

The PACESetter

A Quarterly Publication of PACE at Lockwood



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Chris Gray, PACE President

I enjoyed seeing everyone at our May General Meeting and celebrating our graduating 5th graders. Hearing the 5th grade reflect on their favorite PACE memories and experiencing the sweet slideshow reminded me of why I choose PACE for my family. The celebration is not just for our kids, but for the families as well! As a community, we celebrate the impact your time and deep care have had on this group of kids.

In the last 9 months our PACE community has accomplished so much. We kicked off the year with a summertime Family Camping and enjoyed warm weather and low tides. We welcomed 3 new teachers to PACE and experienced the first Outdoor Ed at a new Park. We continued the beloved tradition of Fall Festival and celebrated PNW art and culture with this year's 2 Mini Units sessions. Rick, the Toy Maker, brought hands on STEM learning with his toy builds.

Our children received 5 extra weeks of Spanish and celebrated Mexican culture with Dia del Niño at the end of April.

We are ending the school year with another cherished enrichment that we get to share with the entire Lockwood Community, Egg Drop! Thank you to Jessica Esping, Melissa Iverson, Nora Suh, Chenchao Jiang, Fan Hong, and Beth Dawson for creating an enriching, safe space for our children to learn and grow. Thank you to the parents and caregivers for investing your time, resources, and energy into this program. None of these enrichments would be possible without you.

In just a couple of weeks, we will say goodbye to the 2025-2026 school year and head into summer break. I cannot believe how fast this year has gone by. I want to thank this community for the privilege to lead PACE this past year. I cannot say thank you enough for your trust and support this past year. I am excited to "pass the gavel" to Holly Quindt. I know she and the incoming 2026-2027 board will do a fantastic job leading PACE next year. Wishing you and your family a restorative and joyful summer break!

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUN 5 - EGG DROP

JUN 17 - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

FIRST GRADE

by Akshay Ram and Pavithra Kannan

Spring has turned into early summer, and the Terrific Turtles are somehow already approaching the finish line of first grade. The backpacks may be heavier, the handwriting may be neater, and the students may be a few inches taller, but the curiosity and energy in the classroom are as strong as ever.

Spelling and word work have taken a slightly different path this spring. As students tackled trickier spelling patterns and r-controlled vowels, the class paused, reflected, and adjusted. Rather than focusing on scores, the emphasis shifted toward progress, practice, and using new patterns during real writing. It has been a wonderful example of learning that growth matters more than perfection.

The Terrific Turtles also made memories outside the classroom. The Pacific Science Center field trip delivered plenty of science and discovery, but it may be remembered most for an unexpected teamwork challenge: protecting lunches from one particularly determined seagull. On an otherwise gray and gloomy Seattle day, the class quickly transformed into an enthusiastic lunch defense team, raising both their energy levels and volume as they worked together to keep the feathered visitor at bay. It was teamwork, problem solving, and recess-level excitement all rolled into one.

The season also included some special classroom moments. In April, the class helped celebrate Mrs. Iverson's birthday with a surprise video message filled with cheerful wishes. It was a wonderful reflection of the thoughtful and caring community the Terrific Turtles have built over the year.

Math brought its own excitement as students solved problems using comparison bars, explored multiple solution methods, and played Which One Doesn't Belong?—a game that showed there can be many right answers when you explain your thinking. The discussions were thoughtful, creative, and occasionally delightfully persuasive.

In literacy, students have been wrapping up the Dare to Dream reading unit while taking on more of the thinking themselves. They are making connections, sharing ideas, and surprising everyone with the depth of their observations. Writing has also continued to evolve. The Terrific Turtles completed problem-solution narratives and "Ouch!" stories, adding stronger openings, dialogue, emotions, and details that help bring their stories to life. The classroom authors have come a long way from those first brave writing attempts back in the fall.

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

Music, art, and school traditions continued to fill the weeks with creativity. Students explored instruments, songs, and musical storytelling while preparing for their upcoming performance. The classroom and hallways have remained bright with artwork, projects, and the visible signs of a year spent creating.

The Terrific Turtles also took time this spring to celebrate the amazing educators who make first grade so special during Teacher Appreciation Week. Families came together to shower the team with sweet treats, favorite drinks, classroom supplies, gift cards, and thoughtful notes throughout the week. A special thank you goes to Nina Madsen, whose coordination and behind-the-scenes work as First Grade Class Coordinator helped make many of these moments possible. Her organization, care, and support brought families together and added an extra touch of appreciation for our wonderful teachers.

As the school year winds down, it is impossible not to notice how much the Terrific Turtles have grown. They are stronger readers, more confident writers, better problem solvers, and thoughtful friends. More importantly, they have learned how to encourage one another, take risks, and approach challenges with curiosity.

