

# The PACESETTER

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF PACE AT LOCKWOOD - Fall 2021

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Hello PACE families!

We made it through three months of school and I couldn't be prouder of what we have accomplished so far as community. Each week that goes by, I love seeing the students getting more and more connected and volunteers in the classroom doing important work! The teachers continue to amaze me and I love seeing all the work that is being done in the classroom.

We have had fun and did some great things so far this year and, we are only just beginning. For instance, we had a great Fall Festival in all the classrooms where the students played games and did some cool art projects! I love the mummy jar and leaf jar my kids brought home, and let's not forget the awesome goodie bags! I am so proud of our community for coming together to provide some fall fun at recess for ALL Lockwood students. I saw firsthand the joy and happiness this brought to our Lockwood Leopards! A few of our classes have done some field trips and incursions plus some apple cider pressing. We also had our first session of Mini Units making art with bottlecaps and I will say our art project received "oohhs" and "aahhs" by many Lockwood Leopards!

We have also been working on connecting as a community. We had a fun pumpkin painting event and some classes have had play dates at parks or via Zoom calls to get to know each other better. Each event or Zoom will continue to foster our PACE community and we will grow stronger and stronger! In addition to all of these great things, all classes started Spanish in early October! Wow, that is a lot!

So, what is our plan to finish out 2021 strong and start 2022 off right?

- We are currently starting our PACE tours for families to potentially join our wonderful community! Have you spoken to any friends about joining our PACE program? It is all of us that truly make PACE what is and what it will be so please share with your friends why you chose PACE. On Friday, a new parent said "I love PACE" after being part of Mini Units - this warmed my heart so much and really is the reason we do all this work! To see our kids happy and learning plus the parents involved in all action!
- We will continue to do more field trips (I know a few classes have booked Living Voices) and more community events. We have amazing parent education speakers in motion now and later the spring.
- We have re-enrollment happening in January for all current families, then our PACE lottery in February.
- Our second session of Mini Units will be in early March and we will have the Toy Maker join us for this fun session.

Thank you all for being part of our PACE community and for being supportive in all the twists and turns that this year has given us. As we get toward the end of 2021, I will be reflecting on this year and all that we have accomplished plus how we can continue to improve in 2022.

- Jessica R.

PACE at Lockwood President



## FIRST GRADE



Welcome back to school! Our first graders have hit the ground running this school year. Many are eager to get back in the classroom and are already settling in well to the day-to-day routines that keep their class running so smoothly. Whether it's the "number of the day" at morning meeting or taking the library bin filled with books back, each student has an eagerness to help and takes pride in each task they are asked to complete. If you visit our classroom, you will witness them completing the tasks assigned to them independently with a happy heart, and always encouraging each other while they work.

During reading and writing time this year, they've been working hard on improving penmanship and diving into the book *Tomas and the Library Lady* by Pat Mora, breaking down story elements and talk about how books change the life of a young man named Tomas. They talked about the characters and acted out the story in small groups. This deep dive into a single story has encouraged them to express a higher-level thinking in all stories. During their own independent reading time, they've been encouraged to notice and wonder more about the story they're reading. This practice has spilled over into all aspects of their classroom life. They even have a chart to track how long they can independently silent read, so far they are up to 15 minutes and counting. Very impressive for

first graders! Often during writing time, you will find them all on their feet with hands extended listening to instructions from Mrs. Ekstrom on how to make the shape of a letter, copying her movements in the air calling it "sky writing." There has already been a big improvement in their writing!

So far this year, there have been a few special events the classroom has thoroughly enjoyed. Art docent projects about lines and a class favorite "crazy leaves," which you can still see displayed proudly around the classroom. Learning virtually with Naturevision about healthy water and soil has piqued their interest in the fall climate around them. Then the Fall Festival and classroom party made a significant impact on all of them. Bingo and mummy crafts and all the fun games set out during recess helped them all feel like school is "just the best!" To top of these first few weeks of school, our classroom was awarded the Golden PAWS award on October 29th. Mrs. Ekstrom is so proud that her class strives to be the best students they can and loves the fact that they can all be so kind to each other – laughing and telling jokes together. She hopes the fun spirit of our classroom will continue throughout the whole year!

