



# Penguin Times

## News from The STEAM Magnet School

www.ps201.org

October 2019

### October Events



- 10-1 Rosh Hashanah, School Closed
- 10-7 Picture Day
- 10-8 PTA Meeting & Grade 5 Middle School Application, 8:20 AM
- 10-9 Yom Kippur, School Closed
- 10-14 Columbus Day, School Closed
- 10-25 Walk for Life
- 10-29 SLT Meeting, 4:00 PM
- 10-31 Harvest Dance

### Mathematical Minds

by Ms. Gezlev, *Magnet Specialist Instructional Coach*

Mathematics is all around and back to school is a time when recent shifts in mathematics may stand out to you. Your child's math may look different from what you remember. Math is math...this is a fact, but the thinking that we do around math is where we see the greatest shifts. For example, 2 apples + 2 apples still equals 4 apples, and learning your multiplication tables is still important. But, now you are likely to see your child solving real problems. For example:

Second graders might:

- Figure out how many apples they need for a classroom party.
- Determine the cost to buy those apples.
- Determine if they have enough money to have a class party

Similarly, fourth-graders are learning not only that  $7 \times 8 = 56$ , but, are deciding when they should use multiplication to solve a problem. Educators want children to understand that math is not only useful out of the classroom, but in their daily lives too. We know that every child is capable of achieving in math topics such as geometry, data and statistics, and algebra—topics we've traditionally thought of as only accessible to some. To do this, they need to have mathematical experiences in their everyday lives.

Children think about mathematics in different ways depending on their prior experiences at home and school. Children should understand how important math is and how it helps them solve everyday problems. By allowing students to think flexibly about numbers, teachers encourage them to "own" the mathematics forever, instead of "borrowing" until class is over. Parents can help out by showing their children when they use math. That may be as simple as:

- Helping your child estimate in the grocery store
- Deciding together how many plants can fit into a garden and drawing a scale plan of your garden
- Discussing how the interest works on the mortgage
- Surprise them by carrying a tape measure when out for a walk
- calculate approximate totals when shopping.
- have your children count and group items: buttons, toys, Legos.
- build with blocks or plastic storage containers then count how many you used in all
- measure for recipes and cook or bake together.
- play some math games (so many games involve counting, patterning, adding etc.) For example, Chutes and Ladders. Or if you are feeling creative, play some games with modifications: for example, instead of Go Fish, try it with a twist: Factor Go Fish, or Go Fish with Numbers that add up to a number.
- Practice facts regularly. Fluency means you don't have to think about it. So practice those addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts often so that students can respond the same way they would if you asked them a simple question.



On-line suggestions:

- <http://www.pbs.org/parents/adventures-in-learning/category/math/>
- <http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/math/activities/preschool-kindergarten/>
- <http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/math/activities/first-second-grade/>
- <https://www.ixl.com>

### Tech Talk

by Ms. Calderon, *Educational Technology Specialist*

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month. While internet safety is a year-round learning topic, some grades are exploring it in-depth during technology class this month. In first grade, we are investigating respectful behaviors in real life and online. We also learn about what to do when strangers contact us in real life and online. In second grade, we learn about private information and how to protect it when we use technology. Third graders are identifying ways we are respectful, responsible and safe in our digital lives. Fifth graders focus on digital citizenship and identifying cyberbullies, empathizing with victims and apply 5 strategies to combat cyberbullies. Kindergarten and grade four will participate in an internet safety unit in January.

Internet safety is an important practice in the home as well. I recommend taking advantage of the many parent tips offered from Common Sense Media to maximize your child's internet use at home while minimizing the risks. Be sure to visit their website to learn more and take advantage of their free resources. Here is the website address:

<https://www.common Sense Media.org/privacy-and-internet-safety>



**On Friday, October 25th, P.S. 201 will hold our annual "Walk for Life" Walk-a-thon!**

We invite family and friends to join us in helping raise funds for Breast Cancer Awareness Month! We want to encourage our students and our community to remind ourselves how we can show compassion by giving back and contributing to those in need.

