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1st Grade: Weekly Newsletter Nov. 5

Sarah Michelle Sheaffer • 3 months ago • Friday, Nov 5 at 5:04 PM • **1st Grade - Sarah**

Greetings Rainbow Honey Badger families,

It was just a delight to have you in our learning space either in person or through Zoom. We hope that the conferences were a window into how your child is doing/what they are learning in our classroom. We enjoyed partnering with you and sharing where your child is and how they are doing. They are a joy to be with and hopefully that came through the zoom screen or across the table (with masks on)!

We have a few important pieces of information. Firstly, this week was the start of Indigenous Peoples' Heritage Month. In class we started reading *Go Show The World: A Celebration of Indigenous Heroes* by Wab Kinew. During one of the biographies from this book, we learned of Sue LaFlesche Picotte who was one of the first Indigenous physicians at a time when even being a female doctor was uncommon. In the book it says she may have been called "too dark" and to that a student exclaimed "That's racism!" As a class we unpacked what racism was and naming its connection to prejudice. It is when you are prejudiced against someone or a group of people based on someone's ethnicity or race and, in the case of our reading of Sue, her skin color. We will continue to unpack racism, add to our vocabulary and make connections through the read alouds at school naming when we see/hear stereotyping, prejudice and racism. We will continue to learn about Indigenous changemakers and heroes throughout the month.

I also wanted to let you know that we are continuing our Community Unit - as I mentioned last week. We know that community can look different to everyone - who is included and who is not. Sometimes families themselves are communities. We are exploring community in all different ways in this unit!

To that end, we are having our box building day (with Ilya) this coming Wednesday 11/10 from 9-11:30 (with time for a debrief). Next week students will brainstorm what is part of a community (grocery stores, barbers/hair salons, gas stations, houses and neighborhoods, etc.) and we will work with Monica's class to create this cardboard community. If you have any large box (like washer, dryer, large furniture, refrigerator, etc. though any large box will do) please save them for us! At this point Monday and Tuesday look rainy and wet, so please save them and bring them Wednesday morning!

Please enjoy a few photos from this short week!

(Also Chris let me know that my iPhone has been taking HEIC photos. Folks with Androids cannot view them easily. I have changed the setting in my phone so hopefully if you are viewing the photos on an Android, starting next week with photos it will be much easier. My apologies - I had no idea this was an issue.)

In partnership,

Sarah and Geena

Edited to add: **Please RSVP to Karen's post** about our K-2 sing in which vaccinated family members (4 per child) can come and enjoy one of our sings! We would love to see you that morning in person and on our campus.