

November 24th, 2020



**Stevenson's Mission:**

To inspire students to strive for excellence through a rigorous, academic and arts-integrated curriculum in a safe, equitable learning community.

**Stevenson's Vision:**

Exemplify excellence in cognition, character, and creativity.

Dear Stevenson Families,

Thanksgiving is so much more than feasting on delicious food. It's a day when families get together to spend time exchanging stories, recollecting memories, and enjoying each other's company. This is even more poignant this year. It is also a day when we show appreciation for our loved ones, our life, and talk about everything for which we are thankful. Please know that we hold great appreciation for our students, parents, staff, and faculty. We are thankful for their presence in our lives.

Stevenson is a very special place filled with talented, knowledgeable, and hardworking individuals. We are grateful that we are able to spend each day with this very special school community! It is a place we love to come to everyday!

Enjoy your well-earned days off. Eat those turkey drumsticks and pumpkin pie. Play games, watch movies, and spend time with family. Just remember, come back to us rested, but more importantly, safely.

Mrs. Fleeger and Mrs. Vanderpool



**November Events**

**Tuesday, 24th**

Schoolwide Arts Day

**Wednesday, Thursday, Friday**

Thanksgiving Holiday

**December Events**

**Friday, 4th**

Early Release Day

**Tuesday, 8th**

Interims Posted

**Friday, 11th**

Make-up Pictures

Early Release Day

**Tuesday, 15th**

SAC 4:30

PVFO

**Friday, 18th**

Early Release Day

Winter Solstice Video

Taping

**Monday, 20th**

Beginning of Winter

Break

**January Events**

**Monday, 4th**

Students and teachers return



## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

*In math, students are wrapping up chapter 3 which is algebraic expressions and properties. For the first quiz, the topics were algebraic expressions and writing expressions. The grade level average was 89%. For the second quiz, the topics were properties of addition and multiplication, distributive property, and factoring expressions. The grade level average was 82%.*

*In language arts, students are working on reading Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief and completing lessons that focus on their comprehension of literature. Last week students completed their Quarterly Literacy Assessment. 77% of our sixth graders performed on grade level, with the average score being an 80%. In reference to the rest of the district, 44% of Brevard students performed on grade level. We are so proud of our students and the hard work they put into growing as learners. Our second iReady diagnostic will be the week of 11/30, so keep an eye out for more information that will be coming your way.*

*In science, we just finished up our Destination Space unit. All students were able to participate in multiple hands-on activities. It was great to see all of their designs and watch them work together to come up with solutions. Launch day was a great experience for all. Please make sure your child is starting their science fair project at home. We spent time in class setting up their template that they are being asked to use this year. You can find all the information needed in our science class google classroom.*

*In Social Studies, we will be finishing up our unit on Ancient Greece and starting our second DBQ of the year. The DBQ will focus on Sparta and their feelings toward education.*

## Kindergarten

*Kindergarten enjoyed learning about plants and animals, they culminated the science unit by planting flowers and observing water bugs. In Social Studies they learned about jobs people have, election day, Veterans and what the armed forces do for our country. The students are practicing reading text closely, and each time using the text for different purposes like new vocabulary, fluency and comprehension. They also use the text to organize their thoughts on graphic organizers and then are able to finish a sentence that talks about the book. The students enjoy using their sight words in the weekly poems and making a craft to go with the poem. They are starting to be very independent with their computers. The kindergartners are able to sign on to Launchpad by themselves and work on their i-ready lessons. In math, they learned about solid and flat shapes and different attributes of each shape. They can now think of many different ways to sort shapes. The kindergartners did very well taking their first independent listening comprehension assessment and writing assessment. It was exciting to see how much our students have grown since the initial KLS (Kindergarten Literacy Survey).*

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

*Math: We are in Module 3-Addition and Subtraction of Fractions. We will also be addressing equivalent fractions and of course story problems! Our students topped the district average of 64% on the End of Module 1 Assessment with an average of 88%. Way to go, Fifth Grade!*

*ELA/SS: Welcome to the New World! The 5<sup>th</sup> graders are currently conducting a unit of study on Jamestown, which includes a novel, "Blood on the River", and a document based essay. On the QLA, 5<sup>th</sup> grade overall scored a 78%, demonstrating proficiency with the standards covered during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. Awesome work!*

