

January Distance Learning Newsletter

Submitted by Christy Hubley & Betti Percival

January:

During the month of **January**, we completed **16 test** calls in preparation for programs and collaborations that were completed during this month and for programs scheduled in February.

Video conference programs:

Sandown North School:

- Laura McLaughlin connected with the Akron Zoo located in Akron, Ohio for a program titled, "Rainforest Animals" for grade three students.
- Maura Brown's, Kathy Low's, and Kim Busiek's first grade classes connected with the Indianapolis Zoo located in Indiana for a program titled, "The Mitten". The Mitten is a story of a lost mitten and the animals find it. The Mitten is a classic tale written by Jan Brett. Students listened to the story and after hearing the story students learned about the animals from the story. Students also discussed the facts and fiction in the story.



Danville School:

- Kerry George's first grade class and Lisa Furman's first grade class connected with the NASA Glenn Research Center located in Cleveland Ohio for a program titled, "The Moon".

Teacher comment about the program: "Another first grade teacher and I felt it was a valuable learning activity. It reinforced what has been introduced in the classroom and was age-appropriate. The children were engaged in a Q & A section which went very well. The presenter from NASA was at the student's level and added to their knowledge."(Kerry George)

Teacher comment about the program: The program was excellent. The instructor did a wonderful job explaining things at first grade level; my students really enjoyed it and are talking alot about it."(Lisa Furman)

- Kathy Charmanski's first grade class also connected with NASA Glenn Research Center for a program titled, "The Moon".



Pollard School:

- Colleen Ferrante's and Sherry Bell's second grade classes connected with the Anne Arbor Hands-On Museum located in Ann Arbor Michigan for a program titled, "Slime Time & States of Matter".

Teacher comment about the program: Fantastic! She did such a nice job defining the 3 states of matter and giving examples. The directions were given in small chunks and reviewed so that students wouldn't forget. Ample time was given to let students explore and then discussion about what they discovered was handled very well. Students came home with a sample which they truly loved and couldn't wait to show their family. I highly recommend this as it fits so well into our curriculum."

- Kara Bloom and Shirley Toscano's second grade classes also connected with Anne Arbor Hands-On Museum for the program titled, "Slime Time & States

of Matter”. Students explored the three states of matter by making two types of slime.

- Toniann Hamilton’s morning and afternoon kindergarten classes connected with the Anne Arbor Hands-On Museum for a program titled, “Critters in the Cold.” The kindergarten students made penguin hats prior to the program so that they could pretend to go to the cold regions while being connected with the museum. Students had a chance to feel the soft down feathers of penguins, pretend to be adult penguins and transfer an egg without dropping it on the arctic ground. They also discussed how various cold weather animals stay warm in their environments.

TRMS:

- Danielle Latte’s sixth grade students from the *6A Diamonds Team* connected with the NASA Johnson Space Center in Cleveland Ohio for a program titled, “Return to Moon Challenge” Part I”. This first session was held on January 20th for the first group of fifty students. Danielle’s second group of fifty students participated in the same program on January 21st, 2009.



Atkinson Academy:

- Erin Camire’s and Nicole Mone’s kindergarten classes connected with the Milwaukee Public Museum located in Milwaukee Wisconsin for a program titled, “Unearthing Dinosaurs”. Students learned about the different types of fossils and how to tell if a dinosaur is a carnivore or herbivore. Students viewed artifacts and the tools that paleontologists use to extract fossils.

Collaborations:

TRMS:

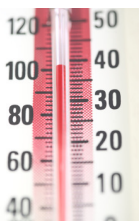
- Corel Hampe’s eighth grade Spanish class connected with the White Plains Middle School located in White Plains New York for Spanish class collaboration.

Teacher comment about the program: “We met for the first time to listen to the New York students present their families. It was an eye opening experience for my class to see and hear more diversity. This gave them a chance to hear Spanish from someone other than me.” (Corel Hampe)



Danville School:

- Lisa Furman’s first grade class collaborated with Mrs. Booth’s kindergarten class at St. John Episcopal School in Dallas, Texas. Students in Lisa Furman’s class recorded and graphed the daily temperature for the month of January. One student demonstrated the layers of clothing that are needed go outside to play. Their Texas friends were quite surprised. Using the document camera, Lisa shared photos, of the NH state bird, NH flower, NH flag and photos of recent snow storms. The children in Texas also shared their daily temperature graph and photos from Texas.



- Stephanie Mezquita’s morning kindergarten class made their first distance learning connection with a kindergarten class at the Harold Keller Elementary School in Metairie Louisiana. Danville students explained New Hampshire’s

weather by saying a poem, sharing pictures and demonstrating how to put on our multiple winter layers to go outside. They also shared photos of our state bird and flower. The students from Louisiana had made a book about their area and each group of students showed their picture or prop as they shared their fact. The students also had a guest attend their connection, THE CAT IN THE HAT, who read a Dr. Seuss book.

Webinars attended by district staff: (Jan)

Danville School:

- Cindy Wood, Enrichment teacher, participated in a Webinar on January 29th titled, "The Stock Market Game Teleconference". Cindy plans to use this game as an enrichment activity with her students in the near future.
Teacher comment/feedback: *"It was a good seminar. I'm going to do a teacher version of the game over the next 3 weeks to familiarize myself with the game...hopefully I'll have a group do the game from March-May."*

TRMS:

- Janet Hart and Caroline Herold facilitated a two hour on-line webinar for several staff members at the TRMS on January 26th titled, "What does it Mean to be Ready for Algebra in Grades 6-8".
Teacher comment/feedback: *The participants had a relaxed, comfortable setting in the TRMS library and were supported by the technology department who skillfully connected and reconnected us to the workshop. The interruptions were mildly disruptive but not derailing because we never lost the audio portion. The goal of the session was to provide an overview of algebra readiness content skills needed to help prepare our students for the formal study of algebra. A teacher commented to me that she was happy to hear that we should not keep re-teaching to students who already know the concepts and even check to be sure that we do not do too much re-teaching in general. We must believe that students have been part of the well developed K-8 curriculum and have some of the skills in place before we get them. Another highlight of the workshop was the necessity of providing exposure to the building blocks of algebra, namely: the distributive property and proportionality. Teachers were connected live via the telephone to the presenter and were able to ask questions and offer suggestions. The exchange was interesting and informative.*

Thank you!

Thank you technicians for assisting with test calls and for being available on the day of a scheduled event.

Thank you teachers for your patience and flexibility while we rescheduled many programs that were cancelled during the month of December.