

January 2020 Newsletter



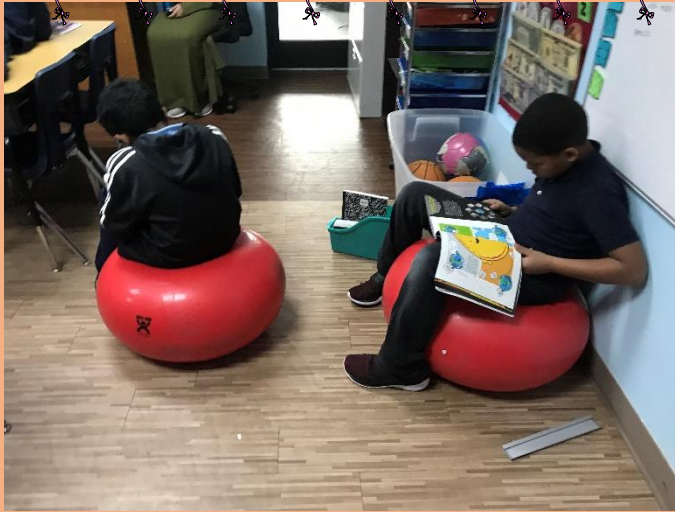
Third Grade!!

Alhumdulillah, January has been an exciting month! We started our second class novel called *The Castle Mystery*, learned about moon phases and decided on the purpose of the bus as part of our STEAM Grand Challenge!

Daily 5 Reading

Alhumdulillah, the third grade students have been enjoying our Daily 5 Reading Program. The program allows students to experience an immersive and relaxed reading atmosphere, while allowing the teacher to have one-on-one reading conferences towards student reading goals. Jazakallah Khair to all the generous parents who have donated books for our classroom library!





Science

In science, we have been studying about the Earth, Moon and Planets. We learned some amazing facts about the Moon and compared it to Earth in Venn Diagrams. We learned why the moon seems to change shape and go through phases based on where it is positioned relative to the Earth and Sun. We created amazing Moon Phase projects to show the 8 major phases of the moon! We have started exploring stars and are learning about how a solar system is made of one star and the objects that revolve around it!



Quran (Sister Asma)

The third grade students completed Suratul-Infitar, Alhamdulillah and we celebrated this completion and had a party. We began Suratu-Takwir and will be practicing and doing activities for this Surah. We will use the tablets and computers.

Islamic Studies (Dr. Misbah)

Alhamdulillah! we had another month of interesting and interactive Islamic Studies lessons after coming back from a nice and relaxing Winter Break! First, we spent time understanding the theme of this month "Compassion" and how we can apply it in our daily lives. As the slogan for the entire year is "DON'T JUST KNOW IT BUT SHOW IT".

We then started with the Open invitation and reviewed our lesson on Companions of the cave. We analyzed each topic with students through discussions and lessons that we can learn from the same and how we can implement it in our daily lives. We are also learning and correcting salah with students every Tuesday wherein we teach them about salah starting from the posture, niyyah and what we recite during salah. We also completed our fourth target from the Essential Duaas and Surahs book which is Surah Lahab wherein the students memorized the surah along with its meaning and virtue in class. Alhamdulillah!

We have been having lots of fun in our interactive Islamic Studies classes using a variety of methods. Our students enacted the lesson on "Companions of the Cave" on Reading Day and came up with a wonderful performance that goes with our theme "Compassion" mashaAllah.