- **Natalie V.**

## SECOND GRADE



Second-grade PACE has been busy during the first few months of school. Everyone seems happy to be back in the classroom to learn with Mr. Wallace and their classmates. Students are social distancing and diligently follow the face mask rules. Also, as an extra precaution, during lunch the class has been eating outside, rain or shine, to get some fresh air. They mostly eat in the courtyard but during rainy days the class eats under an outdoor shelter so make sure your kiddos are dressed for the weather. And speaking of lunch, Mr. Wallace, the PACE volunteers, and the students have gotten the lunchtime routine working like a well-oiled machine. Great job everybody!

September 24th-26th brought camping at Kayak Point. Campsites were filled by PACE families and many more families attended for daytime activities as well. The weather cooperated and everyone enjoyed the time outside and getting to know each other. For many families, this was the first experience of the PACE community. It was definitely great to meet and connect with students and families during this outing.

Models of the Earth orbited by the Moon were made during their science unit. Students learned about the surface of our

planet then used that knowledge to create a 3D model out of air-dry clay.

The class enjoyed their first field trip via Zoom to Northwest Tide Pool Exploration with the Seattle Aquarium during October. In November, Nature Vision came to class in-person and explained the life cycle of salmon. Students got to see preserved specimens of salmon eggs and young through the first 125 days of life then, as teams, they built a salmon nest known as a "redd". Students then actively witnessed how water usage and conservation efforts affect the salmon eggs in our local streams.

During PE, students were challenged to run one mile outside on the track. This must have inspired the class for Leopard Laps because our kids were ready to do some running! The leader board had Mr. Wallace's class in FIRST PLACE raising a donation of \$2,922. Way to go SECOND GRADE PACE!!!

The next art docent lesson will take place on November 10th. For the October lesson, Art Docents explained foreground, midground, and background. At the end of October students got to experience cider making and even got to sample a couple variations. Beckett said, "I liked the warm spiced

## SECOND GRADE (cont.)



cider the best." Students also learned about Dia de Los Muertos and made an ofrenda for the classroom. Sayuri said, "My favorite project was making the sugar skull masks for Dia de Los Muertos." And Isla and Arianna's dad, Arman, who is a radiologist, came to school and talked about radiology in connection with the students learning about the human skeleton. The students got to create "x-rays" of their own hand.

Finally, when asked what project he liked the best, Masato said, "I like math and science." Well, that says a lot and I have to agree with Masato's sentiment. It must be difficult to narrow things down when they are learning so many things in such an engaging manner. I can't wait to see what this second-grade class will learn next!

- Dana H.

## THIRD GRADE



We started this 2021-22 school year in person with brave hearts, excitement, and all the COVID safety protocols. I know my kids could not wait to go to school, even if they had to wear masks all day and still social distance. The ability to be in one classroom with friends was very exuberating. Our students were greeted by new-to-PACE teacher Mrs. Beth Dawson. She had an open heart, big smile, lots of patience, and a wall full of books for our kids. Now, after about three months, we could not be luckier to have her.

"Be a Rainbow in Someone Else's Cloud" by Maya Angelou is our third-grade classroom's motto. Encouragement, compassion, and kindness to one another, and team work will be the main drive for our students. Our third graders settled into their brand-new classroom by choosing their own desk, decorating their lockers, exploring endless walls of classroom books, and reviewing school PAWS pillars as well classroom expectations. The students wrote about themselves, their favorite things, how they learn, and what motivates them.

During math, students reviewed some addition and learned the beginning of the Fibonacci sequence. The classroom jumped right in to different multiplication and division facts, how to use arrays, and how to measure an area or perimeter of an object. Kids revisited different measurement units and continue practicing writing equations to solve word problems. It is so much fun to volunteer during math small groups with our kids.

