4th graders had a busy first trimester, beginning with completing a classroom paper quilt using geometric shapes which reinforced their first math unit on geometry. When the quilt squares were put together, it emphasized our class motto which is, "We are better together." The class has had many opportunities this year to practice the skill of working together.

In Social Studies, we are studying the different regions of the United States. After completing their study of the Northeast, the students worked in teams creating recipes that represented the region. They chose to cook Cod Cakes, Maple Candied Sweet Potatoes, Cranberry Pudding, and Pumpkin Bread.

The 4th graders teamed with the 5th graders in

## Fifth Grade

The 5<sup>th</sup> graders are having a terrific year, with lots of fun activities. In Social Studies we are studying the history of our country. When we studied the earliest migrants to our country (the Native Americans), the class shared stories of their family's migration to Skamania. We also learned about the Europeans who explored the Americas in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Pairs of students investigated one particular explorer and prepared a narrated slide show story of that person's life. We have just completed investigating the early settlements, and completed a walking tour of historical Williamsburg.

In Science we studied simple chemistry with the fourth graders. Students separated mixtures and solutions and learned the difference between dilutes and concentrates. They also investigated saturating solutions and finished the unit by combining some solids and solutions to create chemical reactions.

For Reading and Writing this year we have been using an online news service for children, Newsela. This site provides news articles on a variety of subjects, presenting it at the student's appropriate reading level. Our focus has been to identify the main idea and supporting details for

Science to study simple chemistry. The students explored different mixtures, solutions, and observed chemical reactions. They learned about concentration and different methods to separate solutions and mixtures. Making and observing salt crystals was very fun! The students also experienced making wind turbines with a Civil Engineer from Bonneville Power Administration.

The class has read numerous non-fiction articles, sprinkled with some fiction. The students are honing their skill of identifying the main idea and details, which will improve their ability to write a summary.

The second trimester is off to a great start and students are already asking, "When are we cooking again?" Some Cajun food might be in their near future - think Southeast.

the articles. Four students, Mason, Demitri, Hermione, and Dani won a contest by explaining what people from another part of the country could learn about Washington State by reading the article "Youths across U.S. suing to push government on climate change." They were rewarded with t-shirts, sunglasses, and a variety of other items.



In October the students in the class each completed an essay entitled "Why America is the Best Country," and submitted it to the local VFW group. Prizes were awarded amongst all of the students in the region who submitted essays, and Dani's essay was awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

We have worked hard to be respectful, and show responsibility and thankfulness to each other. Everyone has a very positive attitude and is helpful with each other.

## 6th, 7th & 8th Grades

The 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders have had a great year so far. In math the 6<sup>th</sup> graders have learned skills with decimals, graphing, solving algebraic expressions, and are currently working on fractions. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders have learned about integers, exponents, solving equations with inequalities, ratios and are currently working on percents. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders learned about integers and algebraic expressions, graphing in the coordinate plane, proportions, and are currently working on applications of percents.

In Social studies we are studying the Medieval World. First we learned about the Roman Empire and how aspects of ancient Roman culture, such as art, architecture, engineering and language continue to influence modern life today. We have also learned about life in Medieval towns during the Middle Ages. We are currently learning about how the signing of the Magna Carta, the Bubonic Plague, and the Hundred Years' War contributed to the decline of feudalism.

We recently finished with the FOSS science kit of Energy, Machines, and Motion. We had a lot of fun learning about batteries and machines such as an inclined plane and a pulley. Next we will be learning about Planetary Science.

## Music

Skamania Musicians are having an industrious year!

In the fall, Morning Music Classes explored the four major families of Band and Orchestral Instruments: String, Woodwind, Brass and Percussion. Students sang cross-curricular songs during September & October and seasonal songs during November & December. Band and Choir developed their beginning or advanced vocal and instrumental skills. All students performed at our first concert while we presented "Our Favorite Things".

In January, each grade recognized Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with the songs, "I Have a Dream" and "Free At Last." We also submitted individual creations to compete in the international Music K-8 Publishing Contest.

At Way-2-Go Wednesday in January, all students sang about our Fifty-Nifty United States and learned a little about the Northeast and Washington, D.C. You might also ask your child if they remember something about the Boston Tea Party.

Fourth and fifth grade students will soon be starting the soprano Recorder, while the younger grades will expand their experience on Percussion. Band and Choir members are regularly adding new pieces to their folder collections.

Be on the look-out for flyers announcing our Spring Concert!

### 2nd & 3rd Grade



Gingerbread Houses!

A food bank and clothing closet are available at Skamania Community Church. Food recipients are welcome to pick up a box of food once a month.

Please email or call for more information.

Food Bank Contact Information:

Elaine Califf

[Elaine@SilverStarIndustries.com](mailto:Elaine@SilverStarIndustries.com)

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