Social Studies

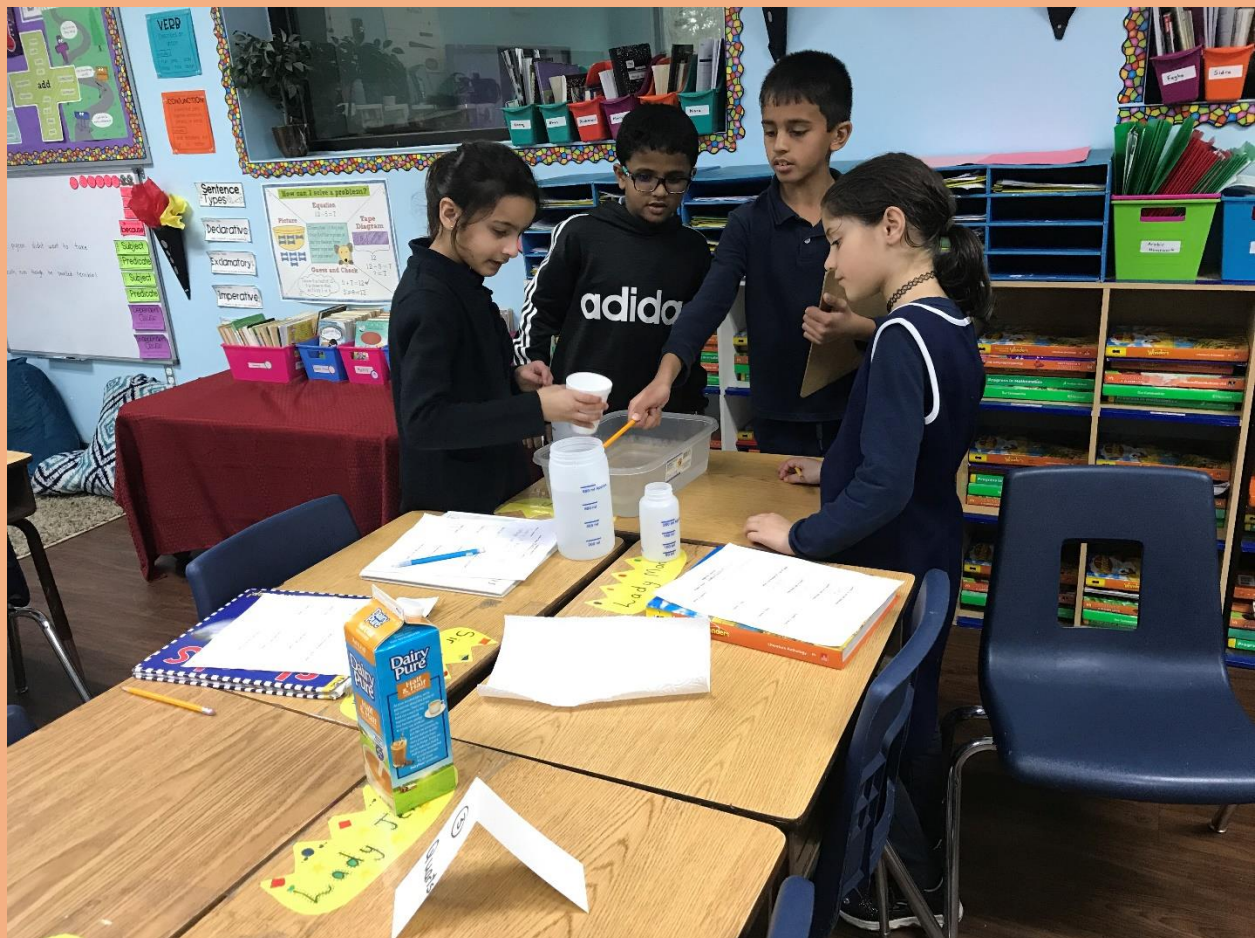
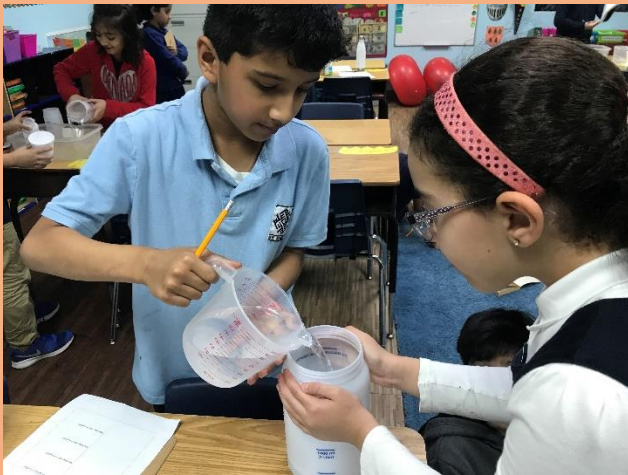
We have completed our unit on American History! We really enjoyed learning about the events that led to the formation of the United States of America! We discovered how the British colonies began settling on the East Coast and the sad history of the Native Americans at the hands of European explorers. We studied the Boston Tea Party and how that rebellious act led to the Civil War. Our class learned about the origin of many important documents such as the Declaration of Independence and Constitution.