They also brainstormed ideas for their narrative, filled in a graphic organizer, started their first draft, and read their fiction books, then wrote about the characters' traits, emotions, and motivation. Students work in small groups in class during writing to focus on their specific needs in phonics, fluency, and comprehension. At home students can

practice their reading while playing Reading BINGO and practice their math through Math BINGO games. Each completed BINGO is rewarded with a treat.

We had our first Art Docent lesson about line, color, and polka dot artist Yayoi Kusama thanks to our wonderful parent volunteers. Our classroom turned in to a fun, abstract pumpkin patch that day.

Wednesdays are all about science and social studies. Students learned about habitats, environments, and plant/animal adaptations. Currently third graders are learning about different types of force and motion. Hands-on small groups are the best way to learn, especially science. There are many future engineers in our class!

Our kids and families had a wonderful time during the PACE Kayak Point camping trip at the end of September. Pitching a tent in the dark with a flashlight is definitely a skill worth learning. Rain held off just until it was time to pack up. So many wonderful memories were made. We are very grateful to all parent volunteers who made this trip happen.

Most recently we had much needed fun during the pumpkin decorating park play date and Fall Festival games. Lastly, our students were lucky to experience and learn how to make freshly squeezed apple cider thanks to the generosity of Mr. Wallace and his parents, who brought over a hand-cranked wooden cider press for us to try out.

Zoom Spanish classes with Senora Samantha are back! Our students revisited vocabulary about colors, numbers, and words related to the fall season and Halloween, and how to use them all in short sentences.

- Izabela M.

## FOURTH GRADE



In-person school is back in session, and the fourth graders have been busy both in and out of the classroom!

In the classroom, students have adjusted to new protocols like eating lunch in the classroom and wearing masks. In math, students have practiced their multiplication facts, learned various multiplication short-cut methods, and are on to multiplying double digit numbers. In reading, students have enjoyed reading with the lights out on Flashlight Friday, have set reading goals, and are on their way to reading 30 books of various genres during the school year. In writing, the students have worked on writing personal narratives and pen-pal letters to Ms. Leucke's fourth-grade class in another school district. In science, the students learned about sound waves. The students are learning about Washington State geography and working in small groups to create a large Washington tarp map. And the students have already begun weekly Spanish lessons! Somehow, Ms. Tradal has found time to do lessons on social/emotional skills and have the kids do special activities with their kindergarten buddies' class,

including reading to their buddies and giving them paper pumpkins.

Out of the classroom, the school and PACE have worked hard to offer fun, community-building activities, including spirit days (crazy-sock day and pajama day), Fall Festival parties, PACE family camping (nicest weather for this event in years), pumpkin decorating, and Mini Units where each class picked a theme and worked together to make bottle-cap murals of that theme. The fourth graders picked space/universe for their bottle-cap mural theme.

Looking back on the first few months of the fourth-grade school year, it is hard to believe how much Ms. Tradal and the fourth-grade PACE class have accomplished. Hope everyone gets some rest over the upcoming holiday days off! Thank you to Ms. Tradal and the PACE parent volunteers for making the start of this school year a great one!

- **Cathy B.**

## FIFTH GRADE



The fifth and final year of PACE began by testing the adaptability and positive outlook of our fifth-grade kids, and to the surprise of no one, they handled it with flying colors. They were thrilled to gain a new teacher in their final days of summer and welcoming Mrs. Parrott back to PACE was an easy transition to make, thanks to Mrs. Parrott. They also welcomed three new classmates in Calvin, Kaia, and Quinton.

Thanks to their three-ring binders, this group of students is more organized than many of their parents. Decimals dominated their days, and not just to measure how loud they were (ok, that's decibals). They are endeavoring to read 40

books in 40 nights (ok, that's an exaggeration - 40 books for the year), but what can't this group accomplish? Other highlights included explorer presentations, "living" in Boston during the 1700s, making baskets, and learning how to set goals.

Most exciting of all is the consistency of being in class together. Their final year at Lockwood is off to a great start.

- **Sean M.**