



October Newsletter from the Lower School

Note from Ms. Tracy: Welcome back to all of our families. It has been a wonderful start to the year. Students have been actively engaged in learning through fun classroom activities to school wide field trips. We have been meeting as a school in the mornings to celebrate each other's success, as well as, talk about what activities we have up and coming.

Students have access to a new space we call the “Chill Room” that has puzzles, mandalas for coloring, relaxing music and quiet spaces. We started the year with our Group Hoop! We started this as a group exercise and we work to get our time down each chance we can. Ask your learner to explain what it is! We love having fun as a community.

Students have a new bulletin board that they can actively post positive messages on. We had a great Spirit Week and ended it with student reflections on what our next school wide activity could look like and they gave us many great ideas. Students are reminded daily that at the Northshore Academy we are respectful, responsible and we cooperate with each other. Please enjoy updates below from each class and specialists. You will read updates on our current school wide homework initiative to everyday happenings in each classroom.

Important Dates to Remember for October:

October 11th - Kick Off to the T-shirt Contest!

October 12th - Pumpkin Character Due

October 13th - Families Welcome to view Character Pumpkins (9:15)

October 21st - Cookie Orders Due

The beginning of the year has flown by in **Mrs. Mallia and Ms. Virginia's class!** Learners transitioned to their new class very well and have been working hard in all subjects! In reading, we recently completed the book, *2030: A Day in the Life of Tomorrow's Kids*. Now that we're done reading the book, students will brainstorm and write their own version of the story. In math, the class has been learning about factors, multiples, and arrays. We've been trying out our math program using the SmartBoard. This has added visual supports and technology which has helped to keep learners motivated and invested in the lesson. In social studies, we started learning about maps, but we've recently taken a break to spend some time learning about the election and branches of government. In science, we started learning about the scientific method and have completed a few science experiments. In the first experiment, students cut open diapers to find out what made them absorbent! This seemed really silly at first, but students quickly learned diapers contain polymers which is a chemical compound that

can absorb a lot of liquid and in the process expands, changing into another state of matter. Another cool experiment we completed after learning about unicellular organisms was Investigating Pond Water. As you can see in the picture, students collected pond water and then placed a few drops onto a slide. Then, they were able to view all of the microscopic living things that actually exist in pond water. Students were so excited about using the microscopes that they spent a lot of time investigating other items under a microscope! What fun!



Another great part of the beginning of the year was our field trip apple picking! Students were excited and had a great day!

We hope learners and families are finding this quarter's homework policy to be effective. Us teachers really enjoy knowing that our students are taking time to read at home and when the families can get involved it's even better! For the most part, all learners have been responsible in completing their reading homework. We're only in the



second month of school and already I can see the students growing and maturing into responsible, respectful 4th and 5th graders! Great work!

September in **Ms. Lisa, Ms Lorraine, and Ms. Carly's class** was a terrific start this school year. We have established a great routine in the classroom and are working together nicely. We had a shining star announced in the month of September~ congrats Lucas! Can't wait to see who is our next shining star is!

So far we have spent time refreshing our minds about the past learned concepts as well as expanding our knowledge on new 3rd grade concepts. We have practiced sentence structure and writing, started expanding our thoughts and we've even started writing paragraphs. In Math, we've reviewed addition and subtraction and we will be moving on to multiplication very soon! We have practiced our reading fluency and learned new vocabulary words all while reading on a daily basis. Everyone is doing great with our reading homework so far! We plan to continue with the homework as is~ reading for 15 minutes and completing our reading log. I have loved how involved families have been getting with the reading every night! We also have learned about and discussed communities in Social Studies. Our learners have loved discussing and learning about the Solar System. They are so invested in learning new concepts, which makes it fun to teach them.

This past month we also had a very successful field trip to the apple orchard! The learners and staff really enjoyed themselves. We are off to a great year and cannot wait to share all of our new and exciting adventures with you! We are so very excited to see the pumpkin characters from our family reading projects come in!



Miss Sue & Miss Linda's class had fun learning about many topics in September. In Reading, we are continuing with our SRA reading series. The learners are making remarkable progress in their decoding and encoding skills. We are working on writing a descriptive sentence in Language Arts. The learners are having fun brainstorming together before choosing their words to make their ideal "detailed" sentence. In social studies, we learned about communities and Christopher Columbus. We are beginning a unit on Geography. In Math class, we learned about combinations of ten and we are beginning a unit on word problems. Science was a lot of fun. We studied about dental health and we are now learning about healthy foods. When we finish up our unit on healthy foods we will begin a unit on Life science.



