

# THE CUBS COMMUNICATOR

PHOENIXVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT | PHOENIXVILLE AREA EARLY LEARNING CENTER



April 2021

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## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Families,

Welcome to the month of April and to the 4th and final marking period of the 2020–2021 school year. I hope that the Spring Break experience provided each family with an opportunity to recharge and spend some quality time together. For our family, we simply enjoyed several meals together over the break. We also welcomed my 6 year old niece to our home during the break.

As a school community, we are incredibly excited to welcome many students back to school for 5 days a week of in-person instruction. It has been just over a year since we have been able to provide a traditional schedule for our students. I am grateful for the work of the PAELC faculty. I am also truly thankful for the dedication of our parents and community members who have all played such important roles this year. Finally, I am most proud of our young learners. Our students have demonstrated such flexibility and understanding during a very unusual time. **THANK YOU 😊**.

As we look ahead to the final two months of the school year, our planning committees are hard at work to design experiences that are meaningful and relevant. Please continue to read the weekly updates to learn more about our upcoming plans.

Educationally yours,  
Keya Champagne-Lee, Ed.D.  
Elementary Principal

## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 5: School Resumes from Spring Break

April 7: All virtual early release day

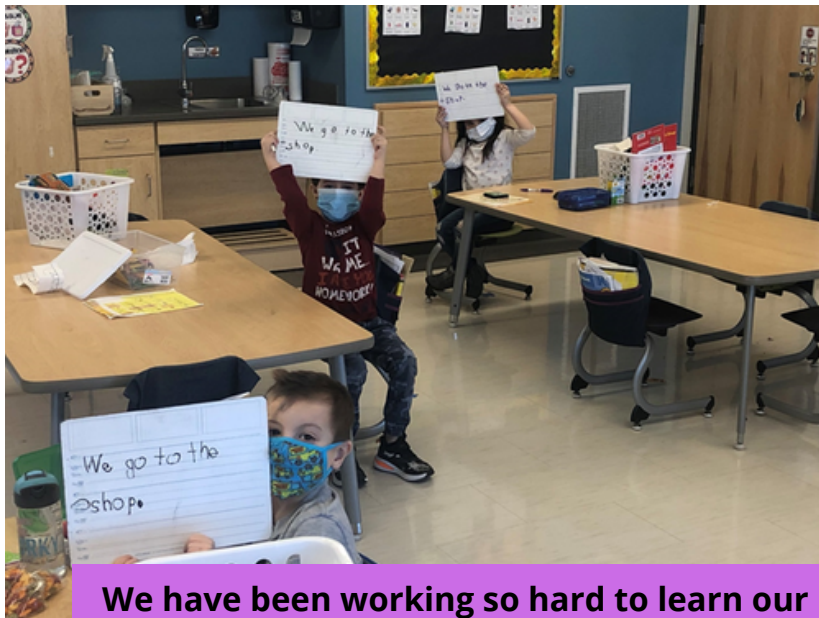
April 12: School Board Worskhop, 7PM

April 19: School Board Meeting, 7 PM

April 21: All virtual early release day

TAKE A PEEK INTO SOME OF OUR CLASSROOMS!

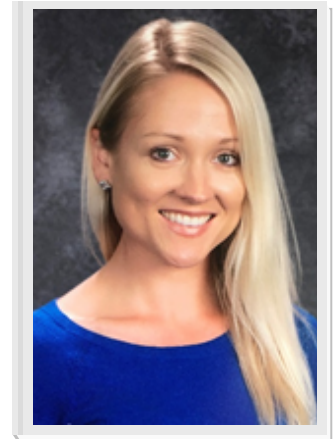
## KINDERGARTEN



We have been working so hard to learn our letter sounds and apply them to writing sentences!

Our class consists of 18 wonderful Kindergarteners who love to learn. Our class loves to learn math, use our super reader powers, practice our letters in Foundations with our owl friends, and learn all about important facts in science and social studies. Going out to the playground and using our imaginations is our favorite play time activity!

Ms. Izzi



My name is Ms. Izzi and this is my 7th year teaching and my 2nd year at PAELC. I feel privileged to be able to work with children every day and help grow and learn emotionally and academically.

Our students loved presenting their winter animal projects and teaching their classmates all about their chosen animal!



TAKE A PEEK INTO SOME OF OUR CLASSROOMS!

## KINDERGARTEN

**Mr. Holmes**



My name is Mr. Holmes and I have been teaching in PASD for 6 years. My wife and two boys love living in Phoenixville with our cat, Phoebe, and our new French bulldog, Rocky Balboa.



My students are becoming avid readers. Whether learning virtually or in school, they are developing their reading "super powers" each and every day.



It is amazing how much the Kindergarten students grow and learn over the course of the year. My favorite part of the job is seeing the kids become confident problem solvers.

