

# The PACESetter

*A Quarterly Publication of PACE at Lockwood*



## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

*By Chris Gray, PACE President*

We are almost 3 months into the school year! In this short amount of time, there is a lot we have accomplished and so much to celebrate. Even before school started, so much was already underway for Family Camping and Outdoor Ed. Countless hours were spent on both beloved Enrichments. The Family Camping team adapted plans and activities to account for hosting this activity a month earlier. This meant adjusting movie night plans to account for more daylight, to moving class photos to account for the sun, and experiencing the joys of the beach at Kayak Point. So many fun memories were made enjoying time outdoors with friends. What a way to say goodbye to summer!

The start of the school year kicked off with Outdoor Education. This enrichment is the product of two years' worth of planning and preparation, and many, many volunteer hours. It is a testament to the strengths and commitment of this community to create such a rich and memorable experience for our kids. So much time and intention went into organizing groups, creating class schedules, and ensuring permission slips were accounted. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this enrichment a success.

PACE at Lockwood also hosted the annual Fall Festival. What a fun way to celebrate the season! My kids especially loved the tattoos and goodies they got to bring home.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**DEC 1 - VOLUNTEER HOURS DUE**

**DEC 8 - 9 - MINI UNITS**

**DEC 16 - STAFF APPRECIATION**

**DEC 22 - WINTER BREAK**

*A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT continued...*

I am very proud of everything this community and PACE at Lockwood accomplished so far. These events wouldn't have been possible without the dedication and commitment of our amazing volunteers. Thank you for all that you do to enrich the learning of our children!

## FIRST GRADE

*by Akshay Ram and Pavithra Kannan*

The Terrific Turtles have had quite the fall! From muddy shoes at Outdoor Ed to flower dissections, our first graders have been busy learning, laughing, and growing together. It's been a season filled with curiosity, kindness, and a whole lot of fun.

In class, students have been sharpening their reading and writing skills. They love catching the "mistakes" in their teacher's sentences (almost a little too much!) and are getting better at remembering to use those same rules in their own writing. Now, they're diving into their first big project—researching animals for their very own reports. It's amazing to see how seriously they take note-taking when it involves sharks, sloths, and snow leopards.

Kindness has been another big focus this fall. The class has been noticing small acts of helpfulness—like cleaning up a friend's spilled pencil box or lending an eraser at just the right time. It's heartwarming to see how one tiny good deed can turn someone's whole day around. The turtles are learning that teamwork and kindness make the classroom a better place for everyone.

Outdoor Ed was an adventure to remember. The kids explored owl pellets, made tie-dye shirts, cooked outdoors, studied sea life, and followed nature trails like little explorers. Everyone came home a little tired, a little muddy, and very proud. A few weeks later, they learned how colors attract pollinators, examined flower parts up close, and even got to dissect one. It turns out, flowers are a lot more interesting once you've taken one apart!

The fall festivities have kept spirits high despite the rainy weather. Trunk or Treat was a hit—even in the downpour—and the upcoming Fall Festival promises more laughter and crafts before the turkey season begins. The Move-a-Thon also got everyone moving (and fundraising), proving once again that Lockwood kids can run fast when pizza and doughnuts are on the line.

Back in the classroom, art time has been a burst of creativity. The students' colorful line projects are now brightening up the windows for everyone walking by. Between that, their growing stacks of writing, and the proud "I can read this!" moments, it's clear the Terrific Turtles are thriving.

*FIRST GRADE by Akshay Ram and Pavithra Kannan continued...*

It's been a wonderful start to the school year, filled with energy, discovery, and plenty of smiles. Here's to the next season of learning, laughter, and a few more muddy shoes along the way.

A big thank you to Mrs. Iverson and Ms. Esping for guiding our Terrific Turtles with such patience, humor, and heart. They make first grade feel like one big adventure—and the kids wouldn't have it any other way.

## SECOND GRADE

*by Josh Trygg*

Second graders have been busy engaging in hands-on learning experiences across subjects—exploring science, art, language, and the world around them through curiosity and collaboration.

Students participated in Outdoor Education Day, rotating through a variety of hands-on learning stations. Activities included cooking shish kebabs and dessert quesadillas, dissecting owl pellets, exploring composting, and creating tie-dye bandanas. Students also learned how to navigate trails using a compass, applying practical map and direction skills. The day concluded with a family event featuring The Falconer, whose live presentation of birds of prey offered an unforgettable look at raptors and their role in the environment.

