

The PACESetter

A Quarterly Publication of PACE at Lockwood



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Chris Gray, PACE President

Spring is here and I am excited for the shifting of seasons. It is hard to believe we are nearing the end of March and heading into the last few months of the 2025-2026 school year.

Since the last PACEsetter Newsletter, our Membership Team completed re-enrollment of current families and the PACE lottery with Lockwood Admin. They are hard at work continuing to welcome new families to PACE for the upcoming school year.

The Nominating Committee also met several times over the last few months. They continue to meet weekly to organize and confirm PACE roles for next year. So much is already underway to prepare for the 2026-2027 school year!

As I reflect upon everything that we've accomplished so far and the months ahead, I am filled with appreciation and deep gratitude for our community. The commitment and dedication to enriching the learning experience for our children is what makes PACE truly special.

While you read through the newsletter, I hope you take a moment to pause and celebrate all that this community has accomplished and your role in helping to make this program run.

Thank you for all that you do in support of our children!

UPCOMING EVENTS

APR 6-10 - SPRING BREAK
APR 16 - PTA CAREER DAY

APR 17 - PTA BINGO NIGHT 6:30
APR 22-23 - 5TH GRADE CAMP

FIRST GRADE

by Akshay Ram and Pavithra Kannan

Spring has arrived, and the Terrific Turtles are in full stride. With routines firmly in place and confidence growing, the classroom feels a little louder, a little busier, and a lot more fun. The second half of first grade is clearly where things start to click—and the turtles are showing it every day.

The class has been celebrating some well-earned wins along the way. After working hard to demonstrate their PAWS traits, students filled their reward jar once again and voted—no surprise here—for another Stuffy Day. It turns out that learning is even more enjoyable when your stuffed animal is quietly observing math, reading, and writing (and very responsibly staying in the classroom during recess).

In literacy, students wrapped up their “Celebrate America” unit, exploring holidays, national monuments, and new vocabulary along the way. They practiced making predictions, identifying main ideas, and paying attention to text features—all while picking up fun facts. Many can now confidently tell you how long it takes to get to the top of the Washington Monument, which is both impressive and a very specific dinner table conversation starter.

Writing has also taken an exciting turn, with students developing their opinion writing skills. From debating the best ice cream flavor to arguing passionately about their favorite season, they are learning how to organize their thoughts, support their ideas, and take pride in their progress. The growth from first drafts to final pieces has been especially rewarding to see.

Beyond academics, the classroom has been filled with creativity and celebration. The Friendship Day Party brought together crafts, cookie decorating, and thoughtful acts of kindness. Students created “love bugs,” designed bookmarks, and wrote heartfelt notes—some even destined for members of the senior community. It was a joyful reminder that first graders take both fun and kindness very seriously.

The past few months have also included memorable shared experiences. The Lunar New Year assembly introduced students to traditions like the lion dance and dragon dance, along with a bit of kung fu. The Toymaker visit quickly became a class favorite, turning students into young engineers for the day. They built two toys to take home: a simple musical instrument using rubber bands stretched across a cup to explore sound and pitch, and a motion picture toy that demonstrated optical illusion—leaving many to wonder, “Was the fish really inside the jar?” The combination of hands-on building and a bit of mystery made it a memorable learning experience. A field trip to the Children’s Museum added another layer of exploration, giving students the chance to learn through play, experimentation, and a bit of well-directed chaos.

Art and culture have continued to play an important role in the classroom. In recognition of Black History Month, students learned about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and reflected on the power of words—sharing thoughtful ideas about how their own words can make a difference. They also explored the work of artist Alma Thomas, using her style as inspiration for their own colorful creations, many of which are now brightening the classroom windows.

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

Between spirit days, mini units, read-a-thon excitement, and the steady rhythm of daily learning, the Terrific Turtles are growing not just academically, but as a community. They are learning how to express ideas, support one another, and take pride in their work—skills that go far beyond first grade.

It has been a joyful and energetic start to the spring season, with plenty of curiosity, creativity, and a few more stuffies along the way.

