

Kite and Leaf...

The good news
email from TCS!

We thought it would be nice to make a special "good news" email once a month to bring you all the great things that are going on here in our programs at The Children's School.

Relax and enjoy as we kick off this collection of bright and inspiring stories from colorful classrooms, woodland adventures, worlds of imagination, and the best that The Children's School still offers for kids in both our hybrid and remote learning programs.

You're Never Too Young to Get Out the Vote!

Our middle level classes dove into a civic participation/social justice project bright and early this school year. Guest speaker and activist Denise Poloyac from Indivisible Chicago spoke at our middle level town hall meeting. The students learned about the consequences of low voter turnout and how certain states have enacted policies to suppress voter registration and voting.



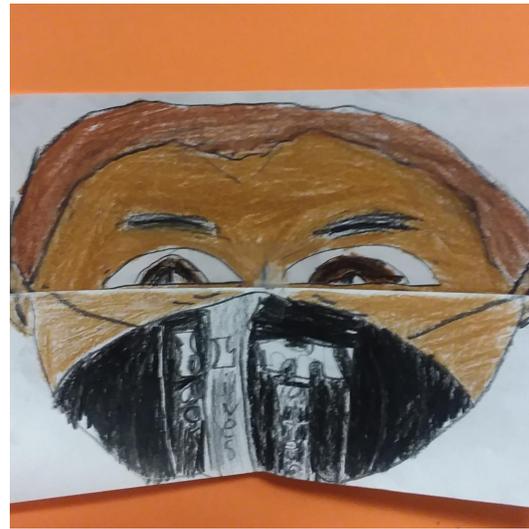
Many students and their families participated by writing, signing and sending postcards to swing voting districts in Texas, encouraging greater voter participation. The cards said:

"We do our best for our families no matter our color, age or gender. But some politicians divide us so they can block access to affordable healthcare, good schools and clean water. Let's join together and vote in the Tues, Nov 3 election!"

Self-Portraiture Takes on New Dimensions

One of our traditions in each classroom is working with self-portraiture. This year, Ms. Angela's 4th grade class took their self-portraits to a new dimension, adding fold-down masks. The students could design both a mask that reflected a creative side of themselves.

When pulled down, the mask revealed a bigger picture with a whole new perspective.

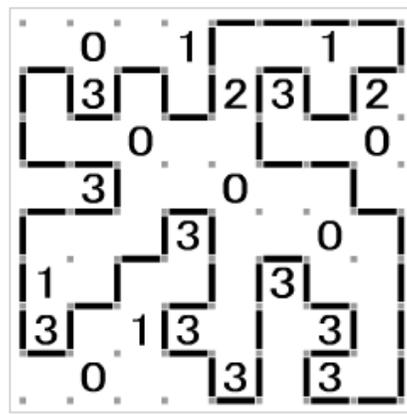
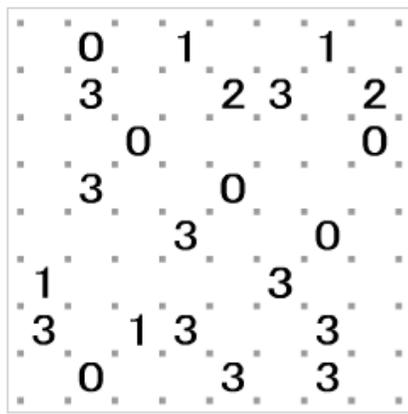


Math Games Build Conceptual Learning

Teachers at The Children's School incorporate lots of math games in every grade to not only make math fun, but to engage children more deeply in absorbing math concepts. Here's what's happening in Middle Level math with Ms. Melissa Barone:

"Each year I begin math groups with a number sense unit filled with games, patterns and puzzles! We've played various games that support students' understanding and application of factors and multiples. We've also learned how to complete two challenging yet engaging spatial reasoning puzzles. We start by looking at an empty and completed puzzle side by side followed with working together to generate the rules and goal of the puzzle. I've found these puzzles engage even the most reluctant math learners! Students are eager to share strategies, support one another, and check their solutions before asking for more.

Below is an image of an incomplete and completed Slitherlink Puzzle. Can you determine the goal and rules?



Creative, Fun, Outdoor Learning Spaces



Any day when weather permits, our classes spend as much time learning outdoors as possible. In fact, each classroom has a designated outdoor space where they can play, hold classes, read, write, and enjoy the fresh air. We've even set up tent canopies in several outdoor areas to provide shade - which we needed in our sunny September. *(upper left)*

Below are photos of how Kindergarten teachers, Ms. Nadine and Ms. Kendra, creatively set up individual play and learning stations in their outdoor space.



