



PRAIRIE NORTON

Winter Newsletter

December 15, 2017

New Start

Each day we reflect on our day with “Shout Outs” that celebrate students that exemplify what we want our community to be about. Early in the year we decided that we wanted our community to be a place to learn, be yourself, and find a friend. At the end of a day that is often focused on academics, this time really highlights that the social-emotional growth of our students. Students are transfixed as their peers publicly celebrate that they were a great friend that day, thank them for helping them with a difficult task or recognize that they made a good decision when it was hard. We'll be talking about all the ways that we seek to engage and create a fun learning environment for our students and families in this issue but this time of “Shout Outs” is a great reminder that sometimes our students can be the best teachers.

Parent Engagement



A favorite event each year is the Family Potluck held right before fall break. This was our second year hosting the event and it was a wonderful time for the families, tutors, and teachers to gather together and enjoy the rich cultures represented in our community. What better way to connect and form good relationships with our families then by sharing a meal together!? Our students were very involved in putting the event together and spent weeks preparing decorations and a special drama performance. Nearly 80% of our families were in attendance. Family involvement is a huge part of our student success and events like this allow us to form good relationships and introduce new families and teachers to our community.



We also hosted our first Family Game Night at the end of Prairie Norton's Literacy Week. The night offered families a chance to connect over literacy based games. One of the aims of Literacy Week at the school is to reach out to parents and we were able to provide the same literary tools and information to parents who weren't able to attend during the school's event.

Clubs

This year each of the 40 students enrolled in ESLAsC at Prairie Norton have received 2 hours weekly of Math and Literacy based instruction. One of the ways we do this is through our Math and Literacy Clubs. In Math Club we've been exploring spatial reasoning through design. Students learned by playing games and designing both 2-D and 3-D structures like bedrooms, parking garages and playgrounds to solidify this mathematical concept. In Literacy Club we've using the many characters of “The Wizard of Oz” to learn about protagonists and antagonists. Through our Choice Clubs we've been able to develop clubs based on students' interests like nail design, drama, art, and sports.

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Community Partners

Tap, tap, tap went the sound of the hammers as little hands grasped the wooden handles and pounded in each nail. The West Broad Home Depot visited us this November and helped each student build their own pencil box. This project gave many of our students their first experience in woodworking. A special thank-you to Pam and Kathleen for leading the workshop and bringing this community event to us.

Westland Library has continued their ongoing partnership with the ESLAsC programs at both Stiles and Prairie Norton this year by bringing Holiday books and literacy based activities. Most recently, Westland Librarian Jessica Smith, came to read and helped us make a Christmas tree that is now on display at the library. This partnership has already encouraged our students to visit the local library and exposed them to the wealth of resources offered there.

Finally, we are excited to have OSU Extension's 4-H bring several of their project based learning programs to the site this year. Students created their own test tube "lava lamp" and learned about carbon dioxide and the density of water and oil in the first of 3 enrichment projects scheduled.



Former Student Returns to the Community as a Tutor

Zeinab Mohamed is in her first year at CSCC majoring in nursing. She knows firsthand what an impact the programs have on the student. She says when reflecting on the 2 years she was a student in the ESLAsC program at Wedgewood "I didn't live in a good area it was a place you could go that was safe and helped you stay on track." Now Zeinab is helping the Prairie Norton students stay on track as they face similar challenges.



Coming Up!

December 20th	Gingerbread House Party
December 21-January 3	Winter Break
January 25	COSI Field Trip
February 1	Family Game Night