The Fire Department visited to teach about fire safety, encouraging students to think critically about emergency preparedness. Each child received a pencil and a family fire escape plan card, designed to promote safety conversations at home.

A guest educator from Nature Vision led an exploration of man-made and organic materials, helping students understand the impact of human activity on the environment. Students reflected on practical ways to reduce waste and protect living things in their communities.

During a field trip to the Salmon Hatchery, students observed the salmon lifecycle in action. They fed trout, examined hatchery equipment, and learned how the salmon's journey connects to local ecosystems and conservation efforts.

In the classroom, students engaged in their first Art Docent lesson, studying tint and shading to see how light and color interact in visual art. A creative "reading in the dark" activity with glow sticks added a fun and imaginative twist to reading time.

Students also began weekly Spanish lessons, learning foundational vocabulary such as greetings, numbers, and colors. They recently applied their new language skills by following a Spanish recipe to make trail mix, combining culture, language, and collaboration in an engaging activity.

## THIRD GRADE

by Jason Tenenbaum

The first few months of 3rd grade are officially behind us, and students in Mrs. Jiang's class have settled into the school year. Since September, our days have been packed with academics, specialty classes, and special events — including several exciting “firsts”.

This fall, students kicked off Spanish class, joined our first PACE-wide event at Outdoor Ed, and enjoyed their first in-class field trip for an insect safari. Mrs. Jiang brings joy and curiosity into the classroom every day. In early October, students learned about the Moon Festival, an important harvest celebration in Chinese culture, and even enjoyed tasting traditional mooncakes.

Outdoor Ed was a highlight of the season. On a beautiful fall day, students practiced outdoor cooking, learned about birds from a local falconer, and dissected sea creatures with a NOAA scientist. Back at school, guest teacher Mr. Don introduced students to the world of entomology and brought along live “insect ambassadors,” including fluorescent scorpions and several varieties of stick bugs.

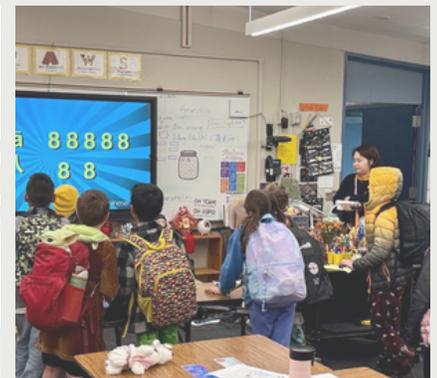
Fall Festival was also a big hit! Students arrived in cozy pajamas, rotated between themed activities in different classrooms, enjoyed warm drinks and treats, and wrapped up the day watching fun and engaging videos that taught them to count in different languages.

In reading, students are exploring what makes a character compelling and are developing strategies such as summarizing, retelling, and understanding media techniques and text structure. They are also studying literary elements — including character, setting, plot, and events — and experimenting with figurative language like hyperbole and onomatopoeia.

In art, students enjoyed their first lesson with our Art Docents, where they learned about value in color and created pieces to take home. They also designed Labubu-inspired artwork (now on display in the classroom) and completed a seasonal project blending art and storytelling: drawing a creative pumpkin and writing a narrative about what makes it the best pumpkin in its patch.

Looking ahead, there is much to be excited about! Mini-Units begin in December, followed by field trips in December and a stage production in January.

We are grateful for a wonderful start to the school year and look forward to the months ahead, full of learning, growth, friendship, and fun.

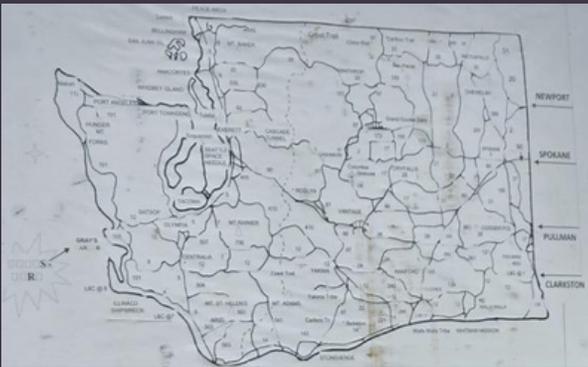


## FOURTH GRADE

by Laura and Loi Nguyen

An amazing year is on tap for our fourth graders under the guidance of the equally amazing Ms Hong. About two months into the school year and sooo much learning and activities have happened, from field trips, to lessons, to festivals.

