

Newsletter

May 2015

Dear Burr Community,

I wanted to take a moment to welcome you to Burr's May newsletter. As I did in December, this newsletter is meant to highlight all of the wonderful work that is happening at Burr. The pictures and captions highlight work that students and teachers have done during the second half of the year. While there is no substitute for actually being in our classrooms, I hope these photographs and captions give you some insight into the work that we do everyday at Burr. Enjoy.

Warmly,

Jason



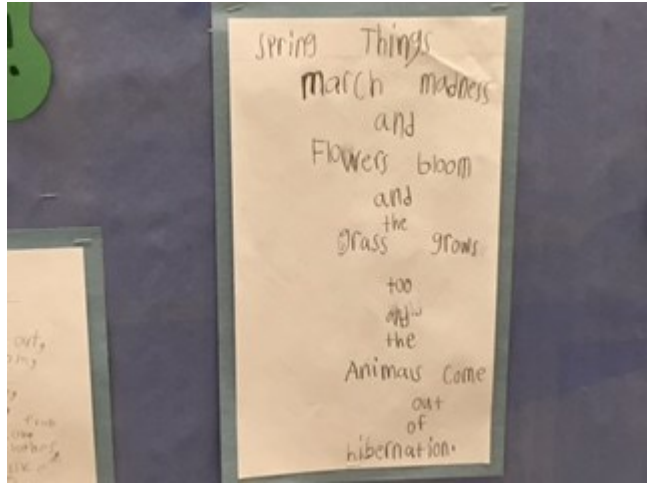
Twice this year, students and staff have spread CARING at Burr through a CARES cart. The cart travels around the school spreading good cheer.



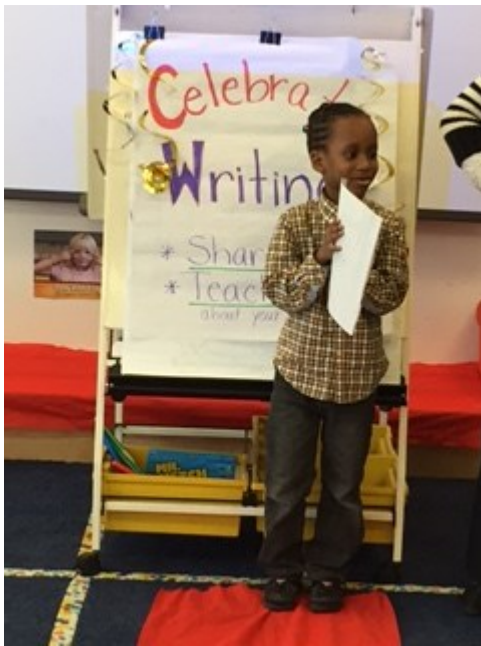
Throughout the year, we have whole school CARES assemblies at Burr. Assemblies are often facilitated by students and cover topics such as responsibility, cooperation, and assertion.



BURR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

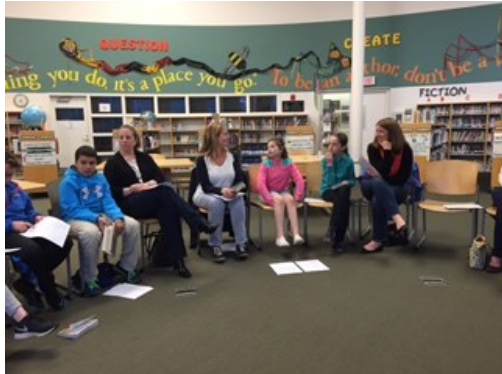


Students at all ages publish their writing by sharing and posting their work.



Reading instruction is an integral part of our day. Students learn to develop their reading lives by reading daily. Students read for upwards of 45 minutes during the school day. There is also a tremendous amount of instruction that occurs during reading workshop including small group work and 1-1 conferring. Students also complete reading based projects that allow them to mix critical thinking with creativity.

