

CAACS GLOBE

Cultural Arts Academy Charter School



Follett BOOK FAIRS



VOL. 10, OCTOBER 2019

First Grade Light and Sound



Our first grade classes created their fist inquiry projects of 2019-2020 that aligned with the theme: How we organize ourselves and the central idea: Light and sound interact in ways that can serve humans.

2

Fifth Grade Ancient Expressions



For the fourth time, our fifth graders began the year with an inquiry unit about ancient forms of expression that aligned with the IB theme: How we express ourselves.

3

Ohio State Math Initiative



CAACS is partnering with members of the Ohio State University Math Literacy Initiative for monthly professional development sessions.

4

"My alma matter was books, a good library. I could spend the rest of my life reading, just satisfying my curiosity" -Malcolm X

Cultural Arts Academy Charter School Academy Charter school's first International Baccalaureate endorsed Follet Book Fair took place in our Makerspace on Monday, October 15-Friday October 18th. Dean Pena organized the book fair, which raised money for our school library as well as provide all our scholars with opportunities to purchase affordable high interest book on their reading levels. Scholars, parents and staff were happy to see the amount of diversity and important topics featured in the books offered.

Lunch with a Loved One



During the Follet Book Fair family members also took part in *Lunch with a Loved One*, a literacy event focused on bringing scholars and family members together during school lunch time, to share a meal and choose books together. The event was a great success and Dean Pena wants to continue if for our spring book fair. It was a joy to see scholars and their loved ones share their love of books!



First Grade Light and Sound Inquiry

Central Idea: Light and Sound interact in ways that can serve humans.

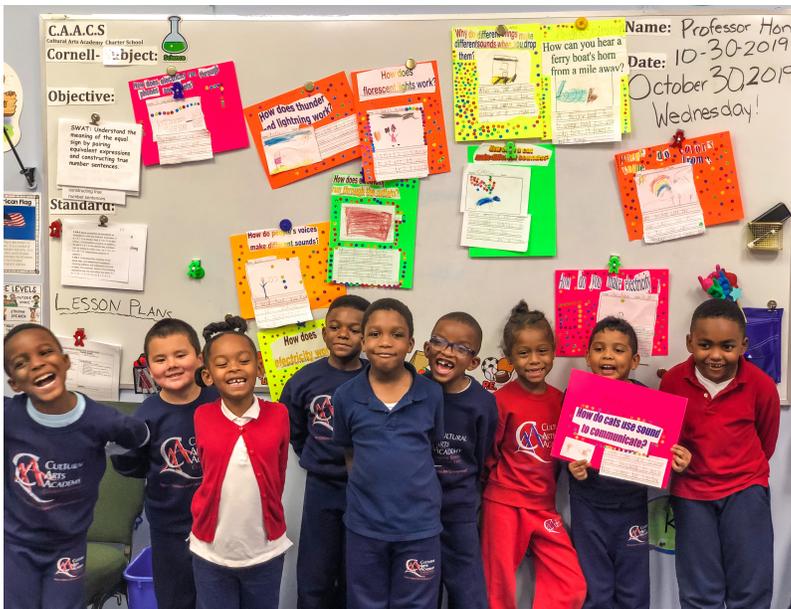
The first grade classes of Cultural Arts Academy Charter School, named after Cornell, Howard and Harvard Universities, chose to study the International Baccalaureate theme: *How we organize ourselves* for their first inquiry unit. The central idea chosen was: Light and sound interact in ways that can serve humans. Connections to this central idea were made by the scholars in all subjects with the most connections being made to science topics. The scholars watched several videos online including videos from the website BrainPop to build up their background knowledge on light and sound. Scholars then generated research questions like “I wonder how cats make sounds? And “I wonder why ferry horns are so loud?” Next, the



first grade scholars researched using iPads. The scholars then created posters to present to the class with drawings and writings to explain their findings.

Professor Hong, one of our most experienced inquiry teachers, reflected on the first unit writing, “The scholars were consistently monitored and the evidence of learning was documented through their research and their group activities. By using techniques like a gallery walk and a mind map, the scholars were able to illustrate and take note of what they learned so far.

What was gathered was that scholars were able to complete tasks at their pace and in their own way. Although researching was found to be difficult at this level but the scholars were able to find ways to do the task with the help of their peers.”



Flamenco Dancers

On Friday, October 4, 2019 Cultural Arts Academy welcomed performances by Viva Flamenco. The performance included two authentic Flamenco dancers, one singer, and one guitarist. The performance was interactive and scholars were able to participate in the traditional Flamenco hand movements and song lyrics.

Flamenco originates in southern Spain by the Andalusian gypsies. No music better represents the story of an outcast, vagabond people, without home but with a culture so rich it's inspired poets to call it “a way of life.” More than just a mere dance, Flamenco combines guitar rhythms, dance and songs of lament and joy.



