



Spring 2018-19

NEWSLETTER



REACH is a program of Educational Service District 112

Dallesport

In collaboration with the Lyle School District

SPRING ACTIVITIES

The elementary REACH students have had a full schedule of fun learning activities! During one engineering activity students created a structure made out of spaghetti noodles and marshmallows. This was a competition to see who could make the strongest, tallest structure.

Recently our REACH students became involved in the school garden. We planted seeds in pots and have had the little plants break through the soil in the last few days, and will be transplanting them in our garden soon. We have planted organic tomatoes and a few varieties of squash. The elementary REACH kids are responsible for watering the garden twice a week.

The kids have been working on vocabulary skills through fun games such as Guesstures (similar to Charades), Survival Word Bingo, and Password. Math skills are honed using the many games we have including Number Ninjas, Guess My Number (kids must follow multi-step math clues to solve), Digitz multiplication fact electronic game, strategy games, and a large variety of domino games to enhance number sense.

Students studied the science of popcorn, learning about the explosion of steam within the kernel to make it pop! This was followed up with a snack of stove-top popped popcorn. Students followed recipes to make slime and most recently made homemade Play-Doh, observing the chemical change during the heating process. As always, our group is encouraged to follow written instructions and diagrams to use our building systems such as Structures, Contraptions, ZOOB Cars, and Brain Builders.

Last month the kids had a lesson on positive and negative spaces. They first created an abstract design. After practicing writing their names in cursive, they did a positive/negative cutout image of their names. These art projects are currently displayed on our bulletin board in the cafeteria. We have been doing fun writing activities with our Write Brain curriculum. Students have enjoyed the writing process using their creativity with the story starter cards.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

We invited Naomi and staff from the local branch of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library to come in and share a STEM activity: "Building Things That Move." Students used a variety of materials, both recycled and new to design and create a mobile machine.



We had FVRL partner "Creature Feature" as a guest along with his many snakes and reptiles. This was an interactive activity with students able to handle and hold a variety of snakes, from small to very large! They learned about the habitat and habits of these creatures. Abby Brandt of the 4-H brought rabbits, guinea pigs and a baby goat for the students to handle and hug. Abby and her helpers explained how to care for the animals and also talked about raising livestock for the county fair.

Debi Budnick, of Skyline Hospital, has visited on several occasions. The REACH kids love Debi and are always excited on our cooking days with her. A few examples of foods we have made are muffins, pizza with crust made from scratch (a wonderful science lesson on live yeast), pancakes, and most recently eggrolls. We often discuss foods in different cultures and the importance of cultural foods in our families and communities. 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.



PARENT EVENTS

Parents were invited to attend the Creature Feature presentation and were fascinated with the reptiles along with their kids.

On April 29th, REACH and KLASAC partnered to sponsor Cyber Safety, a parent night to educate adults about the safety issues surrounding their kids' use of social media.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We will be celebrating our students who have attended our program for 30 days or more with a trip to OMSI in Portland. We will be going to the Pixar exhibit and watching "Oceans, Our Blue Planet."



Student Highlight



J.J. PEREZ (3RD GRADE)

What is your favorite thing about REACH?

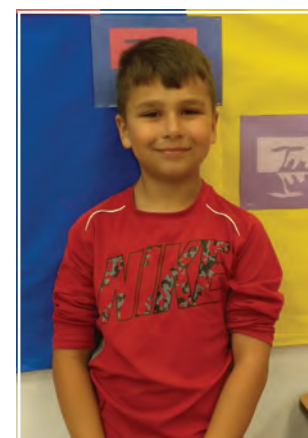
"My favorite thing about REACH is being with my friends, doing art, playing games and board games. I like Password and stuff we do as groups. I also like playing outside and especially playing 4-Square."

What is something fun you did at REACH recently?

"Something fun was when Creature Feature came and we saw a King Cobra, a Kimodo Dragon, and a barking lizard. We got to hold a 15-foot long python! The REACH bingo chart was lots of fun. I got three prizes for playing lots of games."

What have you learned recently?

"I learned how to make eggrolls, pizza, and pretzels. I learned math doing Math Think Tank. I also learned how to write my name in cursive."



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