Mrs. Iverson and Ms. Esping continue to create a classroom where curiosity is encouraged, creativity is celebrated, and every student feels supported. Their thoughtful guidance, along with the ongoing support from families, makes the Terrific Turtles classroom a place where students are excited to learn and grow each day.

SECOND GRADE

by Josh Trygg

Second graders continue to build skills across subjects through hands-on learning, creativity, and community involvement.

Students began using the Seesaw app to share their work, giving families a direct window into classroom learning. This private platform allows parents to view their child's work and leave comments, helping strengthen the connection between school and home.

Science learning continued with the support of docents, who guided students through investigations on soil properties and seed dispersal. Students explored how soil can vary and examined how the shape and structure of seeds affect how they travel.

In Mrs. Suh's math class, students applied their understanding of a classroom economy by using earned class money to shop at a class store.

This experience reinforced real-world money concepts and decision-making skills. Students are already looking forward to earning more for future shopping opportunities.

Students also participated in the PTA Read-a-Thon, demonstrating strong effort and generosity while helping raise funds to support the school community.

A field trip to see "Ada Twist, Scientist and Friends" at the Seattle Children's Theatre provided an engaging experience centered on creativity and problem-solving, brought to life through music and storytelling.

Students took part in the Toymaker project, where they designed and built boats using rulers. They tested their designs and raced them, exploring basic engineering concepts through experimentation and friendly competition.

THIRD GRADE

by Jason Tenenbaum

Spring has arrived, and our students continue to learn, grow, and stay busy with Mrs. Jiang. With longer days and lots of exciting activities, it's been a fun and meaningful stretch since our last update at the beginning of January. Our class even enjoyed some time outside with the surprise snow we received in March!

We kicked off February by welcoming a special visit from the Toymaker, where students participated in a Magnets and Motion workshop. Each student built their own toy, bringing these concepts to life in a creative and engaging way.

Our class also participated in the PACE-wide Spring Mini-Units, picking up where they left off in the fall. This gave everyone the opportunity to explore a new area of interest, including learning about and creating Coast Salish formline art, as well as designing a working lantern while studying Chinese art.

Just before mid-winter break, our class celebrated Lunar New Year with a festive party full of hands-on activities. Highlights included a chopsticks challenge, a decorative dragon and photo booth, and a Valentine's Day card exchange, making it a joyful and memorable celebration.

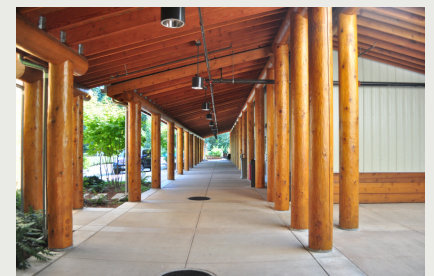
In March, our students participated in the school-wide Read-a-Thon, with an ambitious class goal of 17,460 minutes of reading. Students showed great dedication both in the classroom and at home, building strong reading habits and working together toward a shared goal.

In Spanish, students have been learning action verbs, adding to their growing vocabulary and confidence. In literacy, they are focusing on writing opinion pieces, learning how to clearly express their ideas and support them with reasons. Our students also met their little buddies for the first time, picking out books from home to read with them.

Most recently, our class took a field trip to the Hibulb Cultural Center in Tulalip. Students learned about the history and culture of the Tulalip Tribes.

Looking ahead, there are many exciting activities coming up, including a field trip to FrogLegs Cooking School and, of course, Spring Break right around the corner.

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FOURTH GRADE

by Laura and Loi Nguyen

What better way to start off the article than talking about field trips. All the fourth graders hopped on the BUS for a day trip to visit our state capitol in Olympia. Some of the students were just as equally excited for the fancy bus (not your normal yellow school bus, equipped with arm rests, and overhead tv screens that played happy feet and ratatouille) as they were for the capitol itself.

Once they arrived, the students got a guided tour of the grand rotunda, learned about the architecture, and the 7 different types of marble used in its construction. They also got to tour the chambers where the Senators and Representatives debate and vote on various legislation. Before departing, they got the chance to chat with the governor.



