

# The PACESETTER

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF PACE AT LOCKWOOD – Spring 2022

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Hello PACE Families!

I'm so happy that spring is here and so are all of the typical enrichment activities! Spring brings so much beauty to our area with everything blooming, and I can say the same thing for PACE. We are getting close to the end of the year, and it is GO TIME!

It is great to see what we have done thus far in 2022...we have completed re-enrollment, added new families to PACE, Mini Units, incursions, virtual field trips, Spanish, plus so much more, and we are in the middle of planning two of our big enrichment events (Día Del Nino and Outdoor Ed). Plus, we are starting to go on offsite field trips! Thank you for sticking with us and embracing all that PACE has to offer!

- **Jessica R.**

PACE at Lockwood President

## FIRST GRADE



The arrival of spring has really brought out some joy in our whole school, but especially our first-grade class. It is evident in all their toothless smiles every day. After having a great Valentine's Day party, including giving and receiving treats and cards, they have really started to show off their kindness and creativity. It was clear to see their pride and excitement about their own boxes made at home to put their gifts in. Our art docent has guided and encouraged our kids through several art projects the last few weeks. Seeing the students struggle through a difficult task, and be proud of their final project, has brought new art hanging all over the classroom and memories made with such tangible results.

For Mini Units this past month, we hosted the "School of Toy" and got the chance to create two different toys out of ordinary materials. As our students witnessed firsthand, there are so many ways to be creative in our world and it was so wonderful to see their efforts and participation for that day. It allowed for the science lesson to be better understood for this age group, with the subjects of light and sound. Even though the

demonstration was over at 11am, the theme carried until they all went home. Many kids are still talking about their toys and how they have added to them on their own time, and come to school sharing what they have learned.

Continuing with our writing lessons this year, the class was asked to bring in a collection of 3-5 items that represents themselves, and spent some time learning how to build opinions and learn more about each other. So many rocks, shells, and unique toys were brought in to share. They all followed very specific instructions to write about what, in their opinion, the best item in their collection was and why. So great to see all the students giving and receiving their opinions and smiling through all of it. Something many of us adults are still trying to work on in our daily lives; we should try to take a small piece of our first graders' kindness and generosity to listen and learn about others' opinions all with a smile on.

- **Natalie V.**

## SECOND GRADE



Earlier this year, second-grade PACE students began caring for and observing coho salmon eggs that now, after 100+ days, have transformed into fry. The salmon are the main focus of a scientific procedure writing project. Students observed one eye is visible inside the egg before they hatch. The eggs hatched into alevins, showing students the attached yolk sack that nourishes them until they grow into fry. In about a month, the fry will be released into our own local Swamp Creek. This is such a meaningful experience for our children to witness this transformation firsthand, and play a part in the conservation of our local natural resources.

On Friday, March 4th, students engaged in a Mini Unit lesson with The Toy Maker, Rick Hartman. Students took part in an Art and STEM themed lesson where they built toys using rubber band power. By the end of the lesson, students proudly brought home their completed toy boats to enjoy or continue decorating. Primary and complementary colors and the color wheel were the focus of a recent Art Docent lesson. Using the color wheel, students could observe primary colors then discover complementary colors. Students advanced their learning by creating a “rainy scene” depicting a person with an

umbrella. The umbrella was decorated as the color wheel. The Star of the Week program began a couple weeks ago and students are enjoying learning more about each other. Every student will have a turn to share information about themselves and favorite items in front of the class. After sharing, the “Star” answers a few questions from the class then every student gives their opinion of why the “Star” student is special. Students are encouraged to consider the Pyramid of Success to illustrate specialness. The Pyramid of Success highlights character traits useful to students in everyday life such as: poise, confidence, skill, team spirit, self-control, alertness, loyalty, friendship, and cooperation. Once the sharing is completed, students then write the “Star” a letter which states their specialness and evidence that supports it. This project is focused on opinion writing and will take place over the next few weeks of school. Upon completion, each student will have a keepsake from their second-grade classmates that reminds them of how special they truly are.

- Dana H.

## THIRD GRADE



Happy spring!

I am excited for this time of the year. I hope you had a great winter break and have fun plans for spring break. Since we have had more sunny days, our students have enjoyed more lunches outside.

Our third grade welcomed five more students at the beginning of February, and they are a great addition to Mrs. Dawson's class.

For the past few months, kids worked on poetry and figurative language. Next, they are gearing up to practice for the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) that will happen in May. Each week students practice a new set of words, their spelling, and definition. Shortly after the last PACEsetter, our students had their big biography presentation. I was so proud of each and every student and their hard work. The result was amazing!

