

RPE Quarterly Newsletter

FALL 2022

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL:

Hello families! One quarter of the year is already complete...it must be true that time flies when you are having fun, because our students are most definitely having fun this year! We are back to normal procedures, and truly able to enjoy time together as a school community. Not only are we having fun, but students are doing amazing things every day!

This year, our School Improvement Plan instructional goal continues to focus on writing. Students are exploring writing tools, writing sentences and paragraphs with their classes, and each learning their own unique method of written language! Our teachers, paraeducators, TSAs, and related service providers are working hard each day to provide meaningful and specialized written language lessons for our students. I am so proud of the everything our students and staff are doing! Next time you visit, be sure to check out all the student work lining the hallways.

The second semester of the school year will surely fly by. We have the winter break and several holidays in January. The month of December will be an exciting time with school-wide celebrations including the PTA Holiday Light Extravaganza and our first ever school musical. Classrooms and departments will also celebrate many different holiday and winter traditions!

As we enter this week of Thanksgiving, I am so grateful for our school community! Thank you for the support you provide your children each day! The progress I see in every student comes from your hard work, the home/school connection, the perseverance of students, and the amazing staff at Ruth Parker Eason School. Our students truly do shine brightly every day!

With appreciation,
Amy Guerke

IMPORTANT DATES

- Nov. 21-25: Schools closed for students
- Nov. 21-22: Parent/teacher conferences
- Dec. 7: 2-hour early dismissal for Unity Day, wear orange.
- Dec. 9 PTA Holiday Light Extravaganza
- Dec. 21: Holiday musical
- Dec. 23 - Jan 1: Schools closed for winter break

DEPARTMENT UPDATES



ECI

In the 1st quarter, ECI focused on learning about “Awesome Me” in September and “Family and Friends” in October. In November, our theme is “Color, Shape, and Size.” We focused on life skills that include hanging up backpacks, putting on and taking off jackets, and steps to washing our hands. Fun activities included baking banana pudding, decorating pumpkins, and taste-tested orange foods in October for the color of the month.



PRE-K

Our Preschool-4 class has begun to blossom here at Ruth Eason! Our twenty friends have worked hard on learning and adapting to classroom routines and expectations of a school. They walk beautifully with "ducktails and bubbles" through the hall while still greeting others they see. We are excited to be working on developing fine motor skills with playdough, blocks, and beginning writing with a variety of materials. Centers allow us time to socialize and to observe our world around us with our five senses! We loved observing pears, pumpkins, as

well as live jellyfish! We have also worked on counting, shapes, sorting, but most importantly doing our utmost to be good friends to all those around us!

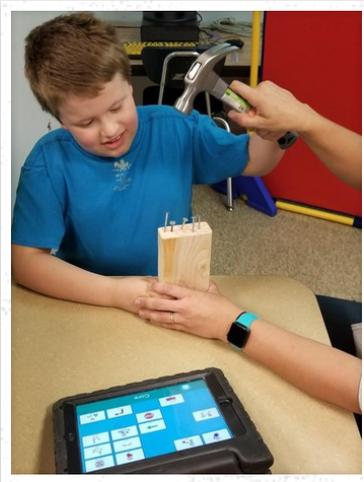


PRIMARY

In the 1st quarter, reading instruction focused on the themes of 5 senses, apples, caterpillars/butterflies, our school, and school rules.

Math instruction focused on numbers (1 and 2), colors (yellow and orange), and shapes (circle and triangle). We also learned about Fire safety, apples, pumpkins, caterpillars/monarch butterflies, and fall. Our fun activities included a pumpkin patch, planting our butterfly garden, fall festival, trick-or-treating, and costume parade. In the 2nd quarter, we look forward to the schoolwide Thanksgiving feast, PJ day, and a Holiday Light Extravaganza. The turtle for the 2022-2023 school year has arrived and is calling the lobby home until May.