The field trip helped bring classroom lessons about civics to life. Instead of only reading about government, students were able to stand in the very rooms where democracy happens and how our government works.

Valentine's Day party brought smiles, laughter, and plenty of sugar to the classroom filled with cupcakes, creative games, and friendly competition. The celebration began with students sharing and exchanging valentines they had brought for their classmates. Of course, no Valentine's party would be complete without desserts.

Students enjoyed cupcakes and make your own popcorn mix with candy. The sweet treats gave everyone a burst of energy for the games that followed. Minute to win it games got the creativity juice flowing and the fast-paced brought plenty of laughter and a little bit of friendly competition.

Next up was the most popular game, it involved students having to use chopsticks to stack tiny candy hearts into a tall tower. It sounded simple, but students quickly discovered it took patience and steady hands. Some towers toppled over in seconds, while others grew taller and taller as determined students carefully balanced each piece.



By the end of the day, the fourth graders left with happy memories, a few extra treats, and plenty of stories to share at home.

To celebrate the year of the Horse of 2026, the students ring in Lunar New Year, with a parent guest speaker and make your own spring roll. The guest speaker was happy to come in and shared with the students their family traditions when celebrating the Vietnamese Lunar New Year called "Tet".

The students excitedly listened and learned about cultural traditions such as fireworks and red envelopes, and important dishes such as spring rolls and rice cakes. To top it off, the speaker taught the students the phrase "Chuc Mung Nam Moi", which is Vietnamese for "Happy New Year".

FOURTH GRADE by Laura and Loi Nguyen continued...

On to the hands-on experience, overseen by the awesome parent volunteers, of making your own Vietnamese spring roll. The volunteers brought in all the traditional fixings from rice paper, to noodles, to cucumber, to shrimp, and sauces to accompany. Unlike fried spring rolls, these are served fresh and are known for their light, refreshing taste. With ingredients spread out on the table, the fourth graders carefully followed the steps.



First, the rice paper wrapper was dipped briefly in warm water to soften it. Then came the fun part—choosing what to add inside, lettuce, rice noodles, sliced cucumbers, and shrimp were layered neatly in the center. Rolling the spring roll took patience and a little practice, but well worth the wonderful taste at the end. The student not only enjoyed a tasty snack but also gained a new appreciation for trying foods from different parts of the world.

FIFTH GRADE

excerpts from Beth Dawson

Fifth graders are embracing the final stretch of the school year with energy, enthusiasm, and a growing sense of independence..

In February, at the Friendship Party, students took time to write thoughtful notes to one another, exchanging kind words and encouragement. The room filled with smiles as classmates read messages that highlighted friendship, appreciation, and respect. It was a simple but powerful way to strengthen the sense of community that has grown throughout the year.

March kicked off with a celebration that combined math, creativity, and a bit of delicious fun. On March 13th, students marked Fraction and Pi Day, diving into the fascinating world of the number pi and its role in measuring the circumference, diameter, and area of a circle. Of course, no Pi Day celebration would be complete without a tasty twist—students enjoyed pizza “pies,” making the lesson both memorable and fun. It was the perfect blend of hands-on exploration and real-world connection.

The excitement continued with a field trip to the Museum of Flight, where students had the opportunity to explore aviation and space history up close. Walking among aircraft and exhibits, they connected classroom learning to real-world innovation, sparking curiosity about the science and technology of flight. This experience offered both inspiration and a deeper appreciation for human ingenuity.

Looking ahead, there is plenty more to anticipate: Fifth grade camp in April promises outdoor adventures and lasting memories with classmates. Students will take part in an overnight excursion to Pioneer Farms in May, where history will come to life through immersive, hands-on experiences. These upcoming trips mark important moments in the fifth grade journey, giving students the chance to grow not just academically, but socially and personally as well.

With strong friendships, expanding knowledge, and exciting experiences still ahead, students are making the most of every moment during this final chapter of elementary school.