Fifth Grade: Ancient Expressions Project

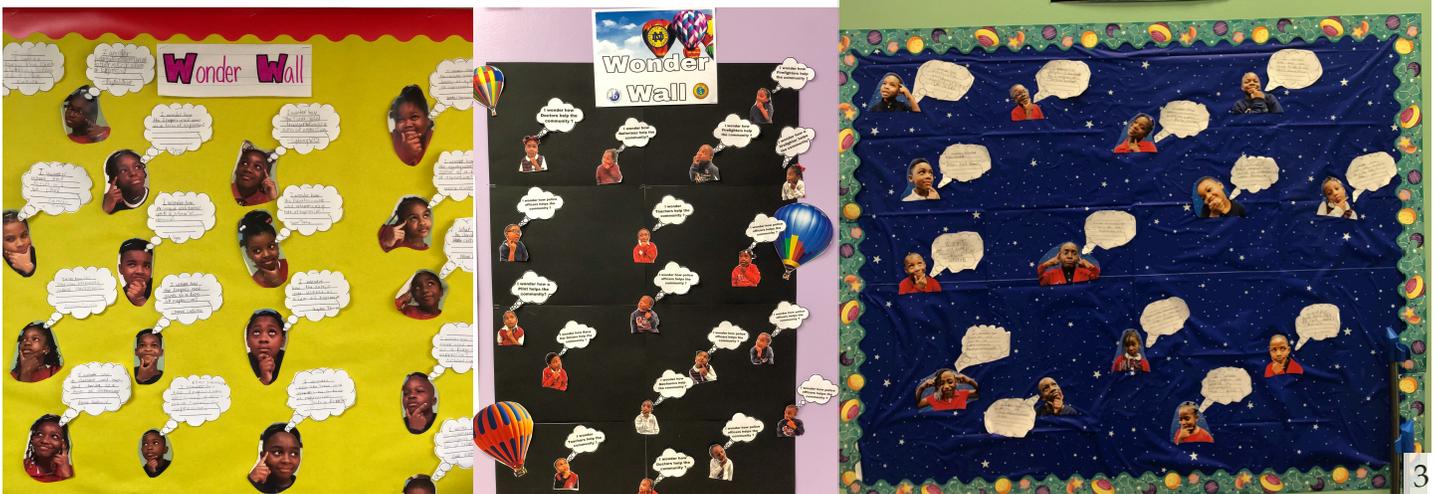
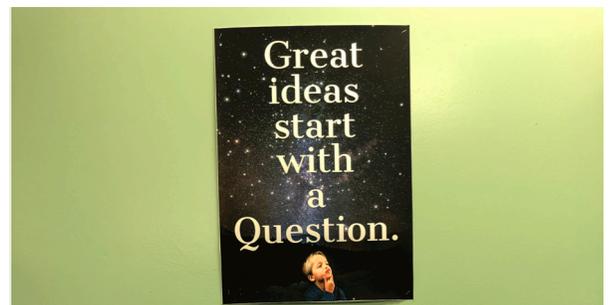
Central Idea: The remnants of ancient civilizations give insight to self-expression today.

The fifth grade classes of Cultural Arts Academy Charter school, named after Spelman College and Morehouse College respectively, began the 2019-2020 school year with their first inquiry unit with the theme: How we express ourselves and the central idea: The remnants of ancient civilizations give insight to self-expressions today. Although this was the first inquiry unit of the school year for our fifth graders, our scholars were familiar with the inquiry cycle steps of building background knowledge, asking research questions, researching with books and computers, creating projects, presenting projects, and writing reflections. Our fifth graders did well presenting creative projects that included 3D-models, posters, ancient cookbooks, ancient dances, timelines, and more. Our fifth graders were also challenged with more rigorous expectations for their final drafts of their writing and are progressing.



Wonder Walls

Cultural Arts Academy Charter School first began posting Wonder Wall bulletin board classrooms in the 2018-2019 school year. The benefits of the wonder wall bulletin boards were that they provide scholars with a place in the room to see themselves and their thinking. The wonder wall makes the main focus and of an inquiry project on display and makes the thinking visible. For these reasons we achieved our goal by mid-October of this 2010-2020 school year to have a Wonder Wall displayed in every classroom.



Ohio State Math Initiative

Terri Bucci and Debe Adams from The Ohio State University Math Literacy Initiative are visiting Cultural Arts Academy Charter School each month to offer workshops, professional developments, and to teach side-by-side with our professors to improve our math outcomes. A major focus of their work thus far has been stressing the importance of teaching the math concepts first using “grounding metaphors.”

The Mathematics Literacy Initiative changes the way K-12 math is taught. Teacher PD centers on a 5-step process that focuses on instructional strategies, content knowledge and classroom culture. It allows teachers to step out of a structured lesson and into a world of nurturing students’ own language and understanding of mathematics.



In the photo above Debe Adams, Terri Bucci and 2nd grade teacher Professor Wilson.



To know and use mathematics in today’s society, children must have a conceptual understanding of its underlying ideas, as well as fluency in its elementary procedures. This means teachers must have this conceptual understanding as well. Ohio State’s professional development program for K-5 teachers focuses on content and pedagogy, integrating vertical alignment using interactive low-tech games that can be re-introduced with new concepts.



Character Awards

As a Leader in Me school, Cultural Arts Academy directly teaches character education and our scholars keep track of their learning in Leader in me binders. The last tab of the Leader In Me binder is titled: Celebrations. Our scholars have a designated place where they can store the certificates and awards they receive to share with their families during student-led conferences.

Some of the awards that can be found in the celebrations tab of the Leader In Me binders include summer reading awards and perfect attendance awards. Dean Mercaldo

has also been handing out awards to scholars who have exemplified the International Baccalaureate’s Learner Profile Traits. Dean Morales has also handed out awards for scholars exhibiting the 7 Habits of Highly Effective children.

The practice of praising scholars for exhibiting desired traits with tangible awards has worked well in providing incentives and positive reinforcement to scholars who are making good character choices.



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