

April 19, 2017



# From the desks of Mrs. Shober & Mrs. Kries

- Dates to remember:
  - April 21st- 2nd Grade Empty Bowls Event
  - April 26th- Kindergarten Field Trip
  - April 27th- Single Session Day

Take Your Child To Work Day. Please

submit form to the office.

- Looking ahead:
  - Kindergarten Screening-May 25th
  - 3rd Grade Author's Day-June 2nd
  - 2nd & 3rd Grade Field Day-June 5th
  - 3rd Grade Carnival-June 9th

- Spring Concert Dates:
  - 3rd grade- May 10th
  - 2nd grade- May 17th
  - 1st grade- May 24th
  - Kindergarten- June 7th
  - More information to follow about performance times



# Did you know that April is Math Awareness Month?

By Ms. Rhonda Sherbin

President Ronald Reagan promoted **Math Awareness Week** in 1986 to encourage people to study math and for Americans to be reminded of how important math is to their daily lives.

Math Awareness Week became so big and important that in 1999 it grew into **Math Awareness Month**.



**MATH RIDDLE:** When writing out the numbers 0 - 1000, how many times is the letter "A" used? (Answer below)

I ♥ Math      WE ♥ MATH

**Be Aware**  
*that*  
**Math is**  
**Everywhere**

**CHALLENGE:** Every day in April, find a different way that math is used in in your life. Share this with your family and friends.

**Answer:** There is only 1 "A" in all the numbers 0-1000 and it can be found in the number 1000 [one thousand].

# Adventures in Mystery Skype

Mrs. Dooley

Our class participated in our very first Mystery Skype! It's a geography game played through video chat. Each class goes back and forth asking a series of yes or no questions trying to guess the state in which they reside.

I was contacted by a teacher that her class wanted to play with our class. They were pros and have played with 19 classes all over the world. It was our first time. This was a learning experience for myself as well as the students and we were pumped. We took some time to practice on our own to get ready.

On the big day we were giddy with excitement when we got the call and saw the other class for the first time. Everyone was armed with maps and dry erase markers to cross off states as we went. We took turn asking questions.



“Are you West of the Mississippi?”

“No.”

“Do you border more than three states?”

“ No.”

“Do you border the Atlantic Ocean? “

Yes!”

After many rounds we both had guesses, “Are you in New Jersey?!” The first surprise was that we both in fact were in the same state. The second surprise was it was my niece's 3rd grade class in Bernardsville.

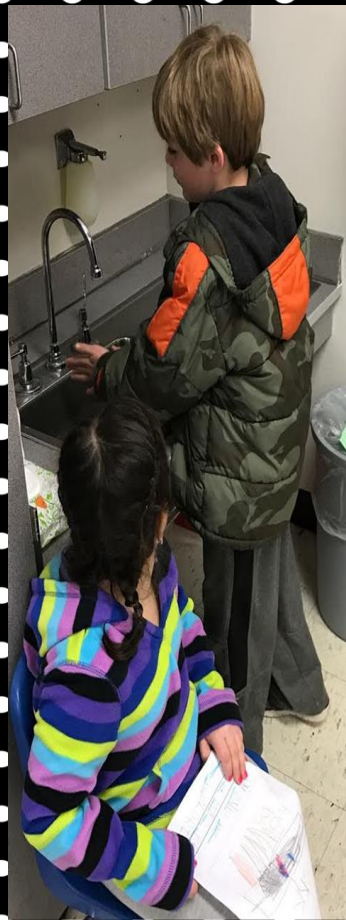
Following the game we asked questions about each other's classes. Then the Bernardsville 3rd graders did a presentation to tell us about where they lived and their school. We had a blast playing Mystery Skype. We learned so much and look forward to playing again.

Who knows, maybe the next state further away, like Pennsylvania or even Alaska!



# How - To Writing Celebration

In Mrs. Rello's Kindergarten class, the students have been working hard on becoming published authors! This unit, they studied procedural texts, or "how-to" books. They learned that how-to books have steps in order, use pictures and labels to help teach their reader, and have an introduction and conclusion! To celebrate, the students participated in a teaching museum with Mrs. Baier's 2nd grade class! The 2nd graders went from writer to writer and acted out the directions. It was a lot of fun seeing friends follow our steps and learn something new from our own writing!



## News From K-2 STEM Coach Erica Patente

### This "NEW" Math

Why do your children need a bunch of strategies and ways to do "basic computation" when it would be quicker to skip a strategy or learn just one? Below is a link that shows the progression of addition and subtraction K-3 and then shows you how that impacts multiplication in 4th grade. It is entertaining but also answers the why in that question. The foundational skills are KEY and place value in addition and subtraction help pave the way for more advanced mathematical concepts. Our students are not only expected to do the computation but also to be able to use multiple strategies and explain their thinking. This shows that they are beyond the concrete thinking and are on a higher level of thinking. This is a key difference in partially meeting, meeting or exceeding a standard.

