



**Martin
Luther
School**

AT **gemma** SERVICES

"I don't want a Black History Month. Black history is American history" (Morgan Freeman)

Principal's Corner

When I was in school the only time that I was introduced to the contributions of African Americans was during the month of February. This was culturally insensitive to the few African American students in the school- as if we only mattered one month out of twelve! At Martin Luther School, we make it a practice to observe the contributions of African Americans as well as *all* people groups throughout the school year. We design learning goals through our culturally sensitive curriculum. Our administration recognizes that honoring a specific group of people during one month out of twelve falls short of the mark. We are committed to demonstrating school-wide cultural proficiency as we continue to strive for racial justice. Our teachers will continue to incorporate the contributions of African Americans into their lessons this month; however, there will not be an emphasis on doing so each day because *we already do it all year long*. Our hope at Martin Luther School is that while we continue to educate our students on being culturally aware, our society too will be reminded that we need to do better recognizing and treating people accordingly through a culturally responsive lens each and every day.

Important Dates to Remember!



- **March 1-13:** MLS Apparel Store open!*
- **March 4, 11, 18, and 25:** Met Ballet M3 (Math x Movement x Music) with K-3 students
- **March 11:** Second Trimester ends
- **March 28-31:** Second Trimester Progress Reports (K-9) and Report Cards (K-8) to go home

*Stay tuned for apparel store information, coming to you via email!

What's happening inside MLS

Craig Randall

Author, Trainer, & Speaker

This month we were lucky enough to spend time with Craig

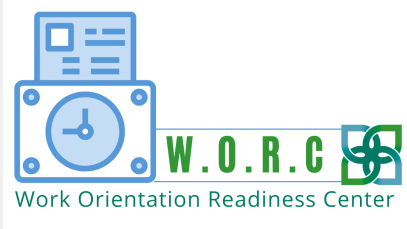


Randall, the author of Trust-Based Observations. He joined our leadership team for an entire week and trained our staff on his approach to observations. He believes that

observations, teaching, and learning are all endeavors based on trust. His training will allow us to make trust the core of our observation model, as well as the element that helps our staff to grow their craft. The impact of his work has been felt immediately and we are excited for every staff member to experience the empowering reflective conversations that come with it.

SCIENCE IS IN THE AIR EVERYWHERE!

- Fritz 19 read an amazing book titled "Hope and I Are Coming Back to School" during virtual stem class. When we returned to in-person learning, they created these cute Hope Cloud pillows.
- The entire Fritz Family made volcano explosions right under our MLS playground pavillion.
- 7th grade explored making crystals in are newly improved Science Lab!
- 9th grade observed the MLS Outdoor ecosystem and how living and non-living things interact.



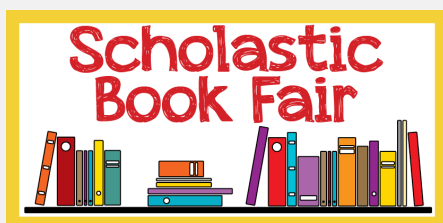
Our focus this month is to continue developing social-emotional skills by learning problem-solving strategies. We are also learning about accepting and providing constructive feedback and the importance of positive self-talk. We focused on relationship skills and discussed the qualities needed to both be a friend and have a friend. All of these skills are necessary for success in school and in life.

Now that we are back in the WORC room, we are practicing compliments! Students are encouraged to write out a compliment for a staff member. These compliments will be delivered by the students. This activity reinforces the lesson that kind words can spread good feelings and provides the opportunity for students to work on their fine motor skills.

Here's what you can do at home to help your child develop these skills:

- Model positive thinking in difficult situations and help your child turn their negative thoughts around.
- Make sure your feedback to your child is constructive and is meant to help them develop skills rather than criticize their performance.
- Help your child solve problems by brainstorming solutions and thinking through the consequences before taking any action.

In other news...



Families/Caregivers! Our book fair was rescheduled for April 18-22... stay tuned for dates and information for how to participate!



Data Wall

We are excited to share the creation of our new reading data wall! The data wall will function as a space that allows us to see our reading progress as a school. We believe that if you read well, you will be able to achieve success. Supporting each other is essential to reaching our goal of helping every reader grow. The data wall will allow our community to celebrate the success of our students as they achieve this growth.



Art Award!

Please join us in celebrating our tremendously talented Art teacher, Ms. Margo Wunder. Ms. Wunder has been awarded the Larry Marone Grant, funded by the National Art Education Association. Ms. Wunder was inspired by Ms. Eva's love of the rules of improv. The first rule is to accept other people's offers and to say, "yes, and". Ms. Wunder put this idea into action by creating a project for our students and having them choose a quilting square to document how they will say, "yes, and" and the project will be displayed in the school at the end of May!



Safety Corner

Stay Safe. Get Vaccinated!

The COVID-19 vaccine is now available for children ages 5 and older. The vaccine has been proven safe and effective in protecting children from infection and illness from the virus. We recommend that you get your children vaccinated today to protect yourself and your loved ones.

If you have any questions, please contact MLS Healthcare at mlshealthcare@martinlutherschool.org. Information coming soon about the MLS Vaccine Clinic!

COVID DASHBOARD



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