

HiCap Happenings

Cashmere School District Highly Capable Newsletter

From Cashmere Middle School : All the HiCap students have been working on the Stock Market Game. Guest speaker Jack Hallmark (our counselor at CMS) recently spoke to the students about what



he invests in, how he chooses which stocks are best and why he invests in the stock market overall.

The 5th and 6th graders are working on a newspaper along with checking in on the Stock Market Game.

They have been interviewing peers, teachers and staff as well as being creative by coming up with comic strips and headline stories for the paper. The [online edition](#) can be viewed on the CMS webpage.

The 7th and 8th graders have been really focused on the stock market, but they just recently started an independent project. They will be coming up with something creative to build and/or research and then present their project by the end of spring.

-Submitted by Corine Blankenship

From Vale Elementary: Math Club has been going strong. We are continuing with our Esti-mysteries and just finished Math Mysteries related to Valentine's Day.

First graders are really getting to know the 100s chart - looking for patterns (there are a lot), adding and subtracting 10s from any number, and comparing the 100s chart with other 100's chart (200 chart, 300 chart, etc.)

Second graders are grappling with the 'give and take' strategy. These problems look something like this:

$$n + 722 = 718 + 820$$

It is possible to solve this without adding 718 and 820. Have your child show you how.

In third grade, we are looking at factors and multiples of each digit; looking at patterns which help in multiplication and division.

In 4th grade, we have been solving some algebraic problems.

$$8n + 12 = 84 \text{ or } (20-3n) \div 4 = 2$$

We love working together to solve problems!

-Submitted by Tracy Griffith

Vale Book Clubs Update: It's been an exciting month in our Clubs!

One thing I really love to do is introduce new books series to the kids as well as expose the groups to different genres. The students read their books at home, and then we have amazing conversations around my table about what they read. We dig into character traits, predictions, questions, wonders, story elements, story arcs, etc.

My sweet fourth grade groups recently finished local author Dan Gemeinhart's book, Some Kind of Courage. It is now one of my very favorite books! Mr. Gemeinhart offered to come talk to the 4th graders about writing and being an author. He answered TONS of questions that the kids had for him and shared that a movie is being made of one of his books. We are so very thankful for this visit.



The third grade clubs are reading two incredible books that promise enriching discussion: PAX, a moving story of a boy and his pet fox, and the classic The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe. I'm so excited for our conversations about this book! (continued on back)

Second grade hosts two groups; the boys are reading Ghosts Don't Eat Potato Chips, which is part of The Bailey School Kid Series. The girls are reading book one of the Dragon Masters Series. They are such great books and we are eating them up!

The first graders just finished the first book in the series of My Weird School. It was SO much fun to see them laugh hysterically at the craziness that happens in those books!

Thank you to all the parents of the kids that come to me for book club. I absolutely LOVE my job and love spending time with your child. Happy Reading!

-Submitted by Ginny Davidson

After School Lego Club and Robotics

Ever since Lego Club (1st & 2nd grade) and Robotics (3rd & 4th) began in January, time flies by as the sounds of excitement and discovery rattle around the room like so many plastic bricks. The 3rd and 4th grade participants have been learning about gearing, axle differentials, and engineering with specific constraints. These intrepid designers are also experimenting with locomotion in creative ways. Each week has given the opportunity for the students to challenge



themselves and work through obstacles of design and function. Perseverance and innovation are evident

as these Eagles are gaining new skills, friendships, and an understanding of coding and cause-and-effect relationships. The students enjoy building the robots the most, but engineering solutions, programming and experimenting with code commands were also mentioned by many of the kids. "My favorite is to make things move!" - 3rd grade programmer. We have seen a walking frog that croaks, motion-sensing rovers, helicopters, rotating fans, fish and crazy cars emerge from the same modest tub of bricks.



The 1st & 2nd grade Lego Club is brimming with enthusiasm as well. These students are working each week on different challenges set by their coach: puppies with rolling eyes, seesaws, and hockey players. One extremely popular challenge was a car launcher, in which the students had a contest to see how far each car could go. They



have been learning about concepts like gear ratio, pulleys, and mechanical advantage. It is evident they anticipate each opportunity to create and solve problems, as well as help one another get pieces to accomplish the build.

-Submitted by Heidi Hill and Patrick Valeri



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