

# ***Penn Brook Perspectives Fall Edition***



**Sixth Graders enjoyed their Halloween Dance this October.**

Greetings! We hope you enjoy this first issue of the 2018- 2019 Penn Brook Perspectives! Much of the content was written by 6th grade students, during their recess, eager to try their hand at reporting; they did an excellent job gathering and summarizing much of the learning and activities that are taking place at each grade level. As I'm sure you know from your child's teacher and from the article in this publication, we are teaching a new social/emotional curriculum, Second Step at each grade. Second Step teaches skills that help students manage their emotions, cope with every day academic and social situations, and, form healthy relationships, all of which improve a student's ability to learn. A related advantage of the program is that through role playing and partner

work, students learn how to have a conversation, skills often lacking due to an increase in use of personal technology devices. Additionally, the goals of Second Step support the attributes we value, listed in our CARES acronym (Cooperation, Assertion, Responsibility, Empathy, Self-Control), which are reinforced in morning messages and at our Community Gatherings. It certainly has been a busy fall, not only during the school day, but with other events starting in September with Movie Night, then Literacy Night, the Ice Cream Social, Trick or Trunk, Halloween, the Book Fair, and of course all the fall sports and other activities that keep us on the go! As the days shorten and grow colder, with so much going on, and as the holidays leap into view, I hope you are able to carve out a little time to relax and rejuvenate...

Warm regards, Mrs. Maher



**Sixth Grade Halloween Costume Winners:  
Jaiden, Rowan, Emma, Gabrielle and Hayden**



**The main office joined in the fun during our Halloween Parade last week.**



**Students in Mrs. McPhail's class are working hard during centers!**

## **Kindergarten**

Students have been settling in and learning classroom routines. They have started to talk about weather and are working on letters T, B, F, N and M. When learning these letters, students work on the sound and formation. They also began their first workshop on environmental print. Ask your kindergartener if they can identify different signs in their community such as a stop sign. Kindergarten has also been working on Second Step lessons, which is our new Social Emotional Curriculum.



**Mrs. Valli's class shows how to focus using their "attention scopes."**

## **First Grade**

First graders are also settling into their new routines. In Reader's Workshop, students are learning about what good readers do and word solving. During Writer's Workshop, students are learning about where writers get their ideas and how to add details to their writing. Students have begun to work on their own personal narrative. During mathematics, students are working on number sense and are also learning more independence with their math center roles. Students have been working on their Second Step lessons and talked about when to pay attention and use their Attention Scopes. They learned what it means to be focused and attentive.

## **Second Grade**



**Students in Mrs. Slack's Class completed a Second Step lesson and raised their hands when they heard the word "listen" in a song.**

Students in second grade have completed their first math and Foundations assessment. They also learned about respect and focusing during their weekly Second Step lesson. In Writer's Workshop, they are learning about and writing about small moments. In Reader's Workshop, students are working on decoding strategies as well as starting their realistic fiction unit. Students are working on learning the elements of a story.

## **Third Grade**

**By: Ella Thompson and Samantha McClure**



**Third Grade teachers enjoyed the trip to Plimoth Plantation!**



Ella and Sam from the Sixth Grade Student Council met with third graders Mia, Melina and Zach from

Mrs. Johnson's class at the beginning of the month to find out about what is happening in third grade.

**Q: What are you learning in math?**

Zach- "Mostly adding 2 digit numbers, multiplication, telling time, elapse time, tally marks, and measuring mass."

**Q: What are you learning in Science/Social Studies?**

Melia- "We are learning about the Mayflower, Wampanoags and Pilgrims."

**Q: What are you doing in writing?**

Mia- "We are making realistic stories and story mountains example: beginning, rising action, and climax."

Melina- "Also in writing we are learning cursive."

**Q: What is your favorite subject?**

Mia- "Foundations and Art."

Melina- "Art."

**Q: What are you doing in reading?**

Melia- "We are reading *Amber Brown is not a Crayon* by Paula Danziger and we are doing story maps!

**Q: What are you learning about in Second Step?**

Melina- "We are learning to be assertive, to listen, how not to be a bully, and to self-talk."

## Fourth Grade



Caitlyn Casella, a Student Council member interviewed two young ladies from Mrs. Mangino's 4th grade class, Lauren Casella, and Selmah Beqiraj. These young ladies have told Caitlyn what they are learning in school so far.

In math, the students completed unit one. They have learned about line segments (rays, lines, and line segments) and how they work. During their independent math, and math boxes, they get to have a working and productive snack. Students have independent work when the teacher is done giving a lesson to make sure they were listening and understand it.

In reading, the students have to read a book called *Because of Winn Dixie* with their teacher. So far from what I have heard, the book is great. They are reading this book to learn about character traits, what they are, and how to use them appropriately.

In writing, the students have a prompt to write about. It was about a babysitter who has to watch a 1 year old, but does not realize that they have to watch a baby

elephant. They each get to make up a story however they want using the prompt.

In Second Step, the kids are learning about empathy, what it is, and how to use it to help others.

## Fifth Grade

**Mr. Ford's 5th Grade Class**  
**By: Jaiden Shah and Ian Studer**

We have interviewed two kids from Mr. Ford's class on what they have been doing in class. These are the answers we got. In math, they are learning geometry, volume (as in length x width x height), area (length x width), and fractions. In writing, they are learning how to write persuasive, informative, and narrative essays and stories. They have been learning types of genres (like nonfiction, fiction, biography, etc.). In reading, they have been learning about literary essays and summaries. In social studies they have been learning about the 13 colonies, the triangular trade, the 13 century conquistador sand the lost colonies of Roanoke. This is what they are learning in Mr. Ford's 5th grade class.