*Science: 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are studying the human body organs and structures. They have also been studying plant structures and parts, which will eventually lead to a comparison between the biological makeup of plants and animals.*



## 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

*The 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter has started out to be so much fun! The kids are not even realizing how much they are learning they are having a ball. In social studies we are comparing how life was then and now. The children are in disbelief thinking that people rode horses, or the mailman was a horse and carriage. Now a horse and carriage is an expensive treat on a family outing. We recently finished discussing inherited traits in science and we are now investigating our Earth's surface. Ask your child about the mud we made in class. We continue working on phonograms, comprehension, vocabulary, and writing in language arts. The best part of our writing so far is a toss up between How to make a Pizza and How to make an instrument. We are so proud of the hard work they are doing in. Our first grade students scored an average of 83% on the Quarterly Literacy Assessment. This assessment had the children reading and answering questions all on their own for the first time. This score exceeded the district average of 67%. We are so proud of them. Way to Go 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Penguins!*

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade!

*With the second term well under way, we are keeping the momentum going for academic excellence! Building stamina is the forefront of our focus as students are striving to apply concepts from the first nine weeks to current learning goals we are exploring in efforts to develop a deeper understanding.*

*In correlation to our Reading, students complete an average of 45 minutes of individualized instruction online to provide targeted practice weekly. We are happy to report that of our 71 fabulous fourth graders, 90% are passing their daily lessons. The average number of lessons completed weekly per student is 2 at this point. We are very pleased to see students are taking pride in their work and applying outstanding work ethic.*

*In Mathematics, we have progressed onto long division with remainders using various models to help students maintain reasoning and Math sense behind the process of steps. Visuals such as arrays, area models, and place value charts have allowed students to really answer the "how to" aspect of the standard algorithm commonly referred to as long division. Please ensure your child is practicing their basic Math facts, as these are critical to the progression of our Eureka Math program.*

*Science Fair has officially kicked off, and students should be wrapping up with selecting their Science Fair question in which they will embark upon an exploratory adventure accompanied with research and the scientific process. Students will utilize Google Learn and complete a virtual Science Board versus than the tangible version. This new and revamped process will be a new, yet fun experience for all! Students have downloaded the board in class and will utilize it as they progress on with various components of their project.*

*We look forward to second term and thank you for your endless support!*

## Media Update

*In the past few weeks, students in grades 1-4 have learned about growth mindset, perseverance, and reflected on their work. Students in grades 5 and 6 have learned how to search databases and evaluate information resources. Students in Kindergarten have focused on kindness through the books Superbuns! and What Does it Mean to be Kind?*

*Sunshine State Young Readers Award Books are in the media center! Stay tuned for more information on the Sunshine State Challenge – this year the challenge requirements have changed.*



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

*Third Grade had a wonderful October. Mad Scientist day was a success. The kids enjoyed making slime, catapults, and lava lamps in Mrs. George and Mrs. Sonsini's classes. Our online students enjoyed making caterpillars and an X-Ray craft with Mrs. Robinson. Our recent Autumn Lights play was also a success and we are excited to see the finished play when it is completed.*

*At the end of October students took a district reading assessment called the Quarterly Literacy Assessment (QLA). 88% of our students showed proficiency in the reading skills worked on in the first nine weeks. This is well above the district's proficiency level of 37%. Way to go Stevenson third graders! As we move into the second nine weeks we will continue to work hard and maintain the same level of rigor in instruction. Please continue to work with your students at home. We know that these scores could never have been achieved without our collaboration with you.*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade!

*2<sup>nd</sup> grade has continued to work diligently on new topics and standards in each subject. Our students are enthusiastic when it comes to learning new material and grasping new concepts. Science was particularly fun this month when learning about the inner workings of our body systems. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> graders now know that lungs are the only body organ that can float and your small intestine is about the size of a tennis court when stretched out flat. So crazy!*

*In math we are now adding and subtracting vertically! Yep, you heard that right...your 2<sup>nd</sup> grader now knows how to add and subtract the "old school way". Of course we are still drawing pictures and using place value charts to help us solve.*

*Our grade level QLA data came back and we were very pleased with the data. The QLA assesses our 2<sup>nd</sup> graders ability to read and comprehend texts. In order to increase our students comprehension it would benefit them to read at home as often as possible and to have questioning follow up with their reading. iReady is a wonderful online reading resource to utilize at home to help increase comprehension. Ask your teacher for a list of questions you could ask your child before, during, and after reading!*