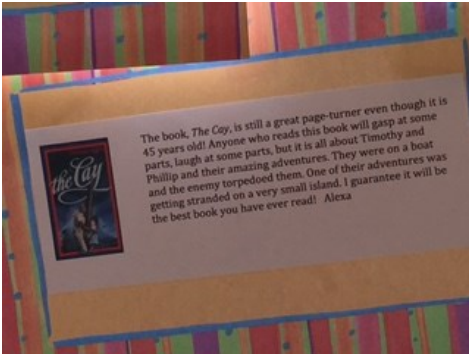
BURR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



The PTA sponsored a Parent/Child book club this year. They met three times throughout the year—enjoying wonderful conversations about literature.



Reading and writing are closely aligned. Students read to learn about writing craft (how writers write), and they write to process their thinking about the books they read.

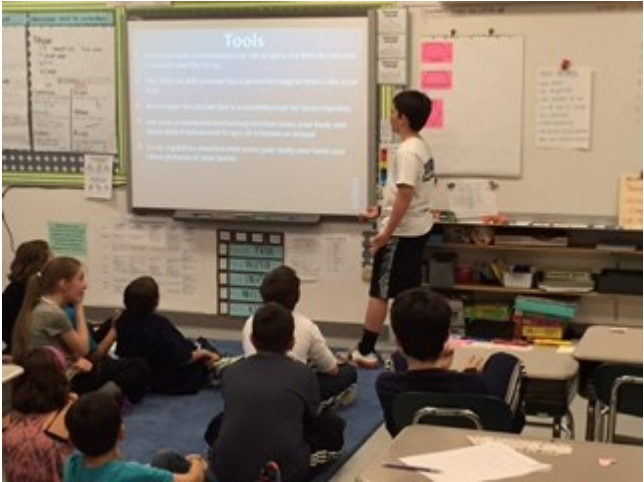


Mrs. Persson ran enrichment book clubs using classic contemporary literature. This was a great opportunity for students to be exposed to timeless literature and have meaningful conversations about literary elements such as character and theme.



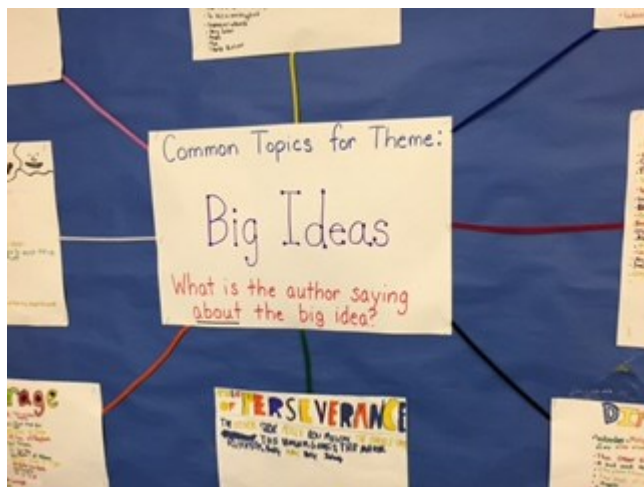
BURR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Fifth graders recently completed passion projects. A passion project is an idea that students develop based on something they are passionate about. They then research the idea and present it to classmates and parents using technology. Students pursued ideas such as aviation, dance, and baseball.



Fifth graders also recently completed Invention Convention projects. From identifying an idea to conducting research to constructing a model, students did a fantastic job of creating solutions for everyday problems. Ideas included a mailbox that can't be knocked over to a doggy door that also cleans pets when they enter your house. Students' ingenuity and creativity was clearly evident throughout their work.





Not only do we teach foundational skills at Burr, but we also ask students to think conceptually about content. This involves analyzing information, synthesizing ideas, and creating products. This happens pre-k-5.



Our students do amazing math work throughout the year. They problem solve, demonstrate math concepts, talk about math, engage in math projects, learn math skills (including multiple strategies for solving math problems), complete math enrichment work, and participate in math games.



Thank you to Burr's staff and students for their hard work every day. Thank you to Burr's parents and community for supporting our school mission and sending us such wonderful children.