

Mineola Elementary School
School Board Report
February 2014

1. Third Grade has launched a reading of Martin Luther King's biography. Students are learning about the history and character of MLK. Writing connections for non-fiction have been highlighted. In math and science students continue to make connections with real life problem solving essentials. Included in the products was the development of a two dimensional or three dimensional model of a volcano.
2. Fourth Grade has studied weather and using the metric system to chart temperature. Students have been engaged in an outdoor observation of precipitation, cloud formations, and changes in the environment. They have recorded, charted, and illustrated their findings. The Winter Olympics has been the focus of a Project Based Learning experience that incorporates research, collaboration, writing, a three dimensional prototype, and a two dimensional presentation. Reading, math, writing, social studies and science are embedded in the experience. Students are also focused on the concept of challenge and how athletes overcome obstacles.
3. Fifth Grade students have experienced authentic non-fiction text and used it to write and reflect. The process of asking questions has also been emphasized as students prepare for the three-day Outdoor Learning Experience at Sky Ranch. Students worked on posing a question in order to design a science experiment for proving or disproving the hypothesis.
4. Bully/Bystander Awareness assembly in February focused on kindness. Mineola High School students led the session, which focused on how to reach out to fellow students in simple acts of kindness.
5. Dennis Lee and Nana Puddin' presented their show, *An Army of One*, to all third, fourth and fifth graders. The lesson to students was that each of us makes a difference in our own lives, as well as the lives of others.
6. Elementary Newspaper is publishing the fourth issue of the Mineola News and Times.
7. Kids University is focused on the Winter Olympics and the math behind the events. Students are learning about robotics that help humans make efficient use of movement for improving performance. Other students are creating comics using publishing apps and still others are involved in the invention process. Kids University is a place to investigate and create.
8. Parental involvement opportunities include ESL parents making goodie bags for teachers, Super Dads attending morning assemblies, parent volunteers attending Sky Ranch as chaperones, and parents assisting during Valentine Parties. ESL classes are also held three days a week. Super Dads meet every Tuesday. Joe Adams, Super Dad leader, will be sharing the message of Championship Fathering to Kiwanis on February 18.
9. Scholastic Book Fair arrived on our campus February 3 through February 11 and offered a wide array of beautiful books for students to purchase.

10. Teacher initiatives for improvement include: restructuring reading groups based on benchmark test results; attendance at reading training for balanced literacy; attendance at the Technology Conference; attendance at the textbook review meetings. Teachers are meeting to implement balanced literacy for all students.
11. Campus Climate and Culture notes: Our campus is very grateful to our community and our benevolent fund this month. As a campus we have been able to assist one of our students whose family lost their home to a fire. The school, community and other resources came together to support this family. School supplies and clothing were purchased for our third grader who came to school fully prepared, ready to learn, and smiling. Several organizations and businesses partnered with MES by providing sleeping bags and flashlights for our fifth grade Sky Ranch Outdoor Learning Experience. These partnerships continue to relay a message of support to our students.
12. Kiwanis will present BUG Awards (Bring Up Grades) on February 28.