Each student will raise funds by asking family and friends to sponsor them. Sponsors can make a flat donation! If each student in our school could donate \$2, we can raise over \$1,000! You can also help raise funds by purchasing a Penguin Breast Cancer Awareness T-shirt (more information on the back). All proceeds will be donated to the American Cancer Society

## Building Reading Stamina

by Mrs. Schieder, *Universal Literacy Coach*

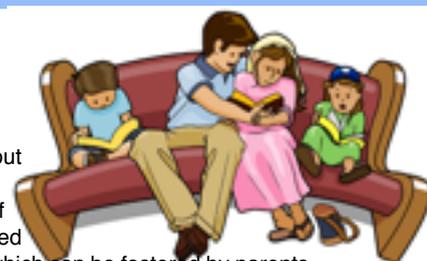
As we begin a new school year, I would like to remind you about the critical role families play in promoting children's literacy development. Literacy, or the ability to read and write, is composed of a variety of skills that range from letter recognition and hearing and manipulating the sounds in words, to oral language, vocabulary, story comprehension, and motivation. These skills begin developing at birth, and families play an important role in promoting them. Positive early-literacy experiences set children on a path to become confident readers by the time they reach third grade, which is an important milestone on the pathway toward high school graduation.

Here are seven research-based ways that families can promote literacy at home:

- 1. Creating literacy friendly home environments** - The number of books in a family's home is strongly and positively related to children's reading ability. Books don't need to be new or purchased—they can be borrowed from the library or obtained for free through book rotation and lending programs. Storybook reading in which parents prompt children to talk about the book they are reading and then expand upon what children say is one way to promote print awareness and other early-literacy skills.
- 2. Have ongoing, engaging conversations with children-** Parent-child conversations stimulate children's growing language. The amount of language that young children hear is related to their vocabulary and language understanding. Always try to use open-ended "why" questions with few repetitions and with few questions calling for yes or no answers.
- 3. Hold high expectations for children's learning-** High parent expectations about children's potential are related to gains in children's emerging literacy skills and self-directed learning.

### 4. Make reading enjoyable-

Learning to read is not only about learning letters and sounds but also about developing a love of reading, and becoming motivated and passionate about it, all of which can be fostered by parents.



**5. Using their home language-**Students' language and literacy development benefits from adults who talk with them in the language in which the adults are most competent and with which they are most comfortable. Children's early literacy skills also benefit from families who use storytelling and book-sharing styles that are more aligned to their cultural preference.

**6. Communicate with child's teacher-** Connecting, communicating, and getting involved with schools improves children's language and literacy. Educators can provide information about individual children's learning and development as well as model reading strategies that further children's growth. Participating in workshops and family literacy programs can also prove to be important sources of information for how to work with your students at home.

**7. Visit the Library-** Visiting the library is an important way to promote children's language and literacy development. Libraries offer books and digital resources that families can borrow, along with story times and other parent-child learning opportunities. When parents provide direction in choosing library books and Internet-based learning resources, their children spend more time reading and acquire more knowledge compared to children who are left to navigate library resources on their own.

## A Note From Dean Cruz

Hello PS 201 Family,

We have had a great start to the school year and the students have been working hard and putting forth their best efforts! We are very proud of them all! Our teachers and staff are working hard to help students master their grade level learning targets both academically and socially. With your partnership, it is amazing to watch your kids grow!

Socially, we have been re-teaching ways to be safe, kind, respectful, and responsible to each other! Our staff continually adjusts our instruction based on our observations in our school community. You may hear your child talk about specific lessons teaching them what it means to be safe, kind, respectful, and responsible. Please spend time discussing the above topics and their importance for our kids to be successful.

I want you to know how very much we here at PS 201 have enjoyed working alongside you! This school year we have made it our #1 goal to ensure your child has had the best learning environment possible! We appreciate your support and your involvement so much!



### STEAM Success

by Mrs. Gehebe, *STEAM Teacher*

The STEAM lab already has been full of enthusiasm and excitement. The students are designing amazing STEAM projects in the lab. We are continuing our learning based on the Next Generation Science Standards. These standards will be the foundation of our STEAM challenges this year. Students will focus on these standards while preparing for college and career with the 4'Cs of STEAM. (Creativity, Communication, Collaboration, and Critical Thinking).

#### STEAM AT HOME October Projects:

- 1. Pumpkin Fun:** Start by predicting how many seeds students think are in a pumpkin. Then cut open and explore the inside of the pumpkin. Using your five senses describe the pumpkin. You can count the seeds to see if your prediction was close. Grab another pumpkin and see the difference in amount of seeds.
- 2. Grow a Pumpkin:** Now take a few of the pumpkin seeds and place it in a ziploc bag with soil and water, and watch it grow into a gourd.
- 3. Pumpkin Magnifying Activity:** Take the inside of the pumpkin and use a magnifying glass to observe the pulp, seeds, and skin.
- 4. Pumpkin Candy Structures:** Using pumpkin candy gummies and toothpicks try to build the highest tower.



**STEAM**  
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