The learners in **Ms. Maria's art class** started off the year studying apples. We focused on the apples shape and colors. The learners portrayed what they saw by using a wide range of drawing materials. The beautiful finished pieces are brightening up our hallways. This month the students are learning about color value and continuing to try out different materials. We are also having some fun creating silly construction paper pumpkins!

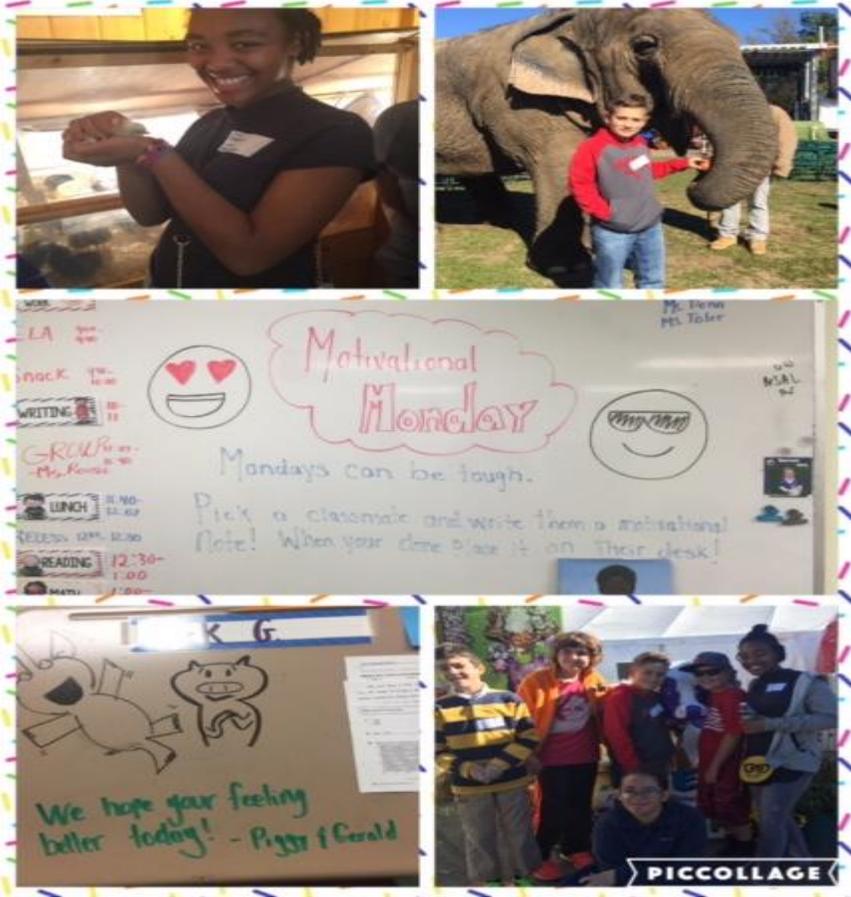
We have accomplished so much since the start of school in **Ms. Rogers and Mr. Corey's** class! The fifth graders have been working hard in math, reading, writing, science and social studies! We have been learning new words in the book we have been reading, The Haunting of Freddy. We have learned to make predictions and

confirm them using evidence from the text. All of us have earned outstanding quiz grades in math and have earned stars on the classroom "WOW!" board! We are learning about space in science and do fun experiments every Friday. We have made exploding coke bottles, tie-dye filters and expanding balloons to name a few! In writing, we have composed letters to Ms. Tracy trying to convince her to get rid of homework! Some of our letters are very convincing! In social studies, we have been looking at geography, especially maps and globes. We love passing the huge blow up globe around and practicing our skills! As a group, we participated in spirit week, and wore silly clothes and did group games! We went apple picking with the school and came home with yummy treats! We will continue to work hard and keep making ourselves, our teachers and our families proud!