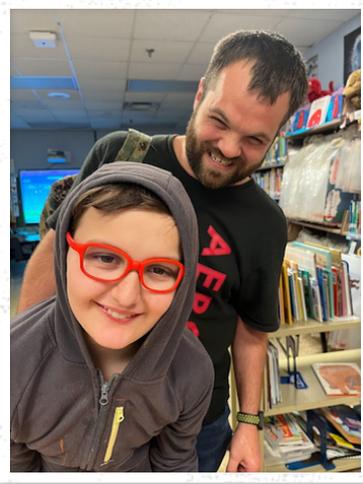
INTERMEDIATE

In the 1st quarter, reading instruction focused on the themes of school rules, magnets, and space! Our first month focused on getting back into the routine of school, including school supplies, schedule, and rules. In October, we learned about magnets and how items that are made of metal will "stick." In November, we are working on a space unit for our reading blocks, specifically focusing on the Sun, Earth, and our Solar System.

Math instruction focused on number sense, colors, 2D and 3D shapes, and money. All math units are integrated as well into the themes of the months and the holidays that we have celebrated. From making shape monsters for Halloween to counting turkeys in November, we are always working on math! Our fun science units included: colors, being a scientist, plants, habitats, ramps, building, and nocturnal animals. We started to talk about the season changing to fall. We practiced written expression by writing about fall and fall celebrations.

We celebrated some student birthdays, and holidays including Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, fall, Halloween, Hispanic Heritage. We had a blast at our pumpkin patch event and trick-or-treat event in October. Thank you to all that participated in the RPE Trunk or Treat, and we are excited to celebrate at the schoolwide Thanksgiving Feast coming up! We have some fun holiday activities planned for December including PJ day, a holiday dance, a light/inflatable show provided by the PTA, and more!





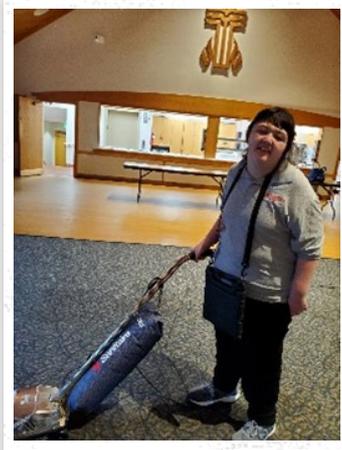
MIDDLE SCHOOL

In the 1st quarter, reading instruction focused around the themes of Government, Science Projects and The Scientific Method. Math instruction focused on counting objects, identifying numbers, addition/subtraction, collecting data, and shapes. We also learned about hermit crabs, pumpkins, and Harry Potter . We had fun with special activities including the Fall festival, hermit crab racing, and Halloween parties!



HIGH SCHOOL

In September, reading instruction focused on the theme of Rights and Responsibilities. In October, we learned about the Scientific Method. Math instruction included time/schedules, money, and counting. We also learned about voting and following a recipe. Our fun activities included the back-to-school dance and a fall festival. Next quarter, we look forward to celebrating holidays around the world.



HIGH SCHOOL - VOCATIONAL

It's exciting to report the in-school and community-based enclave programs are off to a super star start! A big welcome and thank you to our new staff member in the Vocational Training Program Mr. Russ Cordua! He has jumped right in and has made great connections with our students and staff! Mr. Cordua is running the in-school enclave program, in which he works with middle and high school students on a variety of jobs. The jobs around the school include, but are not limited to: collecting and returning our breakfast bins, setting up the cafeteria (i.e. wiping tables setting up chairs, sweeping), cleaning the cafeteria kitchen after last lunch, running the snack cart, laundry, housekeeping, and school grounds clean-up (i.e. picking up trash, collecting/disposing recyclables, and more!).

Our community-based enclave consists of the following sites: Arlington Echo, Woods Memorial Church, and Walmart. At Arlington, the students work on a variety of outdoor and indoor tasks from collecting and disposing of recyclables, filling bird feeders, collecting sticks for kindling wood, sweeping, raking and even cleaning marshmallow sticks. At Woods Memorial Church, students sweep, vacuum, organize service books, and, yes, they do windows! At Walmart, the students stock and organize shelves and pick up and re-stocks returned merchandise.

The students are really shining, demonstrating progress, and having fun in both enclaves as they focus on their vocational skills. They are definite shining stars!



