



Culture Matters

KW/Vina Elementary staff had the opportunity to hear teachings from Mr. Patrick Armstrong Jr. The story he shared resonated with so many staff members and what they experienced during this pandemic.



Every one of us including those of you reading this report has a story to tell about how the virus has impacted our lives. As a team at KW/Vina Elementary, the planning and preparation during this pandemic was 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Many times our staff had to put their own lives aside to make sure our students had the best possible education we could provide them virtually.

When our staff returned back to campus, they had so much heartache and uncertainty. Culturally we knew the right thing to do was to give our staff gifts in hopes this would lift their spirits. The toughest was when we blanketed 14 (+1 more loss during Easter break not pictured) of our staff members with hugs who lost loved ones' during the pandemic.

(Grandmother, Mothers, Daughter, Aunts, Sister, Fathers, Son, Husbands, Uncle)

May they all Rest In Peace

and our staff members' broken hearts will be healed in due time.



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We also showed our gratitude to the BPS board members for all their efforts in allowing more time to get our classrooms/buildings safety ready and for keeping our staff safe until we could all get vaccinated.

We also blanketed 3 board members who are grieving the loss of a loved one.





Safety Matters

(Rebecca Rappold: Assistant Principal)



March was filled with making final preparations for some students to transition to blended learning and others to remain remote. The custodians worked diligently with the Maintenance Department to ensure that all in-person classrooms had air purification systems, signage was posted, sanitizing stations were set-up, and traffic patterns were established. The Leadership Team made final preparations in regard to the KWV Phase 2 COVID Plan by preparing teachers for student's return to campus. PD was provided to support following CDC guidelines for elementary classrooms, teaching kids about properly wearing masks and regular hand-washing throughout the day, and finally their part in keeping classrooms clean and minimizing surface area to ensure that custodians could efficiently sanitize surfaces throughout the school day.

Positives:

It feels good to have our buildings ready for the return of staff and students to campus. At this time, the implementation of KWV's Phase 2 COVID Plan feels successful and our staff and students have enjoyed reconnecting after a year of remote learning.

Challenges:

With grateful hearts, we have no challenges to report. We are thankful for the decision-making, support, and daily efforts of the Blackfeet Tribal Council, BPS Board of Trustees, and District Staff for ensuring a safe return for students during COVID-19 and providing services to our children during the shutdown.

Attendance Matters

(Rebecca Rappold: Assistant Principal)

The first week of Blended Learning was a success! We had a few kinks to work out with our in and out of town student rosters, and a few parent/guardian decision changes from remote to blended or blended to remote, but students, staff, and parents were ready to make this transition and the week went well. With the transition to Blended Learning we have now reconnected with some students that had not participated in Google Meets or SeeSaw during Remote Learning due to limited internet accessibility and/or difficulty coordinating school and parent work schedules. Daily attendance during 4th quarter is taken in Infinite Campus based on Google meets for remote students and distance blended learning students (on at home cohort days), as well as in-person attendance for blended students for the on-campus days.

Perfect Attendance Students at KW/Vina as of March 26, 2021:

PreK- 0 Students

Kindergarten- 1 Student



1st- 10 Students

Graduation Matters

(Nicole Whitney :First Grade Instructional Coach)

We made it! After a year of remote learning, we are so, so excited to welcome students back into our rooms and get into our new normal. I spent this month working with both the remote and blended teachers analyzing our February benchmarking data and planning our instruction for the remainder of the year. Our in-person and remote instruction parallels each other, and it took a lot of collaborating to get these two models aligned and off the ground.

Our teachers have been exceptional throughout the last year, but it has really shown in this last month. The prep and planning for instruction, the new rosters, and the constant adjustments to the plan have been unending, but these teachers have maintained their grace in the face of all this and are more than prepared for the final quarter. Their ability to be flexible has been astounding, and their willingness to work together to create the best education for their students is inspiring.

(Bonnie Roberts: Para Professional Leader)

We started the month of March preparing for the students' return. New backpacks with supplies was assembled for both our blended and remote students. A drive through distribution was organized for remote students to receive their materials. Our next focus was making preparations for the return of our blended students in the buildings. Each classroom was equipped with supplies and protocols for the safe return of our students. Bulletin boards were updated to create a welcoming atmosphere for our young students. Easter is the next theme, so our hallways and showcases were decorated with colorful ornaments to add to the ambiance.

March 22nd! It finally arrived. After parents took their "first day of school photos" the kids were escorted to their classrooms and welcomed in by their teachers. The first few days went without a hitch and we are looking forward to completing our school year with as much love and encouragement as we can to have a positive ending to our year.

(Ruth Shea: Pre-Kindergarten Leader)

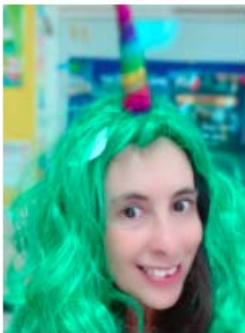
PreK started the month of March with a week long celebration of Dr Seuss' birthday. The kids had fun doing Dr Seuss math and hearing a new story every day during Morning Meets. Each day had a new theme--silly socks day (Fox in Socks), crazy hair day (There's a Wocket in My Pocket), crazy hat day (The Cat in the



Hat), estimation day (The Lorax). Our students enjoyed participating in these activities. We completed our unit "From Jungle to Desert". We will be starting unit 6 when we return from spring break.

All students were assessed the 3rd progress monitoring tool from our OWL program. We have analyzed the data and are using it to drive our instruction and to give students more support in targeted areas. We have decided to focus on letter recognition, letter sounds and blending sounds this quarter. In Math, number recognition and counting will be our focus.

The transition from remote to blended learning was well worth the extra planning and hard work. Seeing our children in person has been just wonderful. The positive feedback that we have received from parents from both remote students and on campus students has been heartwarming. We are delighted to be back in the classroom and our students are loving being back in school.



(Kelley Sharp: Kindergarten Leader)

March was a fun month for Kindergarten. We started off with a read across America



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where we celebrate Dr Suess's B-day with some fun activities. We uploaded a couple activities a day for a week on SeeSaw. Mrs Grant visited classes via google meet dressed as Dr. Suess. Our students really enjoyed this. One of my students said it was the best day ever.



We then began the process of coming back and welcoming the Blended Learning students.

It is a little different but the students that came were so happy. There is a great schedule in place in our building which makes the flow really nice. The staff felt safe and with the smaller groups it makes everything is more comfortable. We are in the process of starting Unit 6 in Wonders and we are following Mary Buck suggestions for math.

Teachers are preparing themselves for teacher conferences when they return from break. Happy Easter from the Kindergarten Team!!