Mrs. Iverson and Ms. Esping have guided this journey with endless patience, creativity, and encouragement. Together with the support of families and the wider Lockwood community, they helped create a first-grade year filled with discovery, laughter, friendship, and memories that will stay with these Terrific Turtles long after they become second graders.

SECOND GRADE

by Josh Trygg

Second graders continued exploring new ideas through art, science, writing, and hands-on problem-solving activities.

Students visited the Seattle Art Museum, where they explored abstract and realistic artwork as well as sculptures. The experience encouraged students to observe how artists use different styles, shapes, and materials to express ideas and tell stories.

In writing, students completed informational paragraphs about kangaroo rats, combining research skills with organized writing.

Science investigations focused on the movement of water and landforms. Students observed demonstrations showing how water flows, then created paper mountains to model rainfall and erosion.

SECOND GRADE by Josh Trygg continued...

Students also participated in several engaging classroom incursions. During an engineering activity, students worked in teams to design and build marble runs while exploring concepts related to forces and motion. The activity highlighted teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving skills.

Another science incursion featured Lisa Taylor, the Garden Expert, who introduced students to the anatomy and behavior of worms. Students had the opportunity to closely observe and interact with worms while learning about their role in soil and garden ecosystems.

In art, students created Native American-inspired salmon artwork, connecting artistic expression with regional culture and the importance of salmon in the Pacific Northwest.

Students also celebrated Día del Niño as they wrapped up their Spanish learning experiences for the year. Thank you miss Mika!

A huge thank you to Natalie Razem for all your efforts as the Class Coordinator!

Also, a thank you to all the classroom volunteers and docents who helped support these engaging learning opportunities and encouraged students' curiosity throughout the year.

THIRD GRADE

by Jason Tenenbaum

It's hard to believe that we are already approaching the end of third grade! Since returning from Spring Break, our class has been busy with a variety of learning opportunities, celebrations, and special events as we are in the final stretch of the school year.

Towards the end of March, our class enjoyed a field trip to cooking school, where students had the opportunity to learn new kitchen skills while creating delicious recipes. Students practiced teamwork, followed instructions, and gained confidence in the kitchen through this hands-on experience.

In April, our class joined students across PACE for the annual Día del Niño celebration, a special event that recognizes and celebrates children through activities, learning, and community. We also recently took a field trip where students explored exhibits highlighting the history, innovation, and culture of the Pacific Northwest. The visit provided a fun way to connect classroom learning with real-world experiences.

THIRD GRADE by Jason Tenenbaum continued...

Our art docent volunteers continued to bring creativity into the classroom with several fun projects, including special Mother's Day gifts and a Seahawks-inspired art project. Students enjoyed expressing themselves through art while creating meaningful keepsakes to bring home.

Show & Tell remained a favorite activity, with students sharing about their hobbies and sports, as well as family traditions.

These presentations helped classmates learn more about one another and celebrate the unique interests and experiences that make our classroom community special.

As part of the Carrots: Farm to Fork program, students also stepped outside their comfort zones and tried a new vegetable. It was a great opportunity to learn about healthy foods and explore new flavors.

As we look ahead to the final weeks of school, there are still several exciting events to come, including a KidsScience Labs incursion, the annual Egg Drop challenge, much loved Field Day, and an end of year celebration in the classroom.

It has been a fantastic year filled with learning, creativity, friendship, and growth. We are grateful for the support of our families, as well as to Mrs. Jiang, and look forward to finishing third grade strong!



FOURTH GRADE

by Laura and Loi Nguyen

First up, Bruce Lee and Space Needle all in one field trip. Can't get more Seattle than those 2. The theatre played a gracious host for the kids to explore the life of Bruce Lee through the play "Young Dragon". The lights dimmed, the curtains opened, and students were immediately drawn into the exciting story of the legendary martial artist, actor, and teacher. The action-packed story where actors demonstrated how hard he worked to improve his martial arts skills and how he believed in discipline, confidence, and never giving up. The students watched closely as dramatic music filled the theater and fast-paced martial arts scenes brought the story to life on stage.

Barely containing the excitement, next up was the Space Needle. The adventure gave students the opportunity to learn about science, engineering, and the history of one of the Pacific Northwest's most iconic landmarks. As the elevator whisked students more than 500 feet into the air in just seconds as many looked out past the glass to try to catch a glimpse of the city on the horizon. Once at the top, students explored the observation deck and enjoyed panoramic views of Seattle, Mount Rainier, and Puget Sound. One of the highlights of the trip was stepping onto the rotating glass floor, where students carefully looked down at the streets far below. Laughter and excitement filled the air as classmates pointed out landmarks and took photos together.