CULTURAL ARTS



MEDIA WITH MS. LYN

In the 1st quarter, instruction focused on the themes of Media orientation, book care, friends, author/illustrator, book families, fiction/nonfiction, fire safety, and how to access eBooks. We also learned about how to use the media library catalog and make personal choices. We had a pumpkin book character contest. In the 2nd quarter, we will celebrate our community's veterans with a Veterans Day Wall of Honor.



MUSIC WITH MS. JANET

We had an exciting start to the school year! The students have learned about the steady beat. They have also learned about eighth notes, quarter notes and rests, half notes and whole notes. We continued the quarter by learning about dynamics, echo songs, and different tempos. Students also worked on reading simple icons, music notes, and simple rhythm patterns from left-to-right and row-to-row. We practiced counting different time signatures to include 4/4 time and 3/4 time. We also practiced counting 1-10 using echo songs. Music class celebrated Constitution Day, Columbus Day, and Halloween. During the 2nd quarter, music class will celebrate Veterans Day, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, and the New Year. It is so much fun watching the students enjoy music class!



ART WITH MS. TASHA

In the first quarter, students explored materials that we commonly use in the art room such as paint, crayons, colored pencils, and markers. We all learned the importance of making our own marks when we read the story "The Dot" by Peter Reynolds. Students then created their own dot to make their mark for the new school year!

Students in every grade level worked on self-portraits. Younger students created themselves using simple shapes, watercolor resist, and printmaking. Older students explored the world of pop art using the pop art color technique of "Ben Day Dots" to create their colorful portraits. Middle School was inspired by the work of Calder's wire portraits and created textured portraits using wikki sticks. Finally, High School students used traced overlays painted with textured brushes and objects to make portraits inspired by the artwork of Shepard Fairey. At the end of the quarter all students worked on various textured clay slab fall themed projects creating ceramic pumpkins and leaves.

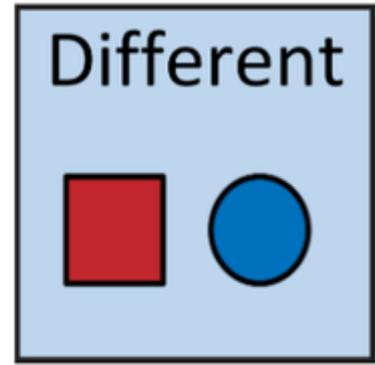
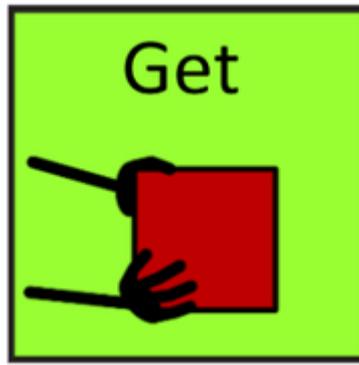
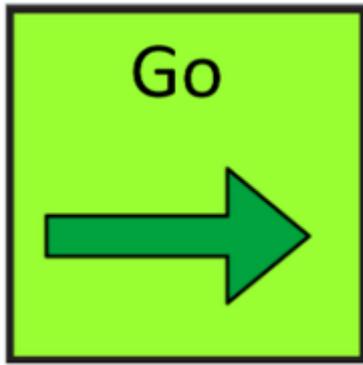
We look forward to creating in the coming quarter especially when students will have the opportunity to work on set designs for our coming holiday play!

RELATED SERVICES



SPEECH/LANGUAGE THERAPY

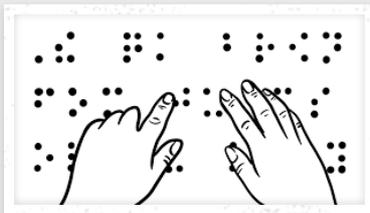
Students are doing a great job in speech-language therapy! They are learning new words, using communication tools/devices, and improving communication in their classrooms. This quarter, speech-language therapists have partnered with teachers to support a Core Word of the Month. Core Words are individual words that pack a lot of meaning. They are really valuable to teach our students! See if you can find ways to incorporate use of these words at home: "Go, Get, Different." Your student's SLP would be more than happy to help! Feel free to reach out!



ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY

Orientation and Mobility Specialists teach students with blindness or low vision how to travel safely and effectively in their environment. Some services include long white cane instruction, orientation to new environments such as schools and neighborhoods, evaluation of quality movement while travelling, and visual scanning to detect drop offs and surface changes.

Morgan Dukes - mdukes@aacps.org



VISION SERVICES

Vision Services provide services to children, ages birth through 21, who have been identified as visually impaired. Teachers of the Blind and Visually Impaired and Orientation and Mobility Instructors deliver itinerant vision services to students in their home school or current school placement.

The role of the Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments (TVI) is to provide direct and/or consultative special education services specific to vision loss. The TVI provides support to students, teachers, and parents. The TVI works with the educational team by advising the team about ways of enhancing the student's learning by adapting activities and materials to the student's abilities.

Vision Resource Teacher/DeafBlind Specialist:

Lauren Maloney

Email: lomaloney@aacps.org

Teacher of the Blind/Visually Impaired:

DeAnna Masters

Email: dmasters@aacps.org

Resources for Families:



FamilyConnect

www.afb.org

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) understands that information is power. We are committed to connecting parents and guardians of children who are blind or visually impaired to life-changing information, resources, local services, and a vibrant and supportive community.



Positive Exposure

positiveexposure.org

The spirit of difference



PHYSICAL THERAPY

Putting kids in equipment at an early age helps promote bone and joint health, standing, and walking skills.

STAR CLUBS

Our students have been having fun during **STAR** (Social Time and Recreation!) **Clubs** on Thursday afternoons. Some highlights from clubs so far:

- The Girls' Club did an "I Appreciate You, Boo" ghost pop fundraiser. They have also had fun conversations and Barbie time.
- Accessible Play Club has been using switches and adaptive ramps to go pumpkin bowling! Our students love making choices and keeping score.
- The Makers Club has been exploring different materials and tools to create! We have worked with wood, nail, hammers, clay and have started on some fun projects! We will incorporate different tools and mediums as the year goes on to create items for each student in the club and for the school.
- Students in the Relaxation Club have enjoyed exploring different ways to wind down for a bit, such as relaxing on a bean bag or comfy mats with a soft blanket. We dim the lights, put on colorful mood lighting, play relaxing music/calming videos, use aromatherapy and also have massage devices available.
- Students in the Sound Bellows Club have been busy learning how to play the instruments. Students are learning how to match their sound bellow to corresponding color cards.
- In the Dance/TikTok Club, our students have been having fun getting up and practicing different dances.
- In Superheroes Club, students have been experiencing the fun adventures of some of our favorite superheroes. We watched some Spiderman, read some cool comics, and played with some fun toys. It's been a good time!



MISC.

PTA

The Ruth Parker Eason PTA began the year strong with a booth at our Back to School Sneak-a-Peek! We were able to use some funds raised last year to support teachers with a \$50 check for classroom materials, laminating pages, and some funding for a welcome back breakfast. We also sent home stickers for all family vehicles to alert first responders of special needs individuals. Our families had a lot of fun at our annual Trunk or Treat event on Sunday October 30th!

If you want to be a part of this amazing group to support our school, please reach out to Amy Richards at amrichards@aapcs.org.

HEALTH ROOM

Guidelines Regarding Student Illnesses

When Do I Keep My Child Home From School?

- Current temperature of 100.4 F or higher
- Temperature of 100.4 F or higher in previous 24 hours
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Abdominal pain
- Undiagnosed rash
- Skin infection, if unable to be covered by dressing
- Nuisance condition not currently treated (ringworm, head lice, scabies)
- Red eyes that are itchy or draining
- Difficulty breathing, wheezing, shortness of breath

- Cough
- Seizure causing student to be too tired to participate
- Head injury
- Pain or discomfort that makes it difficult for student to participate
- Suspected broken bone
- Adverse reaction to a medication

(Although no comprehensive list is possible, the above conditions may be appropriate reasons to keep a student home from school.)

Thank you for your cooperation as we strive to provide a healthy environment,

Lisa Robinson, RN

Ruth Eason School Nurse

(410)222-3815