



Fall 2019-20

# NEWSLETTER

RELATIONSHIPS  
ENRICHMENT  
ACADEMICS  
COMMUNITY  
HOMEWORK

REACH is a program of  
Educational Service District 112

## Dallesport

*In collaboration with the Lyle School District*

### FALL ACTIVITIES

As a math activity this fall, we introduced tangrams to the REACH group. Tangrams are Chinese geometric puzzles consisting of a square cut into specific geometric pieces that can be arranged to make various shapes and pictures. The challenge is to use all seven pieces in each finished figure. There are many benefits in working with tangrams. These include: developing problem-solving and logical thinking skills, perceptual reasoning (nonverbal thinking skills), visual-spatial awareness, creativity, and many mathematical concepts such as congruency, symmetry, and other geometry skills.

Prior to Thanksgiving, Michelle Bartz prepared a fun and educational activity for the students to make turkey traps. Students were broken into groups and had to collaborate on the design and engineering of the project. They were provided with a limited amount and type of materials, which added to the challenge of the activity. After implementing their ideas in the construction of the trap, they then presented the finished trap to the rest of the group and explained their strategy and group plan. The unlucky turkeys were tricked into entering the cleverly designed traps!



### GRANT PARTNERS

Steve Lattanzi and his Creature Feature show visited us in early December. Steve brought an array of reptiles, big and small, from around the globe. Students were able to learn many scientific facts about the creatures, as well as being able to hold and be photographed with many of them. As a group the kids held a twelve-foot long yellow python. They met a barking lizard, a hooded cobra, boas, and pythons. As usual, the students were enthralled with the presentation.

Skills during cooking lessons include: reading and following directions step-by-step, rereading, listening and following oral directions, kitchen safety, nutritional values, measuring, fractions, and working cooperatively in groups.



## FIELD TRIPS

In October, the REACH students took a trip to The Howard's Haven Animal Sanctuary. There the kids learned about the nutrition, habits, and proper care of the horses, donkeys, pigs, goats, and ducks. They were also able to feed the animals. They enjoyed the fresh air during a hayride and they each left with a pumpkin. Many thanks to Risi Howard!

## PARENT EVENTS

On October 12, the Kick-off Event on the Sternwheeler was enjoyed by many parents, students, and REACH staff. Although it was chilly, it was a beautiful day and it was a wonderful kick off for the REACH program. The kids received a lesson about how the cruise ship is piloted and how it is powered. They then got to man the fire hoses. It was a great way to spend a Saturday in the Columbia Gorge.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

We are looking forward to doing more cooking with Debi Budnick of Skyline Hospital, a truly dedicated community partner to the REACH program. The students will continue learning about measurement, fractions, how to read and follow instructions, the science of the ingredients, and how to work cooperatively to achieve successful results. The kids always gain many valuable life skills during these activities. On Debi's next visit we will continue the discussion about healthy whole grains and the importance of eating from all of the food groups. We will be making quesadillas using corn tortillas made from scratch.



## Student Highlight



### ELLA COLLINS (5TH GRADE)

What is your favorite thing about REACH?

"I like a lot of things about REACH, like playing the board games, drawing, and cooking. I like seeing my friends. I like Mrs. Ullom, Mrs. Marvel, and Michelle. I like going on the bus, and on field trips. REACH is really fun, and I wish I could do it next year."

What is something fun you did at REACH recently?

"It was fun going on the Sternwheeler."

What have you learned recently?

"I learned how to cook and about grains and nutrition."



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