

Cornerstone Monthly Newsletter

February 2024

Toddler Community

Hi from the Toddler Community!



Children's House 1



Hello Everyone!

February has flown by in Children's House 1 and we've been busy! Lots of new works were introduced this month: weaving, color mixing, Waffle Making, Strawberry Slicing and Kettlebell Carrying and old favorites were brought back (I'm sure you have all enjoyed play-dough work being back). The children (and adults) have enjoyed this mild winter and the opportunities we've gotten to play outside most days. Thank you for all your patience as we survived the muddiest playground season ever. We're excited for all the fun and learning March will bring!



Children's House 2





Lower Elementary Garden

February was a busy month in Garden! We have been sharing history stories about ancient civilizations over these past few weeks. Children have been excited to discover examples of architecture, human resources, and important contributions from each civilization. Learning about people who came before us helps us develop appreciation for their beautiful work in our world. Today, we can say thank you to the Egyptians for the calendar and the Romans for democracy!

We also finished reading aloud the delightful book *Lasagna Means I Love You* by Kate O'Shaughnessy. Children were so inspired by the protagonist, Mo, and her mission to seek out a delicious family recipe. Some children brought in their own recipes from home to write down and compile into a shared recipe book. Others wrote letters to the author about how much they enjoyed her writing. Everyone had an opportunity to bring Mo's recipes to life by doing some cooking in small groups in the classroom. We got to taste egg-lemon soup, bisquets chinos, lemon bars, buttermilk cookies, and banana muffins. Yum!





Lower Elementary Pond

Pond has been busy the last few weeks! We had a student teacher who gave some lessons, and lots of "old" works have come back out again. Skip counting by 6 with the bead chains was a fun work this week, sometimes even taking multiple days. Another big work has been pin maps, where finishing a whole continent is a big achievement.

Learning the different parts of speech and using the grammar symbols has been really fun, as well as some large math works such as fraction multiplication and even the checkerboard!





Upper Elementary Marsh

This month, an ongoing work that all Marsh has been involved in is Book Clubs! Children meet weekly to discuss what they've read, learn a reading skill to practice (questioning, clarifying, predicting, and so on), and decide what their new assignment pages will be. Then, children read and prepare for the next week; the class ipad has the audio version of each book also. This round, groups read *A Wish in the Dark* by Christina Soontornvat, *The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez* by Adrianna Cuervos, *Amina's Voice* by Hena Khan, *When You Trap a Tiger* by Tae Keller, and *That Thing About Bollywood* by Supriya Kelker. Everyone finished their books by the end of the month. Some children are now writing letters to the author or reviews to share with classmates.





Upper Elementary Forest

This month, Forest's fourth-years told us about their favorite current work!

Itzel

My favorite work currently is three-digit division. First of all, it's challenging and hard, which I like! I like how this work is challenging and hard. I think that it's fun to do challenging and hard work because I get to make mistakes and that's what makes me learn. Another reason it's my favorite work is because it's fun. Doing stamp game three-digit division makes me feel smart and it's fun because it makes me feel focused. Finally, it's brain-growing. I think this work will help me in the future to master division, but for now I am still practicing these skills. My goal in the future is to do long division without using the stamp game to guide me.

Bakisa

My favorite work is Earth's Early Atmosphere. First of all, I like Earth's Early Atmosphere because it involves art. I like that it involves art because I'm also a fan of art. I consider myself an artist and I like doing art during the day. The second reason I like Earth's Early Atmosphere is because it is calming work. It is calming for me to just sit down after lunch and color. I like the quiet during silent reading, so usually, when I'm not reading during this time, I am doing Earth's Early Atmosphere. The final reason I like it is because it doesn't involve so much writing. When my partner and I finish a panel, we go into our lesson notebook and read our notes. Then, after reading our notes, it's easy to make a short paragraph for the panel. Those are the reasons I like Earth's Early Atmosphere and I am happy to share my favorite work with you.

