

January 30, 2018

Dear Elementary Families,

Our first month back to school since Christmas break has flown by. Children quickly fell back into their normal routines, and a buzz of productive work started up again even on the very first day.

All kinds of work has been flying off the shelf. In math, lessons on fractions have sparked interest in discovering equivalencies and adding and subtracting with the same denominator. Second and third graders have done extensive work on calculating multiples, which has now led some to the discovery of prime factors and understanding prime factor T's. As always, all children are constantly solidifying their understanding of the operations through the stamp game, large bead frame, checkerboard, and racks and tubes.

Geography work has been a popular choice, as well. Every day, at least one child can be seen using the puzzle maps, paper maps, or pin maps to expand his or her knowledge of countries, capitals, and more. Two 1st graders even tackled the pin and paper maps of Asia, finding all of its countries, capitals, bodies of water, and landforms!

In language, grammar boxes once again became a hot item when two children finished the last one — the interjection. It has become a race to see who will finish them next! Meanwhile, lessons on note-taking, paraphrasing, and making an outline have sparked several research reports on animals, countries, and more. Currently, a group of five children work diligently every day to research and write about Ancient Greece. They will ultimately present their report and companion projects to both Elementary classes in preparation for the Greek Plays in March.

Each day, the children also spend significant time refining their cursive handwriting, eagerly practicing their math facts, and perfecting their spelling. We have already seen so much growth in these three areas! We will continue to practice these key skills consistently as a part of our class routine.

When classroom observations begin again next week, we hope you will stop by!

Sincerely,

Tara Hutchinson