

# The PACESetter

*A Quarterly Publication of PACE at Lockwood*



*photo from 1st grade field trip to the zoo*

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

*By Nina Madsen, PACE President*

In the blink of an eye, we are halfway through the 2024-25 school year! To say this year is flying by would be an understatement. The past couple months saw lots of field trips, incursions, art docent projects, and our Winter Mini Units. The winter break was a needed reprieve, as we still have so much to look forward to, and so much work to do.

It is re-enrollment and lottery season - a busy time for our tours and membership volunteers. We have just started up our Spanish classes with Ms Michaelah (ask your student to share what they've learned, and practice at home!), and are looking forward to having the Toymaker in all our classes in February.

Before we know it, Spring Mini Units and our March general meeting and Spring Auction will be upon us! As you read up on what has been happening in the Lockwood PACE classrooms, please take a moment to remember that none of these enrichments and experiences would be possible without your time, dedication, and engagement with this community. Thank you so much for all you've done and continue to do for our kiddos. I hope you are staying warm during this cold winter weather, and I look forward to seeing you around!

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**FEB 18 - 21 - MID-WINTER BREAK**

**MAR 18 - SILENT AUCTION**

**MAR 18 - GENERAL MEETING**

## FIRST GRADE

by Teresa B.

As winter settles in, our first graders are fully embracing their routines, learning new things, and continuing to develop their friendships. After our exciting field trip to the Woodland Park Zoo, we were thrilled to bring the adventure into the classroom with a special Insect Safari incursion. The students took a deep dive into the world of bugs, learning about their life cycles, habitats, and the important roles they play in our ecosystem. It was a perfect way to build on the animal knowledge they gained at the zoo and dive deeper into the fascinating world of insects!

In math, our first graders have continued making excellent progress, moving from story problems to mastering subtraction, exploring place value, and working with numbers to 100. They are growing more confident with every lesson and are always excited to share their problem-solving strategies!



Reading and writing are in full swing! Our first graders are mastering irregular words, practicing cursive writing, and building fluency.

They've also been focused on their 2025 New Year's Resolutions, where they set goals for the year and illustrated them. In addition, they compared winter holiday traditions from around the world, capturing their findings in a special book complete with drawings. This project not only helped them explore different cultural celebrations, but also gave them the chance to practice their writing and storytelling. Our "Weekend News" project continues to be a favorite, allowing students to reflect on their weekend adventures through writing and illustrations.

Our class has been doing an amazing job of working together and acting responsibly, earning them the Golden Paw award. In addition, they filled their Warm Fuzzies jar not once, but twice! To celebrate, they first enjoyed a fun Movie Party and then had a



special Penguin Party, where Mrs. M. dressed as a penguin making the celebration even more memorable. It's been wonderful to see them embrace kindness, cooperation, and positive actions in such a fun and rewarding way.

A big thank you to our volunteers and families for their continued support. Your involvement helps make these experiences possible and enriches our students' learning journey. Here's to a continued winter of growth, creativity, and lots of fun!

## SECOND GRADE

*by Evie P. and Karen N.*

Our second graders have had an eventful November, December and January! In November, the kids enjoyed a lovely Veteran's Day Assembly, had conferences, and had a buddy PJ and hot cocoa day, which was a big hit. With December came Mini Units and mid-winter break. In January, they've started Spanish, had a speaker from Nature Vision, and had a PJ and stuffy day.

The Nature Vision lesson will help the kids be more prepared with the life science unit coming up. The kids will also be having a big Lunar New Year celebration. In math, the kids have spent a lot of time learning how to measure in feet, inches and centimeters. They have also focused on regrouping with addition and learning place values. Soon they will be learning how to borrow to subtract.

## THIRD GRADE

*by Eric M.*

Good news - our "Swabbies" 3rd graders finally had their first field trip of the year, with a visit to the Moore Theater in downtown Seattle along with the other 3rd grade classes to see the STOMP dance and music show in the morning before coming back to school for a late sack lunch, followed by recess and assembly.

In reading, the kids created fairytale stories and began reading "Wild Robot". Many of them attended movie night at

Lockwood to see the movie!

They have also been working on speed and efficiency and how to better comprehend what they are reading by doing story retells. Mrs. Suh

is doing a great job motivating and pushing the kids to learn and grow. Soon the kids will focus on reading and writing poems.

In art, the kids learned about form and didn't want the lesson to end. They went home with big smiles and their creations.



The class enjoyed this high volume experience and are looking forward to a host of upcoming field trips throughout the rest of the winter and into the spring!

It's been a winter of learning, sharing, and growing academically, socially, and emotionally for our 3rd graders.

### 3RD GRADE CONTINUED...

As we brave the long dark here, the class has been learning about things that undergo cycles and seasons, from learning reading skills & strategies and becoming critical readers who can understand purpose and techniques from examples drawn from sports fiction, to perfecting their spelling of months.

They are learning about the way the world works - including the physics and engineering of the build load-bearing competition, where our 3rd graders partnered with students with other PACE grades and parent volunteers to work together to build bridges.



They are learning to be considerate and empathetic human beings that support each other - with the Winter Book Exchange, they are picking books for each other. And, there's been a lot of celebration - from winter gingerbread cookies in December to Mr. Seay's birthday in January. Thank you Mr. Seay for everything you do!

## FOURTH GRADE

by Ellen S.

It's always exciting and busy around the holidays and this year was no different. A rare bomb cyclone storm hit our area and knocked out power to homes and schools in the school district, resulting in two days off for the students. They returned to school in time for parent-teacher conferences that were student-led. Each student prepared a slide presentation for their parent(s) showing what they knew and wanted to learn.

The class enjoyed a field trip to the Space Needle and Seattle Children's Theatre to watch a performance of the Snow Queen. The class took advantage of the amazing weather and had lunch outside and walked around the Seattle Center fountain before heading back to school.

In math, students have been working hard to solve division problems using the Place Value Section Method, Expanded Notation and Digit-by-Digit methods. Although most of us parents learned division using the Digit-by-Digit method, it's important that students learn all three methods.

4TH GRADE CONTINUED...

In science, the students have been learning about the different types of energy: sound, heat, motion, chemical and electrical. Speakers from Snohomish County PUD visited the class.

The class practiced their writing skills by writing a persuasive essay which included a counterargument and rebuttal. They also continued reading a Horse's Tale, a story about Washington history from 1890-1908 and answering questions.

The class (and teachers) earned a well-deserved winter break after such a flurry of activities in November and December.

## FIFTH GRADE

by Brook B.

The PACE 5th Graders have had a busy season!

They spent a lot of time learning about indigenous groups and their societies, culminating in building home structures, which were stress tested with wind and environmental factors.

They also enjoyed a very educational field trip to the Brightwater Wastewater Treatment Plant, where they experimented both in the field and in the lab.