*We are looking forward to our Thanksgiving holiday break to spend with our families, but we will of course miss our sweet 2<sup>nd</sup> graders very much. We hope that everyone has a wonderful time relaxing, playing, and spending quality time with family!*

<b>Acevedo</b>	<i>Brooklyn K.</i>
<b>Hopf</b>	<i>Sydney W.</i>
<b>Duncan</b>	<i>Jonah B.</i>
<b>Park</b>	<i>Gabriel M.</i>
<b>Ferris</b>	<i>Blake F.</i>
<b>Poker</b>	<i>Lyla W.</i>
<b>Grenon</b>	<i>Frances L.</i>
<b>Dougherty</b>	<i>Allison H.</i>
<b>Warren</b>	<i>Ardas G.</i>
<b>Shanks</b>	<i>Bryn C.</i>
<b>VanMatre</b>	<i>Scarlett T.</i>
<b>DeVries</b>	<i>Daniella C.</i>
<b>Mara</b>	<i>Gwen S.</i>
<b>Sonsini</b>	<i>Lila C.</i>
<b>George</b>	<i>Clark W.</i>
<b>Robinson</b>	<i>Lily B.</i>
<b>Mosseau</b>	<i>Samantha H.</i>
<b>Albright</b>	<i>Nathan B.</i>
<b>Weber</b>	<i>Jaxon C.</i>
<b>Garces</b>	<i>Alaina Y.</i>
<b>Heller</b>	<i>Trisha J.</i>
<b>Harrigan</b>	<i>Kiley G.</i>
<b>Comoletti</b>	<i>Georgia L.</i>

**Congratulations Stevenson Students!!**

**October 2020**

**Responsibility:** Taking ownership of my thoughts, words and actions. This trait is essential for becoming a healthy, happy, and productive person.



<b>Dominguez</b>	<i>Elise R.</i>
<b>Weaver</b>	<i>Mollie H.</i>
<b>Canada</b>	<i>Vincent H.</i>

## G.S.P.

### **Here is the GSP November Update!**

October flew by and what a great month it was! 151 Wonder Projects were submitted, each and every one unique in its own way. This was a great way of researching interesting topics while learning how to interpret resources and how to present our findings using varied forms of media. I was truly in awe of the quality of work submitted.

Now, in November, we transition from the month of Wonder into the month of problem solving. We started by exploring the 6 Thinking Hats. The Six Thinking Hats was created by Edward de Bono and can be found in his book of the same name. This method of thinking allows us to move outside our habitual thinking style, and to look at things from a number of different perspectives enabling a more rounded view of your situation. As we incorporate The 6 Thinking Hats into our daily routine, we want to use our newly found methodology to help us solve problems. As a school, we plan to select an issue that impacts our school and try and solve it, or at least make it better. We will define the problem, generate data to help focus our efforts, select and evaluate solutions, and finally implement and evaluate our solutions.

We continue to make progress with our hydroponic gardens. With our new lights, the flow system has started to flourish. Our lettuce grown in the tubs produced a great yield. We've since replaced the lettuce with some new tomatoes and beans. Also, we've received a very generous grant from the Merritt Island Rotary Club which will fund some very exciting future projects such as an outdoor hydroponic system as well as other upgrades to our existing gardens.



## Literacy News



- Vocabulary refers to the words students must understand in order to participate in effective listening, speaking, reading, and writing. It is a key to communication!
- It seems logical, but reading without a strong vocabulary or strong vocabulary strategies leaves the reader with gaps in comprehension. Think about reading a high level text about a topic without any prior knowledge on the topic. Without understanding of word parts or skills to identify context clues, you're left with a text that looks like swiss cheese.
- Here are some ways you can help develop students' vocabulary and vocabulary strategies at home:
  - Read aloud to your student and discuss the text before, during, and after you read.
  - Use high-level vocabulary words with your student and encourage them to do the same. In addition, teach students to question words they don't know when they hear them in conversation.
  - Point out multiple meanings of words.
  - Start a word collection in your home where family members list interesting words they encounter.
  - Set aside time for independent reading. The more students read, they more words they encounter and learn.
- Please forward questions to Ms. Schoon at [schoon.angela@brevardschools.org](mailto:schoon.angela@brevardschools.org).
- Happy listening, reading, writing, and speaking!