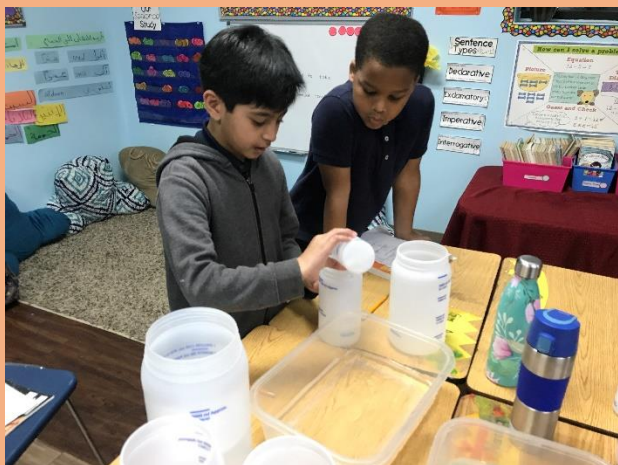
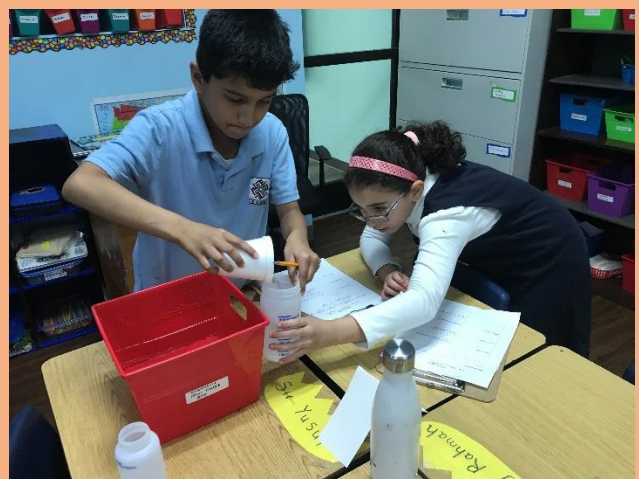
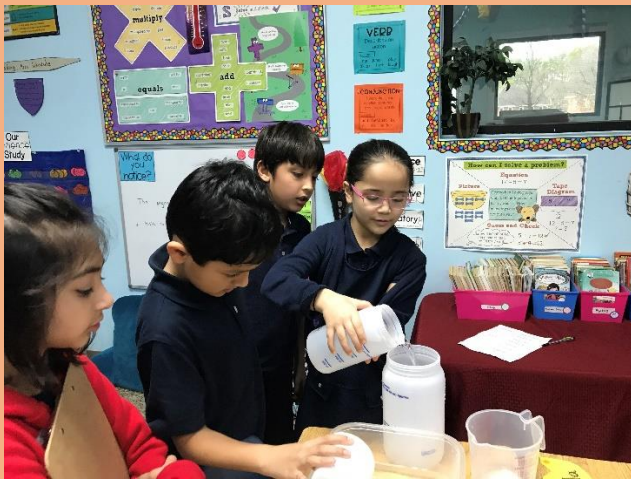
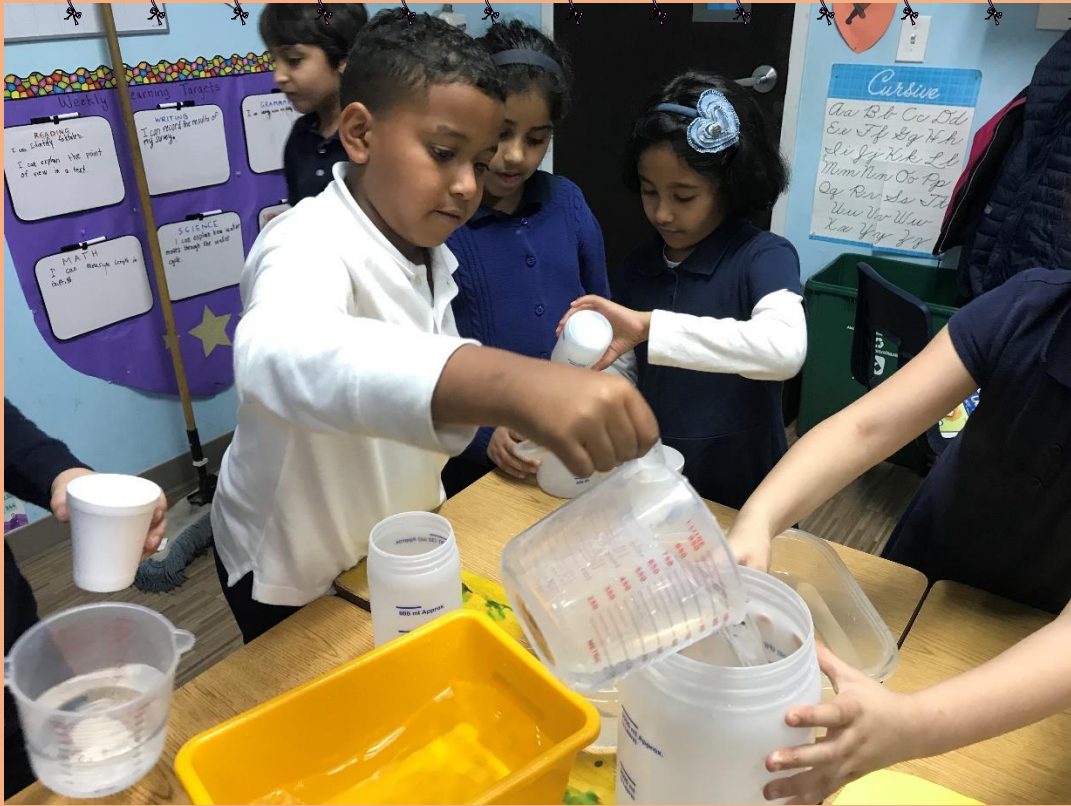
Arabic (Sister Jihan)