Photo credit to Mrs. Ananian



Photo credit to Mrs. Ananian  
Mrs. Valli's Fifth Grade class had fun at their Halloween party.

## Sixth Grade



As you may already know, 6th graders switch classes in order to prepare themselves for middle school. Each class is a different subject, Math, ELA, Science, and Geography (Social Studies).

In Math, the students are learning about greatest common factors, lowest common multiple, and powers and exponents. Students

have already had two math tests, and over half of the students did a hands down good job. In this class, 30% of their grade is from quizzes, homework and classwork are 20% of their grade, chapter tests are 40% and participation/behavior is 10% of their grade.

In ELA, the students have started to read *Where the Red Fern Grows*, by Wilson Rawls. Students have also been learning about quick writes, which is when they have a topic to write and compare that topic to humans. They have a total of five or less minutes or less to complete it. In this class, the students have had one test so far and have done a very good job. If you are getting confused about your child telling you that there are two ELA teachers, Mrs. Stamm had a baby and Mr. Viccaro is subbing until November.

In Science, the students are learning about many different things, but the main topics are mechanical and chemical weathering, the scientific method, observations and inferences and rocks and weathering. This season every class will take two trips to Camp Denison to learn about soil and what makes up soil in the environment.

In Geography, the kids have started to learn about Northern Africa. Some countries that they have studied so far are: Tunisia, Libya, Algeria, Morocco, and the Western Sahara. In this class, students also do team and leadership activities to help with team building and friendship. Students have had one assessment so far on Tunisia and Libya, it was a T chart and students

had to separate the facts into 3 parts, Libya, Tunisia, and both that applied to them in the middle.

In sixth grade, the kids get to attend a leadership camp called “Camp Kieve” to build leadership and learn teamwork, unity, and learn social skills. The children will be leaving for the trip in early November on a Monday and return on Friday on the coach bus or their parents can come pick them up there at the camp. I hope all this information is helpful for you to understand more about what the sixth graders are learning about and doing later this year. Hope finds you all well,  
Caitlyn Casella  
Sixth Grade

## SEL Block

**By: Ian Studer and Jaiden Shah**



The SEL block is a block that the 6th graders have because there is no longer a fifth block in the 6th grade. The 6th grade has less people than the last 6th graders, so we now have an open block in the 6th grade. SEL is cut down and shortened out to be just a community service block.

One thing that we do in SEL is go into younger kids’ classrooms and helping them learn in various subjects like math, reading and phonics. We can also help kids by doing activities or reading to them.



Another thing we do during SEL block is planting bulbs. During this time we work in the gardens and plant flowers to help make Penn Brook Elementary School beautiful.





## Physical Education

Greetings from the Penn Brook  
Gymnasium!

I am looking forward to another amazing year of health, wellness and fun. Throughout the course of the upcoming year, we will be touching upon the food pyramid with all grades and talking about healthy eating habits and the importance of getting daily exercise. Grade six will be introduced to Boney Bonnie our skeleton to learn a different bone each week. The current lesson we are working on is soccer. Students will be learning different age appropriate skills and games for the month of October. Please be mindful of sending your child to school on gym day in appropriate clothing and sneakers. I'm excited to be starting my 26th year and look forward to working with your children.

Healthfully yours,  
Mr. Walsh

## Music Mr. Fanning

4th grade music students have been exploring World Drumming skills. Students play the djembes, which is a type of drum from West Africa, as an entire class. They will soon learn

more complex rhythms to perform for one another.

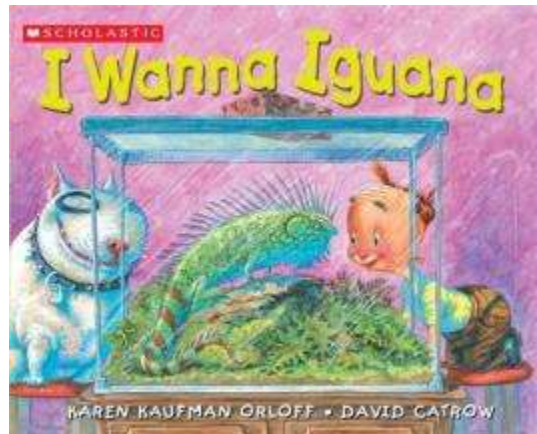


Students created Super Heroes in their art class!



## Library K and 1

Students in library read books and completed activities to go along with our October character trait of assertion.

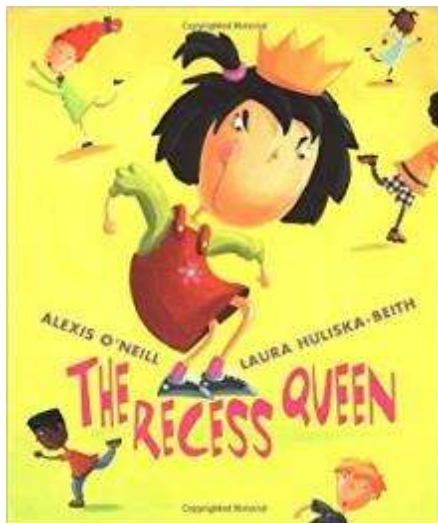


Students read *I Want an Iguana* by K. Orloff .This book tells the story of Alex who tried to convince his mother to allow him to adopt a baby iguana.

Students completed a mystery bag activity. They were given a small drawstring bag with 5 small objects. Children choose one object, feel it in their hand without taking it out of the bag and then guessed what the object could be. Then we discussed how it takes courage to try something new.

## Library 3 and 4

Students read *Recess Queen* by A. O'Neill. This is the story of a new kid that asks the reigning recess bully to be her friend.



As a follow up activity, students shared something about themselves with their classmates.