

# Monroe - Message From the Principal



April 3, 2023






Two weeks to go until April break and then a handful of weeks to wrap up an amazing year. These next couple of weeks are busy with staff involved in school based data meetings to discuss every student's progress so far this year, and ways that we will continue supporting each student through the final weeks of school. Please be mindful of the many reminders we have shared throughout the year regarding the significance of positive attendance habits on a student's learning and progress, and finish the year strong with attendance!

I'd like to share a quick update regarding our Student Leadership Team. This is a newly formed team of 4th and 5th grade students who went through the process involved in becoming a member of the team. This included having to submit an application, complete with multiple letters of recommendation, and then an interview with both myself and the Dean of Students. We are very proud of all students who followed through with this process because they were excited to be a part of this important team. Currently they are working on their first special project to promote kindness in our school. They will spend the next couple of weeks preparing and then following the break they will facilitate activities that they design, to reinforce this important reminder to always be kind to one another. They are doing a great job so far with the planning and this will be a lot of fun in a few weeks.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have questions, concerns, or need support for your child or your family. Have a great week!

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Check Out What's Happening at Monroe School: **Week of 3/27**

<p>K</p> 	<p>In Kindergarten, we have started a new Brain Warm-Up called "What do you notice? What do you wonder?" We looked at the picture of berries at a market, and had all kinds of things we noticed and wondered. We noticed the many colors of berries, the way they were organized, that they were for sale for \$4, and that some were missing. We wondered why they were all randomly organized, why some were missing, and where they were. What can you notice around you? What do you wonder about it?</p>
<p>1</p> 	<p>We had our YMCA field trip this week. They were so excited! We got to play in the gym, then we went into the small therapy pool for some starter swimming lessons. We learned about breathing out while underwater so that it does not go up our nose and locking our lips tight so no water can get in. We learned about kicking with our legs straight and toe pointed, and we learned the superman pose. Everyone was so brave and jumped in the 4FT part. Then we used all this knowledge to swim some mini laps to practice. We even had time to play swimming dance freeze tag!</p>
<p>2/3</p> 	<p>The visiting planetarium was a big hit in our class. The dome was filled with student "oohs" and "awes!" This enrichment activity was funded by Monroe's P.T.O. The timing was perfect for our class, as the presentation integrated content from two recent units - Black History Month &amp; Earth &amp; the Solar System. The presenter read "Follow the Drinking Gourd," and students saw how many enslaved people escaped to freedom in the north by navigating with constellations.</p>

4/5	We had a lot of schedule changes this week and the students did awesome! We all enjoyed learning about the stars and the path of the sun throughout the year during the traveling Planetarium. In math, 5th grade learned about populations and communities then calculated how many Bison can be raised in varying acreage then 4th grade learned about light & sound energy in the form of lighting, and thunder, and sound through vibration in musical instruments. We started our group reading books this week and a cursive writing refresher. We also continued working on the international studies slideshows.
Music	This week K-2 continued practicing their critical listening skills by drawing to Yyz by rush. They also learned about feelingful intent by listening to several music examples and assigned them "feeling words". 3-5 continued to work on their hip-hop backing tracks getting ready for our first composer's circle next week where they will share their to date work with the class. They also learned about musical expressivity, discussing concepts of; motion vs stasis, unity vs variety, sound vs silence, tension vs release, and stability vs instability.
SEL	This week at Monroe, 4-5 did a fabulous job working together in their groups on their projects. 2/3 came up with different tools that can help them calm down when they have big emotions. K and 1 learned more about friendships and the qualities we look for in our friends. They also brainstormed some helpful strategies we can use when we are getting along with our classmates.
Garden	Did you know that honeybees produce only 1/12 tsp. of honey in their lifetime?! Our kindergarteners and first graders learned all about the fascinating lives of honeybees this week. Mrs. Norgang's class went back in time to see how maple sap was traditionally collected, making "birch bark" sap baskets. Fourth and fifth graders continued working in the orchard, pruning trees and removing screens from their trunks. Hopefully bees will be pollinating our fruit tree blossoms soon!

Bikes For Books is getting started. Be sure to remind your child that the more he/she reads, the more chances they will have to win a new bike and helmet!