Pria

My favorite work at the moment is Earth's Early Atmosphere. First of all, I like this work because I get to work with Bakisa. We work well together because we don't even have to talk, we just draw, color, and write! We agree on most things, so it's not hard to agree about our work. Second of all, I like that I get to learn science. Science is one of my favorite subjects, so it works out! It is really cool that I can learn one of my favorite subjects while doing my favorite work! Finally, I am enjoying collaborating with Bakisa. She is really good at drawing and I am really good at coloring. So, she draws and I do most of the coloring. We plan to share this work at Cornerstone Cafe in March, and make mini books for each classroom.



Chloe

My favorite work currently is Cloud Types. The first reason why I like it is because I got to try something new. When I first did it I did not like it, but when I kept doing it, I started to like it. The second reason why I liked Cloud Types is because it was fun and I enjoyed it. It was fun because I got to work with a partner and I got to draw. It was fun to do it and I hope to do something similar to this soon. My final reason why I enjoyed Cloud Types is because it was my first big follow-on work that I liked. Consequently, I feel good about my work. Through this work I have learned that I can do challenging things.

Yazid

My favorite work currently is square roots. First, I like it because it's challenging. One reason why square roots are challenging is because, to do it, you must figure out what number squared equals that number. A second reason why it's challenging is because some people might think it's division. Also, square root is my favorite work because it's new to me. It's new to me because I got the lesson on February 22nd, and right now it's February 27th. I've been wanting the lesson on square root ever since October 16th of last year. Finally, I also enjoy it because I can do it with a friend. My friend, Atticus, and I have a goal: to get to 3-digit roots before the end of the school year. Ever since we started doing squares of binomials we have had this goal, although we originally thought we could get to 4-digit roots. I think we can reach our goal.



Atticus

My favorite work currently is square root. My first reason is because it's challenging because you have to be very precise. Another reason is because you have to write stuff like $+^2$, $2+u$, and u^2 . Second, I like square root because it is fun. It is fun because I learned new math skills. Finally, it is engrossing because you have to concentrate. Also, putting in the pegs by itself is really engaging. My goal as well as Yazid's is that by fifth grade we will get to 4-digit squares at the least.

Emmi

My favorite work right now is division of fractions. I like it because it's fun using the fraction slice materials. The material is enjoyable to use because I can touch all of the pieces, and it's satisfying to move them around. I like fraction division because I feel confident working on it! I feel confident doing this work because I get to practice it often, therefore, it's getting easier. Similarly, I like this work because it's challenging. Although it gets easier every time, the work still challenges me. All in all, fraction division is my favorite work right now.

Oliver

My favorite work right now is writing a story about the red squirrel that I named Frankie who lives in a tree by the pond next to Forest. First off, I enjoy this work because it's fun. It's fun to choose where the story goes and to make my own characters. Also, it's very challenging. It's very hard to decide how the story should go. It also takes patience... a lot of patience. I often try to include my vocabulary words when I work on my story, too. Finally, I like this work because it's new to me. I've never tried writing a story before, but it's very fun! I will have to keep practicing because I'm not very good at it yet.

Evy

My favorite work currently is Language Tower Capital Letters. The first reason why I like it is because it's fun. The reason Language Tower is fun for me is because I get to learn facts while I'm doing it. For example, in Capital Letters M series cards 8,9, and 10, it tells me about structures, events, teams, titles, and other interesting things. Another reason why I like Language Tower Capital Letters besides it being fun is that it's challenging for me. Language Tower challenges me because Capital Letters are a new card sort for me, and language work is just challenging for me sometimes. However, when I started to practice a lot, I grew to know that it is okay if a work is challenging, it just means you're learning. As a matter of fact, I didn't like Capital Letters at first because it was so challenging, but when I started to do it a lot, it got really fun. That is why my favorite work is Language Tower Capital Letters!

Sofia

My favorite work currently is long division. First off, I really enjoy this work because I think it is fun. Also, long division is engrossing. It is a work I can really focus on. It is also challenging. Some problems on long division are sometimes hard and I like it! That is my favorite work currently.

