

## Newsletter

Weeks of 10-26-18 & 11-2-18

**Exploration:** The student's decided displaying the facts they have learned about Illinois. Some students drew the state bird, the state seal, and the Illinois state flower. All of which many of us did not know. We have also created our personal versions of the Mississippi River according to what it may have looked like during our novel during the 1830's.

~ Please feel free to come visit our classroom and check out all the fun facts we have displayed all over our room.

~ Looking further into our Chicago exploration, our class has created large version of the Chicago flag and have explored what each stripe/ star represents. We have also started building our skyline mural in the main hallway by the lunchroom.

~ The students are working hard on their reform persuasive essays. We will have them finished by conferences so that all students can share their essays with you!



**Mindset Math/ Scholastic Math:** Math Mindsets/ YouCubed is a curriculum that I will and have been incorporating into our classroom Math. Youcubed was created by Jo Boaler, her overall goal is to get rid of math anxiety and give students of all ages a clear roadmap to success. “*Mathematical Mindsets* provides strategies and activities to help teachers and parents show all children, even those who are convinced that they are bad at math, that they can enjoy and succeed in math.” Jo Boaler is a Stanford researcher, professor of math education, and expert on math learning she has studied why students don't like math and often fail in math classes. Her research consisted of following thousands of students through middle and high schools to study how they learn and to find the most effective ways to open the math potential in all students. I plan on incorporating Jo's curriculum each week as well as a scholastic article that follows along with the math concept we cover that week.

~ **Concepts of the past few week:** Volume of a cylinder, sphere, & cone / Creating algebraic expressions using visual patterns/ making each pattern grow either as a linear or quadratic growth function.

**Ramps & Pathways:** Even though the students in Room 2 are the oldest in the school, they all still enjoy time to play and be creative by building and using blocks. On Thursday the students were given time to participate in open gym and use their engineering skills to build ramps and pathways. Here is a little clip from a successful run a few of our students built together.

**Newspaper:** We will be creating a Plato Monthly newspaper! This is a fun interactive idea that Mr. Chris and I have been wanting to do with our students. I believe it is a great opportunity for our students to learn how to interview, share, and execute peoples stories through a newspaper column.

**Great American Read:** *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee wins number 1 novel in the PBS contest of the Great American Read. Following along with the contest was fun and exciting especially when some of the books in the top 100 were books we have read. Some of the students will be reading *To Kill A Mockingbird* in a small group starting at the end of November. The other half of the class will be reading the novel *Bud Not Buddy*, another American classic. The groups will meet twice a week as a small group novel study in between Thanksgiving and Winter break.

### Happy Halloween!:

On Wednesday the students did two experiments. One of the experiments was creating our own HALLOWEEN OOBLECK, the materials used were cornstarch, water, and food coloring. Creating oobleck is fun and cool to play with, you see the material go from solid to liquid right in your hands. The second experiment was HALLOWEEN FIZZING CAULDRON. For this experiment the students needed baking soda, white vinegar, food coloring, and dish soap. This was definitely the most fun since you see the bowl overflow just from the basic chemical reaction from the mixture of dish soap, baking soda and the white vinegar.



Hope you have a great weekend,  
Ms. Alexandra

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