Students are working on a Spring art activity to decorate the class for our new friends who will be joining us in-person for the first time. This has been a year unlike any other, but amongst so much uncertainty in the outside world, the students have done an amazing job of making sure everyone feels safe and welcome in this classroom.



# CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT

TAKE A PEEK INTO SOME OF OUR CLASSROOMS!

## FIRST GRADE



We were so excited to be able to play on the playground!



### Mrs. Snaith



Hi! My name is Mrs. Snaith and this is my 25th year teaching First Grade at PASD. I have been at PAELC since it opened.

My class this year will always be special to me. They have consistently adapted to change and have done so with patience. It has been fun to watch them grow both socially and academically in this new learning environment. I am so proud of all of their hard work this year!



We are enjoying a "Chat and Chew" Lunch with Mrs. Snaith as a 10 CUBS ticket reward.

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT: WHITSON'S FOOD STAFF AND CAFETERIA/PLAYGROUND AIDES

THANK YOU TO OUR HARD WORKING STAFF! WE APPRECIATE YOU.

## Whiston's Food Service Cafeteria Staff



From left to right: Phyllis Kelly, Susan Gooding, Karen Cronin, Linda Edes



## Cafeteria and Playground Aides

From left to right: Deb Caniglia, Tara Yurko, Joan McDonald-Smith, Barry Taglieber.

**Deb:**

"I have been with the Phoenixville School District for 8 years. My favorite part of working at PAELC is being around all the wonderful people I get to see on a daily basis and working with some incredible kids year after year!"

**Tara:**

"This is my 7th year at PASD, my 3rd at PAELC. I love hearing the children's laughter on the playground and seeing them smile."

**Joan:**

"I have been at PAELC since 2016. What I like best about school is the feeling of community among the administrators, teachers, support staff, and students. Everyone is very kind and supportive of each other. During these uncertain times, it has been especially comforting."

**Barry:**

"I've been working in the district for 6 years. I love working with the kids - if you're not having a good day, the kids will always put a smile on your face! I love coming into work each day!"

# PAELC SPECIAL AREAS SPOTLIGHT

MR. PARSONS

We have been busy so far in our Social Skills, Mindfulness & Yoga class! So far in **Social Skills**, we have mastered our Skills for Learning (Listening, Focusing, using Self-talk, and Being Assertive). We are now developing our Empathy by being Feelings Detectives. We learned to look for clues about how people are feeling by looking at people's faces and bodies and by paying attention to what is happening around them.

In **Yoga & Mindfulness**, we practice the 3 B's every day (Body, Breath, Brain) so we can do our best to try new Yoga poses! We move our bodies in new ways, we practice new breathing techniques, and have mindful meditation exercises. We have lots of fun together every day!

## MR. PARSONS SOCIAL SKILLS, MINDFULNESS & YOGA (Kindergarten)



Here is one group practicing their Monkey Arms! We practice this yoga pose often and see how we improve as our fingers get closer and closer together.



Here is a class doing a modified Star Pose. After mastering Star Pose, we made our stars twinkle by moving and breathing together.



Here is a classroom full of trees! We learned that we can change Tree Pose to make it challenging. We also created our own trees by moving our "branches" and "roots" in different ways.



In Social Skills, we use books to reinforce what we learn. Jabari Jumps helped remind us how we can use self-talk to help us be brave when we try something new or scary.

# DID YOU KNOW?



**World Down Syndrome Day was on March 21st! This day was created to celebrate the lives of people with Down Syndrome and to make sure they have the same freedoms and opportunities as everybody else. PAELC students joined in this celebration by wearing brightly colored, mismatched socks.**

Visit <https://www.downs-syndrome.org.uk/> for more information.

Additionally, Mrs. Frack's students listened to the story **Just Ask** by Sonia Sotomayor. This is a great book to celebrate how our differences make each of us unique.

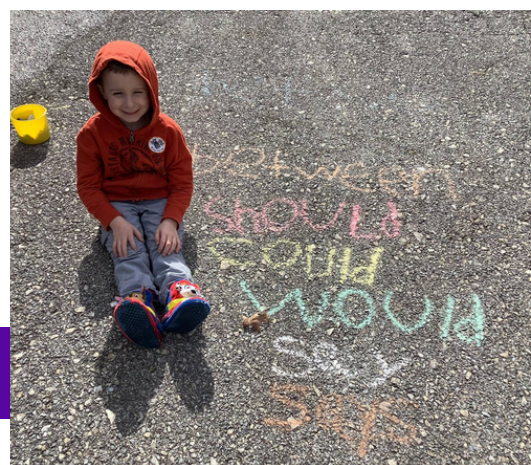


**PAELC celebrated "Read Across America" Week in March! Students and families enjoyed celebrating their love for reading and literacy in a variety of ways.**



Special guest readers joined classrooms both virtually and in person!

Students practiced their sight words in fun and engaging ways!



## COUNSELORS' CORNER

MS. DELLAQUILA AND MR. PARSONS



Click [HERE](#) to view the Counselors' Corner newsletter!