



NEW BRANCHES CHARTER ACADEMY

SPECIALS NEWSLETTER



ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

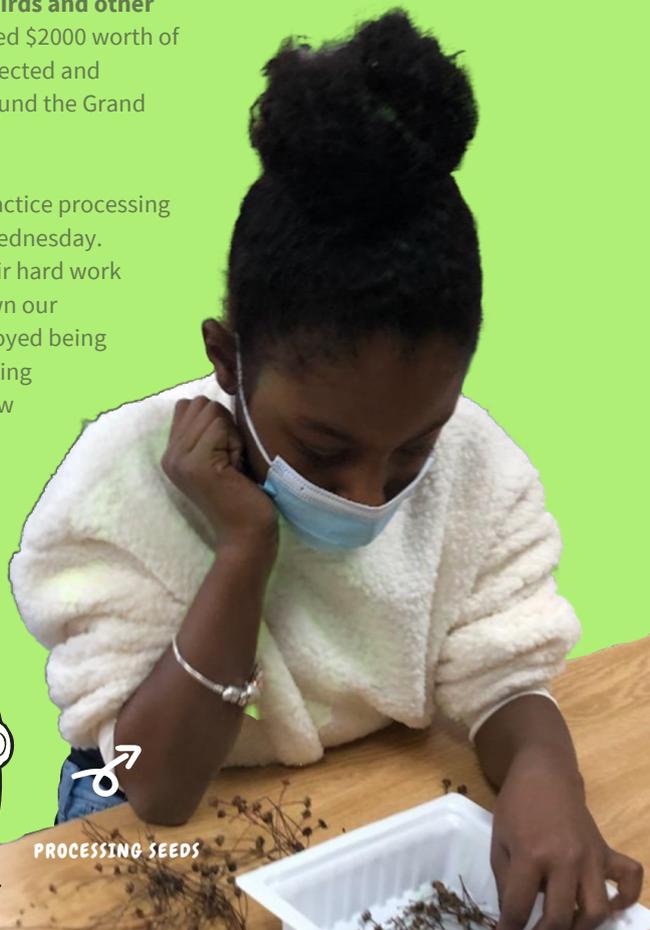
by Mrs. Hasenbank

On Thursday, Environmental Science classes wrapped up the week by helping me spread native short-grass meadow seeds on the snowy field inside our school's outdoor track.

I invited two habitat conservation people, who live in our community, to teach us about the importance of restoring a lawn area to a healthy native habitat, which will attract more butterflies, birds and other beneficial wildlife. They donated \$2000 worth of native plant seeds that they collected and processed themselves from around the Grand Rapids area!!

The 3rd graders were able to practice processing some of the seeds in class on Wednesday. Students were rewarded for their hard work with 15 minutes of sledding down our amazing campus hill! We all enjoyed being out in the sunshine and are looking forward to watching our meadow develop over the next year!

During March, we will be focusing on the month's environmental theme of Natural History. Students will be examining actual fossils in class and making their own!



♂
PROCESSING SEEDS

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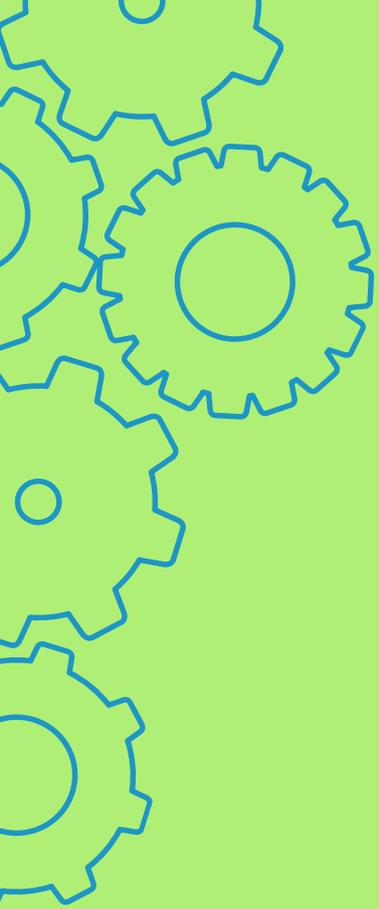
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STEAM

by Mr. Bell

During the month of March we will look at many different careers in the STEM field, from scientist to engineers, computer programmers to mathematicians. Students will have the opportunity to learn more about careers in STEM through virtual guest speakers.