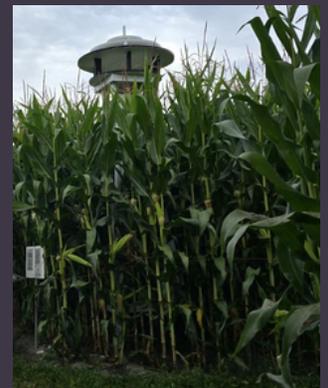
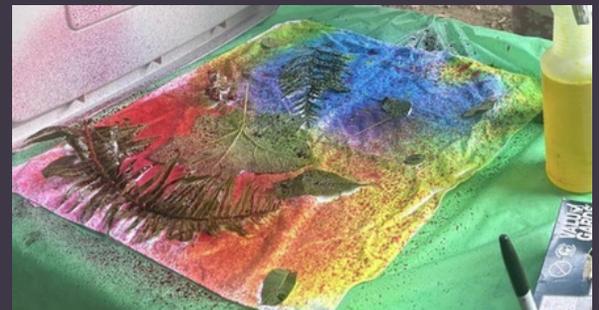
Lets start with the lessons. In the classroom, the kids recently learned about shading during art. Some kids think shading is just coloring, but slower. Shading is much more, when you add light and shadow, the drawing comes alive. Switching now to creative writing, they are practicing their personal narrative stories in a way that are full of emotion, details, and reflections. It could be a story about camping or about a Lion exhibit.



Learning about cultural and seasonal festivals are wonderful ways for the kids to connect with the season and learn about different cultures. During Mid-Autumn festival, they got to make traditional hot tea, share the tasty treats of moon cake, and play games. Next up was the fall festival, where the kids played bingo, sipped on hot cider or cocoa, made pumpkin monsters out of foam, bracelets and suncatchers. What a wonderful way to make learning engaging and meaningful.

Drum roll please, and last but not least, outdoor educational field trips. The first outing of the year, Outdoor Education, was an awesome start to the year. So many things happened that day, from a lesson on composting, navigating directions, cooking some yummy food, memorable tie dying of bandanas, and the big learning experience of examining owl vomit (called a pellet or casting) for all sorts of indigestible stuff from fur to rat skeletons, to letting loose on the playground with fellow class mates. The second outing was to a farm; what better way to enjoy the Pacific Northwest fall then a trip to the Pumpkin Patch! The kids experienced live animals, ran through a WA state shape corn maze, and took group photos.

The invaluable lessons of hands on learning, exploration, and connection to nature were made possible by the awesome PACE community....let's go PACE.



## FIFTH GRADE

*excerpts from Beth Dawson*

The PACE fifth grade is off to an amazing start. We did our Inca Rope Bridge STEM build, and I have never been so impressed with a class of 5th graders! The winning group not only made a beautiful bridge that held all the weight without tipping over, but they did it in 25 minutes! I think there are some future engineers in this class!

Our next highlight was the visit to the Salmon Hatchery, where the students learned a lot of interesting information! This not only connects back to their 2nd-grade learning, but also applies to our 5th-grade ecosystems science unit. It was great being able to go with Mrs. Suh's 2nd-grade class. Thank you, volunteers, who made this possible!

The class has been exploring Native American research. Ask your child which nation they are researching. We reviewed that Google and the AI summary are not sources. Ms Dawson provided many sources for students to complete their research. You can also look at the King County Library for additional books.

We have also been studying the Mayan Civilization and how important water management is to them both in the rainy mountainous regions and in the karst plain region of the Yucatan Peninsula. The students are applying ancient knowledge to develop innovative solutions for today's water management challenges. For our first STEM build, we built a Mayan Aqueduct to transport water over different terrain. The winning team got the most water to their reservoir, stayed within the constraints, and met all criteria. Great job!

The latest exciting event was the "hot chocolate party" in October, where the class ground up genuine cacao beans to make mexican hot chocolate, and prepared their own salsa and homemade tortillas.

What a year it's already been - and we're looking forward to our next amazing adventures and dazzling discoveries!