

KINDERGARTEN – FIRST GRADE

Library: During the first few month of the school year, the kindergarten and first grade students have been introduced to parts of a book, how to take care of books, and different genres of fiction including mystery, fantasy, science fiction, and fables.

For many of the read aloud stories, students focused on describing the characters, setting, plot (beginning, middle, and end), and genre characteristics. In our kindergarten classes, some of the titles of books that have been read aloud include: *The High Rise Private Eyes –Case of the Climbing Cat* (Rylant), *The Adventures of Beekle* (Santat), *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* (Steig), and *Owl Moon* (Yolen).

For our 1st grade classes, some of the titles that have been read aloud include: *A Library Book for Bear* (Becker), *A House for Hermit Crab* (Carle), *Nate the Great and the Halloween Hunt* (Sarmat), and *Miss Smith and The Haunted Library* (Garland).

Technology: Kindergarten and 1st grade students are working on Windows based desktop PCs. They have worked on learning the basic parts of a computer, how to use the mouse and certain keys on the keyboard, how to log onto the computer and the school network, and access the school website.

The kindergarteners have been accessing resources on [ABC-Ya](#) to work on mouse and keyboarding skills (*Halloween /Holiday Games, Cupstacking, Keyboard Zoo, Type Rocket Jr.*) and reinforce letters and numbers (*Alphabet Bingo, Counting Fish*).

Our first graders were reintroduced to Microsoft Word where they typed their names and learned how to change font, font size, and color. In a separate project, they created a table of words and inserted Clip Art images to represent the words. Students also were also introduced to Graph Club. We collected data on types of students' pets, and they created simple pie, bar, and table graphs. Students worked on keyboarding skills using Dance Mat Typing and the Type to Learn 4 program.

For additional information on mouse and keyboarding skills, please visit a work in progress resource – [mouse skills](#), [keyboarding skills](#), and on the school website [typing tools](#).



Second Graders Helping Each during Hour of Code

Dear HES Families,

I hope the holiday break has you refreshed and re-energized for 2016!

This newsletter is the first of three newsletters for library-technology (LT) classes this school year, providing information on what your children has been working on. As space permits, book suggestions, resources, and tips will also be included.

For additional information, please visit the [Library webpage](#) and [Library-Technology Classes](#) webpage. Please also feel free to look up books and resources from the [HES Library Destiny Catalog](#) and the [State Databases](#).

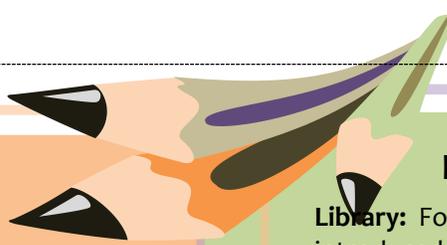
If you have any questions or comments, please email me at mquaadgras@psharvard.org.

-- Mrs. Quaadgras

KINDERGARTEN THROUGH FIFTH GRADE

Students in all grades attended the PTO Sponsored Scholastic Book Fair in November. In December, students participated in the Hour of Code / Computer Science Week, learning about the field and what computer scientists do and completing coding activities. Students can continue working on coding skills by visiting [Code.org](#).

Type to Learn 4 (TTL4) can be accessed from home on Windows based PCs. If you would like to download Type to Learn at home, please contact me and I will send home with your child an informational flyer with instructions.



FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADES

SECOND AND THIRD GRADES

Library: In our second grade and third grade classes, students reviewed how to care for books and the general parts of books. The students worked on accessing books and information - understanding call numbers for fiction books, the Dewey Decimal System, and call numbers for nonfiction books. Students worked on learning how the call numbers related to book searches in our library catalog Destiny Quest and how to then use the call numbers to physically search for books on the library shelves.

Technology: We reviewed basic computer parts and accessing / logging into our school network and school website. Using Microsoft Word, the students created name / help cards. During this project, students accessed different school drives (Y: (student share) and Z: (personal drives)), applied skills of changing font, size, and color, adding text effects, inserting images, wrapping text around images, and resizing images.

Second graders created graphic organizers using the Kidspiration application to demonstrate their understanding of basic parts of speech - nouns, verbs, and adjectives. In December, students began learning how to use Microsoft Power Point and are in the process of creating simple presentations on their specific birds of prey.

Our third graders worked on the concept that information found on the Web should be verified using more than one credible website. Students verified specific Massachusetts state symbols and cited sites from where images of symbols were retrieved.

In late November / early December, students created graphic organizers in Kidspiration to convey their learning on Pilgrims' Daily Life. Prior to the December break, some students started work on vocalizing their knowledge of Pilgrims Daily Life using the graphic organizers they created and the Tellegami application on the iPad.

Second and third grade students continue to work on improving their typing skills using the Type to Learn 4 application.

Library: Fourth and fifth grade students were introduced to some of the books from the Massachusetts Children's Book Award Program ([MCBA](#)). Students can participate in this optional program where they read books identified by state educators and librarians ([MCBA 2015-2016 List](#)). Students who read at least five books from the MCBA list by the first week in March can vote for their favorite author. Students are recognized on the MCBA Stars library window for reading 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 books from the list.

In preparation for the 4th grade Explorers Project, nonfiction book text features were reviewed, including table of contents, index, glossary, headings, boldface words, images, and captions. Accessing print encyclopedias and digital sources was covered. Students were also introduced to taking notes from nonfiction sources, from paraphrasing information to recording source information for creating bibliographies. Students spent time researching and taking notes about their chosen explorers from print books and online sources.

Technology: With the fourth and fifth grade students, digital citizenship principles were respectively introduced and reviewed. Students used the Socrative application to complete pre-assessments for PE (5th Gr.) and digital citizenship (4th Gr.). Fourth graders were then introduced to Google Drive, including Google Docs, Google Classroom, and Google Slides. Students are currently using Google Slides to create their Explorer presentations.

With the fifth grade students, iPad expectations, features, and how to move around on the tablet were covered. The students learned to use Notability to take and edit notes and pdf documents. Students used Google Classroom and Google Docs to complete a document with their usernames and passwords. If a student forgets any of their logons / passwords, please have him/her refer to this document in Google Drive. We delved into the Rings of Responsibility (Self, Friends and Family, Larger Community) as it relates to students' offline and online activities. Most students were then introduced to the Power of Words, email etiquette, and using Gmail. Fifth graders learned how to use the Explain Everything app for their Amendment projects and the Pic Collage app for their Book Creator projects. In December, students created detailed bibliographies for their Inquiry projects.