

**Math:** Using the Engage NY lessons, students are learning new strategies to help them with multiplication and division problems using units up to 8. We have explored the communicative property and distributive property, as well as practiced understanding the function of parentheses to help us solve problems. I also introduced arrays and had students model their thinking to multiplication and division problems by playing an array capture game. If you would like a copy to play at home, feel free to grab one from the resource bin on the back counter.

**Morning Meetings** I want to take a minute and share with you the structure and function of our morning meetings. Even though our time together is so precious and limited, I find it valuable to allow students to connect with each other and set intentions for the day. After sharing our daily schedule with students, we begin with a greeting. This usually looks like students getting up and finding friends to greet, do a silly hand shake, or ask a few friends a specific question. Then we go into share time. We have been using this time to ‘interview a friend’ and practice active listening skills. Students take turns sharing out what they discovered in their mini interviews. After our share time is game time! You will find us playing detective, chief, four corners or something else equally fun to help students practice turn taking and positive sportsmanship skills. Lastly, I share a message with students to help them set positive intentions for the day. Sometimes our school counselor, Kene, joins us and leads us in an inspirational activity. Just recently Kene shared a video with us about ‘Carrying our own Weather’. The focus was to inspire students to be proactive and not let other people’s circumstances affect the way we feel and act.

**Writing** Students have been working on creating skillful ‘I am’ writing pieces for exhibition. Students had to choose a body part involved in one of the speech systems and write an informational piece from the body part’s perspective. After writing a first draft they practiced peer editing and giving feedback to one another that was kind, helpful, and specific. Students are working on completing their second draft to display for exhibition.

**Reading/Project** To culminate their learning about the subsystems of speech, students created stop motion videos to show how their system worked. They had to collaboratively plan out their video, build and create props, and learn how to navigate the app Stop Motion. Through this process, students had to dig deep and

demonstrate the habits of heart and mind to create a deliverable for exhibition. I also introduced our third and final phase of our project, how to use our voices to be heard. We discussed fundamentals of what it takes to be heard and how to be a skillful listener. Using the book *Malala's Magic Pencil*, we began learning about how people have used their voice to speak up for others. For the next few weeks we will continue to learn of other impactful people, and prepare a plan to utilize and create benches around our school that can be a space for people to use their voices to reach out to others.

**Guest Speakers:** Our Speech and Language Pathologist, Rebecca, stopped by and shared all about her profession. She showed us videos of real vocal cords in action, shared the 5 domains she supports students with (semantics, syntax, phonology, morphology, and pragmatics), and explained the importance of the speech subsystems. We also had an opportunity to Skype with a parent who is a musician/actor. Mr. Hennessey discussed the importance of taking care of your voice, tips to project your voice when talking and singing, the role the diaphragm plays in respiration, and other fun anecdotes 😊