Alhamdulillah we have had three amazing weeks after winter break with interesting interactive lessons in a new Arabic topic. The students have learned in unit 5 the parts of the house or apartment. They can describe their room and use adjectives. They have learned the appliances, utensils, and furniture inside the house and they can tell their addresses. They have learned the basic Arabic grammar and how to use the verbs with first person (I, we) and the third person (he & she). They can say simple sentences and read short paragraphs in their text book as well.

Math

We have been exploring custom and metric units of measurement! We enjoyed learning about units of length (inches, feet, yards, miles, centimeters, decimeters, meters and kilometers). The third graders really enjoyed exploring the conversions for custom units of capacity. They used marked containers to measure out and record the conversions between cups, pints, quarts, half gallons and gallons!





Art (Sr. Heba)

Assalam Alaikum parents. This month, third graders used shaving cream and stencils to recreate a process known as reflection. They also helped create and decorate props for the Ilm Reading Day. These props included but were not limited to props that were in coordination with the story of "The People of the Cave".



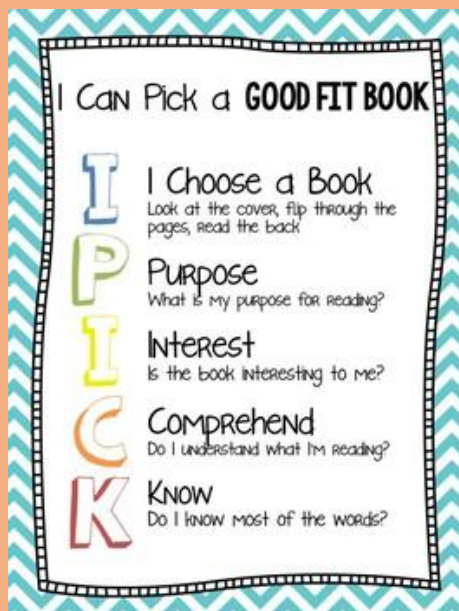
ELA

We have been exploring the genres of expository text and folktale. We discussed how to identify the theme, author's point of view and cause and effect in a text. In grammar, we have been exploring action verbs, helping verbs and linking verbs.

We have started our new Literature Circles novel, *The Boxcar Children: Castle Mystery!* We are so excited to discover what the Alden children have in store in this new adventure. We will be responding to the text by asking higher-order questions, summarizing events, making real world connections and looking for new vocabulary words and their meanings.

Picking Good Fit Books

As part of our Daily 5 Reading Program, our students have been learning how to pick "good-fit" books. They use the I-PICK method, outlined in the chart below. Once we had taught them the strategies, the students went "shopping" for new books for their book bins!



STEAM Grand Challenge

We continued working towards our Grand Challenge for this year: Environmental Sustainability. We completed Unit One and surveyed Montessori students to find out what they would like us to do with the inside of the bus!



Reading Day Presentation!