If after watching you have any questions at all please reach out -epatente@branchburg.k12.nj.us

Enjoy!

<https://vimeo.com/157768846>

## Progression of Addition and Subtraction

# @WES\_Tech\_Lab

So many amazing things happen in Technology class! From learning how a computer works to writing code, the students experience the opportunity to enhance their learning through our marvelous tech lab. They have truly become creators and not just consumers of tech! Don't forget to keep up with our class happenings by following me on Twitter (click on the title above). Check out my [website](#) for more tech resources.



# Preschool

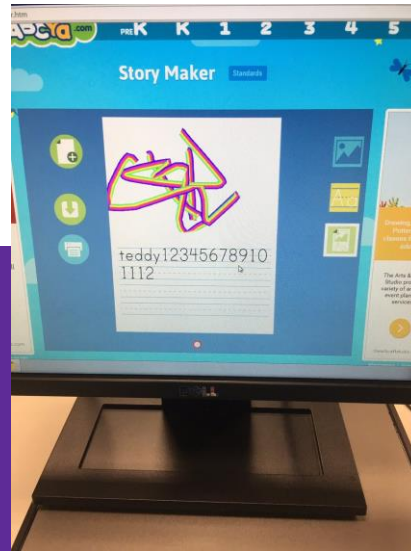


Our focus in  
Preschool is learning  
the basic functions of  
a computer and  
navigating various  
games using our  
keyboard and mouse.

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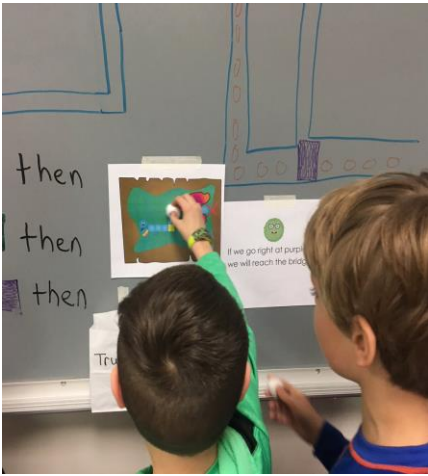
# Kindergarten Computer Basics

In Kindergarten we learn the parts of a computer, how to navigate a website and most important, the foundations of typing.



# 1st through 3rd

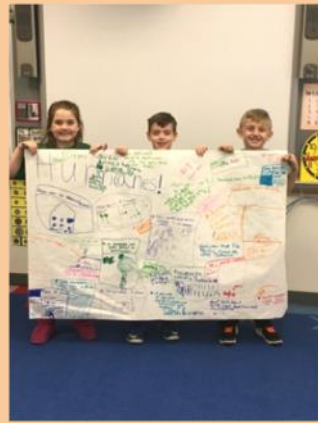
Our Coding program has really taken off! 1st graders have become experts with algorithms. 2nd grade is working on loops and how to animate pieces in their video game creations. 3rd grade is crazy for our robots Dash and Dot. Dash and Dot were given to us by a grant made possible by the PTO. They have also designed code for our smallest robots, the Ozobots. All of the class enjoyed our Hour of Code festivities as well.





## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade News from Mrs. Szajdecki's Class

Do you know how a hurricane is born? Would you know what to do if you found out there was a tornado heading your way? Where is the ring of fire? Our class has been hard at work asking questions and searching for answers about earthquakes, hurricanes, volcanoes, tornadoes, and erosion. During this integrated reading, writing, and science unit, we learned that when you want to do research, you need to study many sources to grow your knowledge as you read across that topic. We learned to read, retell, and record important ideas in our own words. After we collected our information, we crafted informational books. Finally, we worked in collaborative focus groups and decided how we wanted to share out our information with our classmates. Three groups decided to create fact-based posters to use in their presentations. The remaining group formulated questions and used a “microphone” to conduct interviews with our resident “PhDs”! 😊 We had a great time learning and teaching each other!



# Mrs. Ryan OT

## STEM Awesome Goldilocks Builders

During STEM Fairy Tale Week we explored how to problem solve building chairs for all of the Goldilocks characters. First we made a plan, then created chairs with varied elements and finally tried our new testable designs. This activity challenged students' fine motor, perceptual skills, problem solving skills and introduced new vocabulary. The students loved building.





# THE ZONES OF REGULATION



Mrs. Weighart enjoyed visiting Mrs. Arencibia's first grade class to talk about the Zones of Regulation. Through some interactive balloon fun, the students learned about the four zones of emotional states (Blue, Green, Yellow, and Red) and how these affect their behavior as well as the behavior of others around them. Although it is okay to have feelings in any of the zones at different times, we learned that the "Green" zone is the best for learning and for interacting with friends in school. We discussed physical and thinking strategies for staying in the "Green" zone or returning to the "Green" zone when needed. The students were encouraged to complete a "Tool Box" activity to brainstorm strategies that may work best for each of them. Thank you to Mrs. Arencibia for the invitation and for the great pictures!



see you soon!