Why are STEM Careers important?

Did you know that jobs in STEM are essential to our health, happiness, and safety?

Did you know that STEM professionals are creative and collaborative problem solvers?

Did you know that jobs in STEM make a world of difference and shape our future?

Is a STEM Career right for me?

Do you like to solve interesting and challenging problems?

Do you like to be creative and work with others? Do you like to work on projects that make a difference?

Do you want to earn a good salary and enjoy job flexibility?

Do you want to change the world?



Did you know that STEM professionals are creative and collaborative problem solvers?





ON YOUR MARK,
GET SET,
GO!!!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

by Mr. Sankey



We will be kicking off our schoolwide Career Awareness during this month and focusing on Health Science for all Physical Education classes.

We will be exploring different careers in Health Science to help give students more information on potential careers. I'm excited to share about my career as a Physical Education teacher and Athletic Director.

During the month of March, we will be getting outside as much as possible to practice our five Presidential Fitness Tests. We will be goal setting for spring fitness tests. Students did an excellent job in the fall completing the Presidential Fitness Test.

Presidential Fitness Test

- Shuttle Run (agility)
- Sit-Ups (core strength)
- Mile or ½ Mile Run (cardiovascular)
- Sit and Reach (flexibility)
- Flexed Arm Hang (muscular strength)

We just finished up February's Jump Rope for Heart Challenge. Students did very well learning how to better take care of their bodies.

As always, feel free to reach out at any time you have a question.

Email is the best way to contact me.

My email address is:

kevinsankey@choiceschools.com



Don't forget that Draw with Me!
 Is every Friday from 2:00-3:00 pm on Zoom.
 The link for the meeting can be located
 on your student's Eco-Art Canvas page
 under the "Zoom Meeting" button.

ECO-ART

by Mrs. Graves

Happy March! This month at New Branches, our environmental theme is Natural History. To follow this theme, **we will be doing a variety of exciting projects that use items from our environment or can teach others about our environment.** Throughout the grades, we will be doing projects such as making our own paintbrushes, paper mache animals, botanical illustrations, and prints or jewelry inspired by plants! This month is everyone's favorite month of the year! We will also be making our very own paper!

Starting this month in your child's specials classes, we will be focusing on career options in the related fields. The creative arts field holds many opportunities for anyone who enjoys creating. **The students will learn why artists are important in today's society and the different areas where artists are needed.**

I look forward to creating with everyone and learning about some new art techniques and creative careers!



SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

by Mr. Ritzema

Students in TK, K, and First Grade will be learning about Empathy and Communication in social and emotional learning (SEL) class this next month. **We will be singing songs, watching videos, learning some mime (Way fun!), coloring some pages, whole group and partner activities.**

The ideas below, for you to do at home, will reinforce what we are learning in school—there are activities to play, topics to discuss, and behaviors to role-model. These are all designed to fit into your daily routine and provide opportunities to further connect with your child.

An important part of this program is for students to continue discussing and practicing concepts outside the classroom. Thank you for your involvement in reinforcing at home what is being taught in class!



CONFUSED

Recognizing Feelings

Play Feeling Charades with your child, taking turns guessing the emotion the other person is demonstrating or describing. Use your entire body and/or tone of voice to demonstrate the emotion or describe the physical changes you experience. Use a variety of “emotion words” to help your child name how he or she is feeling and how his or her body feels inside (stomach in knots, hot cheeks, butterflies in stomach). Play music or dance to express a certain emotion and then switch to another emotion. Alternatively, play different types of music (such as upbeat or slow tempo) and ask your child how it makes him or her feel.