Another learning adventure was a visit to a Museum in Seattle to learn about Asian American,

Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander history and culture. The field trip gave students a chance to explore exhibits, hear powerful stories, and discover the rich traditions that helped shape the community. As students entered the museum, they were greeted by colorful displays, historic photographs, and artifacts from many different cultures. Museum guides led the class through exhibits that shared stories about immigrant families, neighborhoods in the International District, and the challenges and successes people experienced throughout history.



One of the students' favorite parts of the visit was touring a recreated apartment that showed what life was like for immigrant families many years ago. Students carefully examined donated items from the previous grocery store that occupied some of the space. All those learnings made the students hungry. They all walked to a nearby restaurant to have a family-style lunch. Family-style dining is a tradition where everyone shares dishes together instead of ordering separate meals. Ms Hong did an amazing job ordering for the group, one by one, the wide variety of yummy dishes came out fast. From Peking Duck to Soy Sauce Chicken to Honey Walnut Prawns to Bok Choy.....the students practiced taking turns spinning the lazy Susan and politely serving food to classmates before helping themselves.

FOURTH GRADE by Laura and Loi Nguyen continued...

In anticipation of the upcoming Mother's Day holiday, the students used all their art skills to make a wonderful "Cinnamon Roll" keepsake box for their Mom. Everyone in the classroom was filled with excitement and creativity as students rolled up their sleeves for clay. Surrounded by clay tools, students carefully shaped and designed special boxes that could keep for years to come. The lesson began with a demonstration of how to flatten clay, shape the sides, and smooth the edges to create sturdy boxes. Students listened closely before eagerly beginning their own creations. Soon, the room buzzed with conversation as hands pressed, molded, and carved designs into the soft clay. After the boxes were molded and painted, they were sent off to be hardened by the kiln. Each finished Cinnamon Roll box looked unique, life like, and reflected the personality of its student creator.



FIFTH GRADE

excerpts from Beth Dawson

As the school year comes to a close, our fifth graders have been making the most of every opportunity to learn, grow, and create lasting memories together. The spring months have been especially busy, filled with exciting field trips, cultural celebrations, and special events that have helped make this final year of elementary school truly unforgettable.

One of the highlights of the spring was our fifth-grade camp at Cedar Springs in April. The trip was a huge success and gave students the chance to step outside the classroom and experience learning in a completely different environment. Students enjoyed outdoor activities, team-building challenges, and opportunities to connect with classmates while exploring nature.

Camp provided many moments of personal growth, independence, and friendship, and students returned with wonderful stories and memories that they will cherish for years to come.

In May, students traveled to Pioneer Farms for an overnight educational experience that brought history to life. For 24 hours, our fifth graders experienced what life was like for pioneers settling in the Pacific Northwest. Students lived without modern conveniences such as electricity, central heating, and comfortable beds. Instead, they slept on wooden floors and participated in daily chores and activities that were part of pioneer life more than a century ago.

FIFTH GRADE excerpts from Beth Dawson continued...

Through hands-on experiences, students gained a deeper appreciation for the hard work, perseverance, and resourcefulness required of early settlers. One of the most memorable parts of the trip was milking cows, an activity that quickly became a favorite topic of conversation when students returned home!

Our fifth graders also had the opportunity to celebrate Kodomo No Hi, or Japanese Children's Day. This special cultural celebration allowed students to learn more about Japanese traditions and customs while participating in hands-on activities. Students practiced origami, creating colorful paper designs while learning about the significance of the art form. They also enjoyed tasting mochi, a traditional Japanese treat, which was a fun way to experience another aspect of Japanese culture. The celebration provided a meaningful opportunity to learn about and appreciate traditions from around the world.

The celebrations continued at the final PACE meeting of the year, where students and families came together for the Fifth Grade Celebration. The event was filled with smiles, laughter, and reflection as students looked back on their elementary school years and celebrated all they have accomplished. It was a wonderful opportunity to recognize the friendships, achievements, and growth that have taken place throughout their time at our school.

The excitement is not over yet! Our fifth graders are eagerly looking forward to an upcoming field trip to the beach, where they will have another chance to explore, learn, and enjoy time together outside the classroom. We will also gather for our final fifth-grade picnic on June 15, a special tradition that provides one last opportunity for students to celebrate with friends and teachers before the school year ends.

As we prepare to say goodbye to our fifth graders, we are incredibly proud of all they have accomplished. They have shown curiosity, resilience, kindness, and leadership throughout the year. While it is hard to believe their elementary school journey is coming to an end, we are excited to see what the future holds for each of them. We wish all of our fifth graders the very best as they begin their next adventure and head off to middle school this fall!