Hello! Welcome to Sixth Grade with **Mrs. Chase and Ms. Toler** !!The learners appear to have gotten off to a great start and the transition into sixth grade has gone smoothly. Each day we start our morning off with a positive message to one another and are constantly talking about what it means to be a good friend as well as treating each other with kindness. Throughout the school day, the learners have been working really hard on their academics. The especially enjoy read aloud time with Ms. Monica. In just a short time the students have already read "Sarah Plain and Tall," "Freak the Mighty," and "Max the Mighty." After reading each story, the learners take part in an active book talk reviewing comprehension questions, reviewing and making predictions as well as discussing their thoughts and opinions. Once the books have been completed the learners have watched the corresponding film and completed a Venn Diagram to comparing and discussing the differences between the book and the film. During writing time the students have been learning about and working on Expository

Writing. In the coming weeks, the students will be creating their own front page newspaper article. In Math we have been reviewing long division, factorization, and a review of prime and composite numbers. Last week we took our first class field trip to the Topsfield Fair. We had such a fun day! The learners saw the animals, the GIANT pumpkin, an elephant show, and had many yummy fair treats! We look forward to



sharing our news with you next month.

The first month back in **Ms. Jamie and Ms. Lindsay's** class has been filled with fun and new learning. We began our year with some great morning meeting discussions on what an effective student and classroom looks like. Students both individually and collectively have been working weekly to embody these characteristics and earn stars in their buckets. When a student fills their bucket, they have earned the "Star Student" award and get to sit in the classroom's special Star Student desk. Congratulations to Patrick, Ryan, Emma, Destiny, and Jacob for earning Star Student already! Last month our group also ventured to Russell Orchards to go apple picking! The whole class



enjoyed checking out the animals and seeing how many apples they could fit into their bags!

In September, students began working in small reading groups during English Language Arts to help build their comprehension skills. Students focused reading and developing their ability to identify Fact and Opinion texts. The class also worked on developing their own fact and opinion writing samples by brainstorming, outlining, and drafting together in groups and as a class. We have also been

reading the book "Wonder" during daily read aloud.

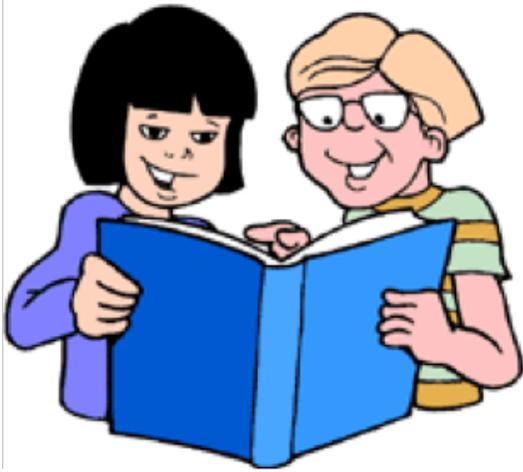
The class has enjoyed how the chapters are grouped into different characters telling their own stories. We have been so proud to see all that have been completing their nightly reading homework. We love hearing about what they enjoy reading and who they read with at home!

In Math, the class began with reviewing the four operations and identifying the operation needed within word problems. From there, students expanded their previous knowledge of place values in order to write numbers in expanded form as well as rounding larger numbers up and down. Students enjoyed working in a variety of sized groups depending on their ability and pace and really assisted them in completing their work and expanding their understanding.



In Science, students have been learning about the Scientific Method and applying it to classroom experiments. One of our first experiments had students questioning what could be found inside rocks. The experiment asked students to list the tools they would need and to make a plan before beginning to excavate. The class also completed a pumpkin experiment where students make estimations of the number of seeds within a pumpkin. Once all of the seeds were out, students collected the data from one another and compared their predictions with their findings. As we go forward, the class will be learning all about our country's three branches of government in connection to the upcoming election! Our 4th graders have been really working hard and we are all looking forward to another great month ahead!

News From Jessica Gelb: Reading Specialist



I have recently joined the Northshore Academy Lower School as the Reading Specialist in January 2016! I would like to introduce myself, and share the following information about my background and teaching experience:

I have been in education for the past 15 years. Prior to joining Northshore Academy, I worked as a classroom teacher in Brookline, a Literacy Specialist in Manchester-by-the-Sea and as an adjunct professor for UMASS Lowell. I have working with students one-on-one, in small

groups, as well as in the entire classroom setting. In addition, I have mentored teachers and supervised them as they were pursuing their Reading Specialist license.

I am very much looking forward to a successful year at the Northshore Academy. I enjoy working with each individual student—whether in the one-on-one, small group, or classroom setting. I am excited to introduce a school library this year where Northshore Academy students will learn about genre studies and will have the opportunity to check-out library books!