Predicting Feelings

While reading books together, pause throughout the story and invite your child to think ahead and predict what the character will feel next. Talk with your child about the different ways people react emotionally to different situations. For example, discuss how each of you (or other family members) would feel in different scenarios and why your feelings are the same or different. You are about to take off on the runway in an airplane. You have nothing to do for the next hour. You just finished a really hard puzzle. A neighbor’s dog comes over and licks you. Someone tells you that you did a great job.

Empathy Model

Empathy by showing an awareness and understanding of your child’s feelings—even if you don’t share or agree. I can see that you’re angry, but it’s time to turn off the computer and get to bed. Explain your own feelings (both positive and negative) to help your child understand how and why others feel. It makes me so happy when I see you being kind to your sister by sharing your crayons with her.

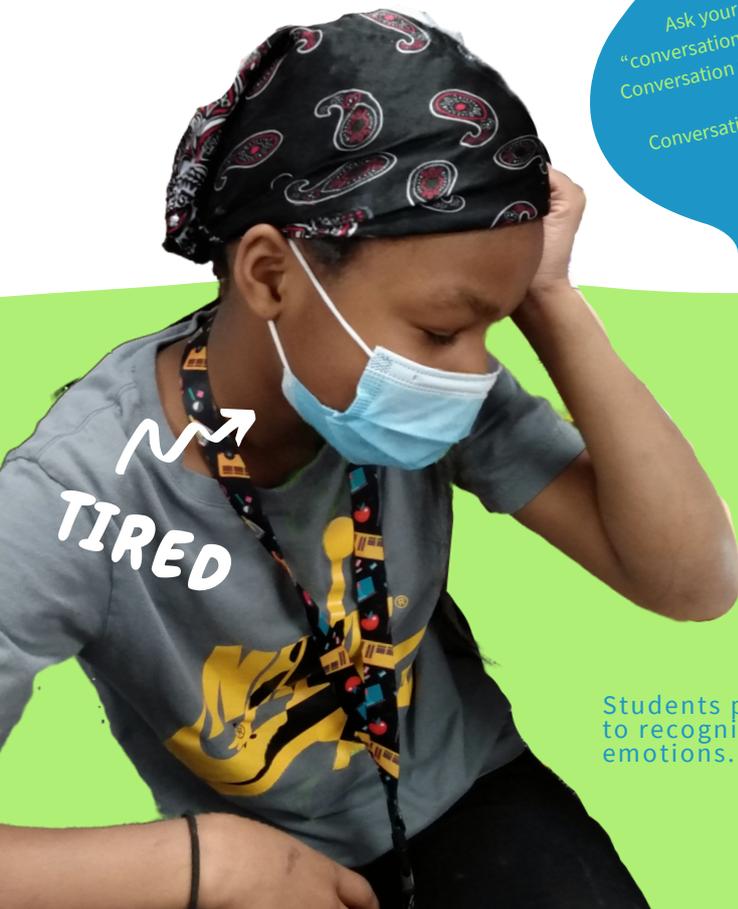
Talk with your child about the consequences of his or her actions (both positive and negative) toward others. How do you think your friend felt when you said that she couldn’t come to your birthday party? It probably hurt her feelings and made her feel very left out.

Listening to Others

Ask your child to demonstrate how he or she uses his or her entire body to be a careful listener. Tell your child when you notice him or her demonstrating good listening skills.

Responding to Others

Ask your child to share some examples of “conversation makers” and “conversation breakers.”
 Conversation Makers: Taking turns speaking, listening, thinking, responding.
 Conversation Breakers: Talking for a long time, not responding, not listening.



Students practicing to recognize various emotions.

WOMEN'S HISTORY

by Mrs. Tari

This month we celebrate Women's History Month. NBCA will have the opportunity to honor women in history as well as those currently making change in our community.

We look forward to learning more about sustainability and equity from South East Market owner Alita Kelly and video visits from a few other Rockin Women! We will also continue our efforts to support Women owned businesses in the area and the 5th grade girls will interview some of our very own Women change makers here at NBCA!

Learn more about South East Market
www.southeastmarketgr.com



GREAT WORK LADIES!