During math, kids master time, reading and drawing graphs, measurements of length, distance, weight, liquid, and area.

We had loads of fun during the Valentine's Day Kindness Party. Students exchanged their kindness and Valentine's cards, and painted their own rock and bookmark. During the month of February, we also started a new tradition – a kindness & friendship paper chain. It is slowly growing in length. Next time

you have a chance to be in the classroom, check it out hanging along the top of the bookcase.

Recently, students earned a classroom party. The vote was cast and it was a movie-popcorn-no-math-day party. We also had a wonderful time and loads of loud fun with Rick Hartman – aka “Toy Maker” during our recent Mini Units. Kids built their own magnet swing while learning, discovering, and experimenting all about pulling and pushing forces.

Speaking of science, thanks to The Pacific Science Center and our amazing parent volunteers, our students went on a few virtual, live field trips since the last newsletter. We did Living Voices, Radical Reactions – chemical reactions and the Renewable Resources. The hands-on chemical experiment about different reactions was a stinky but oh-so-satisfying experiment. Our third graders also discovered how much teamwork, resources, and money it takes to protect flood-prone cities. New Orleans was one of the examples. Students also worked on their Science Fair experiment and presentation. Their work included a Google slideshow and bulletin board presentation to show their understanding of the scientific method.

PE this time around is all about the Summer Olympics and started with gymnastics.

- Izabela M.

## FOURTH GRADE



It's spring and the fourth-grade PACE students have been busy. In math, the students finished their unit on division and have started their unit on measurement. In reading and writing, the class is reading the book *My Horse's Tale*, which includes 10 adventures that take place in Washington state over 10 decades, beginning in the 1890's. The students have also read nonfiction text, as they researched and then completed writing their informational reports focused on various topics in an assigned region of Washington state. The students then moved on to prepare and give a speech in front of the class on the topic of *My Favorite Green Thing*. In science, the fourth graders learned about the brain, learned about electrical circuits while making DIY light wands, conducted a class bubble gum experiment, and discovered the pH scale while creating chemical reactions with various ingredients. This was all great practice as the students also worked on their own individual science fair projects that

were entered into the Lockwood Elementary Science Fair at the end of March.

Somehow Ms. Tradal still found time to have other fun experiences in the classroom for the fourth graders, including a Snohomish County PUD presentation, a class Valentine's Day party, a Pacific Science Center virtual trip, PACE Mini Units with the toymaker (revisiting circuits while making battery-operated tops that reminded students of the popular toy Beyblades, and static electricity while making hopping dots), and Lockwood PTA Career Day presentations. And finally, with spring, the popular tumbling session began in PE, music class switched to Ms. Abdi, and the students continued to enjoy weekly Spanish class. Thank you to Ms. Tradal and all of the school staff and volunteers that make these additional learning experiences possible!

- **Cathy B.**

## FIFTH GRADE



As we've sprung forward our clocks, the "sun" (seems to be an elusive object in the Pacific Northwest) sets later in the evening, and it seems like our fifth-grade PACE kids have turned the corner and are now headed down the backstretch of their final year at Lockwood. But we haven't hit the finish line yet and there's still much to do and so much fun to be had.

The past few months have seen the kids doing some pretty cool stuff outside of their purple packets and vocabulary worksheets. Rick The Toymaker came to class for Mini Units and each student made two toys. The Science Fair saw each of them put their white coats on and dive into an experiment of their own choosing. They came up with their question, did their research, made a hypothesis, documented their procedures, collected their data, tabulated the results, and came to their conclusions. No doubt that someday one of these bright kids will one day be doing the same for *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

That journal was first published in 1812, which isn't relevant, but did come between the class simulations. The Boston Simulation during the revolution has wrapped up and the kids have now traded in their tea bags for munitions and supplies to take part in their new simulation, *The Civil War*. Before long they'll be saying things like "Four score and seven years ago ..."

No doubt our farmers in the 19th century could have used some of the knowledge the kids soaked in during Wheat Week, where our local Conservation District taught the students about systems, soil, water, DNA, energy, and so much more. No doubt the next trip to Eastern Washington will be so much more interesting!

Speaking of trips, the kids are looking forward to getting out of the classroom in the next few months for Camp Cedar Springs and Outdoor Ed. Let's hope that elusive sun makes an appearance! As they say at the racetrack, "and down the stretch they come ..."

- **Sean M.**