



NEW BRANCHES CHARTER ACADEMY SPECIALS NEWSLETTER



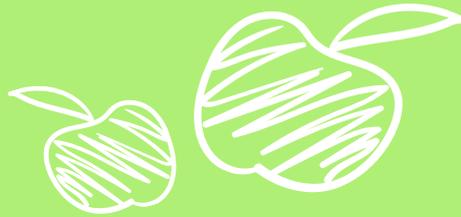
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

by Mrs. Hasenbank

Apple harvesting time!

During Environmental Science class in September, students went on a walking adventure to the grand old apple tree at the northwest corner of our school campus. Once we arrived, students enjoyed the experience of picking their own apples, sampling them and then voting on whether they liked/disliked the taste. Most voted in favor of the fresh, sweet flavor, and many students opted to pick another apple to save for snack time later!

Looking ahead to the month of October, Environmental Science students will be learning why leaves change colors in autumn and investigating bats, spiders and pumpkins - just in time for Halloween! Some of the classes were already getting a sneak-peek of the mini-pumpkin patch in the garden while out exploring nature with magnifying glasses.



Garden renovations!

The wonderful school garden was established during the spring of 2018, using Groundswell MI grant funds, but it is currently in need of some repairs, renovation and TLC. The eighth grade Environmental Science class, with the occasional help of upper elementary classes, is undertaking the hefty task of renovating the garden to be functional and beautiful in time for spring planting. So far, students have dismantled the old garden beds and started raking up wood chips for removal. I've been continually impressed by the students' cooperative teamwork, perseverance, and determination! The occasional class reward of revitalizing Gatorade has been helpful with these warmer fall days!



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PHYSICAL EDUCATION

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PBIS TEAM



WHO IS

A SCIENTIST?

I AM!



STEAM

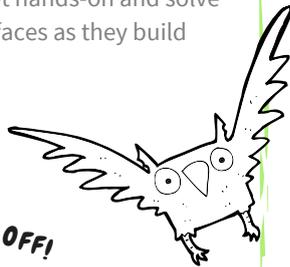
by Mr. Bell

Scientist, That's Me!

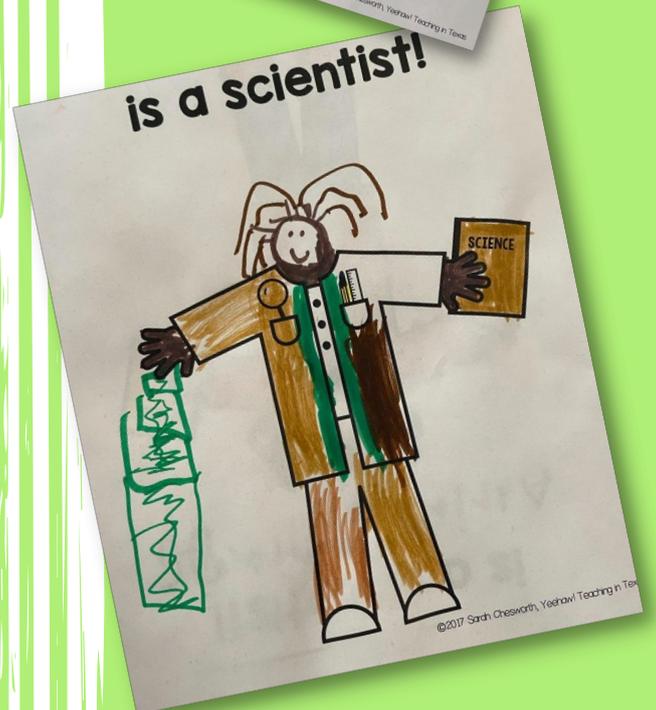
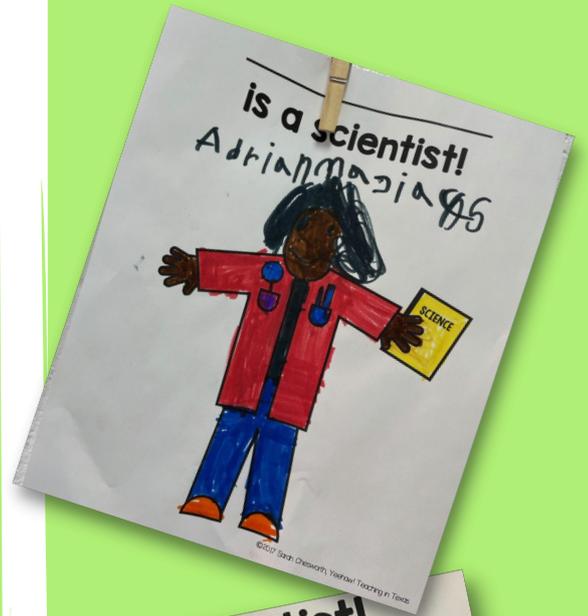
We started off the school year by looking at what a scientist is and how we are doing the work of a scientist when we ask questions and wonder about the world around us. Students participated in a science experiment that looked at the different states of matter and determined what state toothpaste is in. Students made predictions and discussed their understanding with others. Students learned that toothpaste is a colloid. A colloid is a mixture of two or more substances mixed together but not chemically combined (they can be separated). Other colloids include ketchup, peanut butter, and butter.

Build to Launch

In October, we will be working with NASA and Lego to learn about the Artemis mission in an out-of-this-world STEAM learning series. Build to Launch is an exploration of the technology, STEAM concepts, and careers behind the Artemis I mission to the Moon. Students will have the opportunity to build autonomous vehicles and rockets. Students will find themselves in the shoes of NASA engineers, scientists, and of course, astronauts. Through open-ended lessons, students will get hands-on and solve similar problems the Artemis I team faces as they build towards launch.



WE HAVE LIFT OFF!



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

by Mr. Colago

Hey Folks,

Through my first few months, we have worked on class procedures, fitness, Football/Futbol, sub games in case I am absent, and learning everyone's names. We also worked on some team building through Hula Huts! In my learning of what the students enjoy while holding a standard of respect and kindness, these students are adjusting to a new PE teacher. It's been fun to reward students with Honey Bucks and focus on characteristics of respect and kindness that have been encouraged, and the students are showing a lot of interest. I reward students for improvement on behavior from one day to another, helping out another classmate, teaming up with someone they don't know that well, and responding and listening to all directions. In talking about unity and teamwork, we created class contracts that the students continue to refer to for positive attributes that they want to see in the class. In the coming months, we will look to get a mile-run time recorded, as well as a few other fitness tests for students in grades 3-8. I look forward to continuing to get to know your students more and seeing their continued growth!

Blessings to all.



P.E. Rules and Expectations

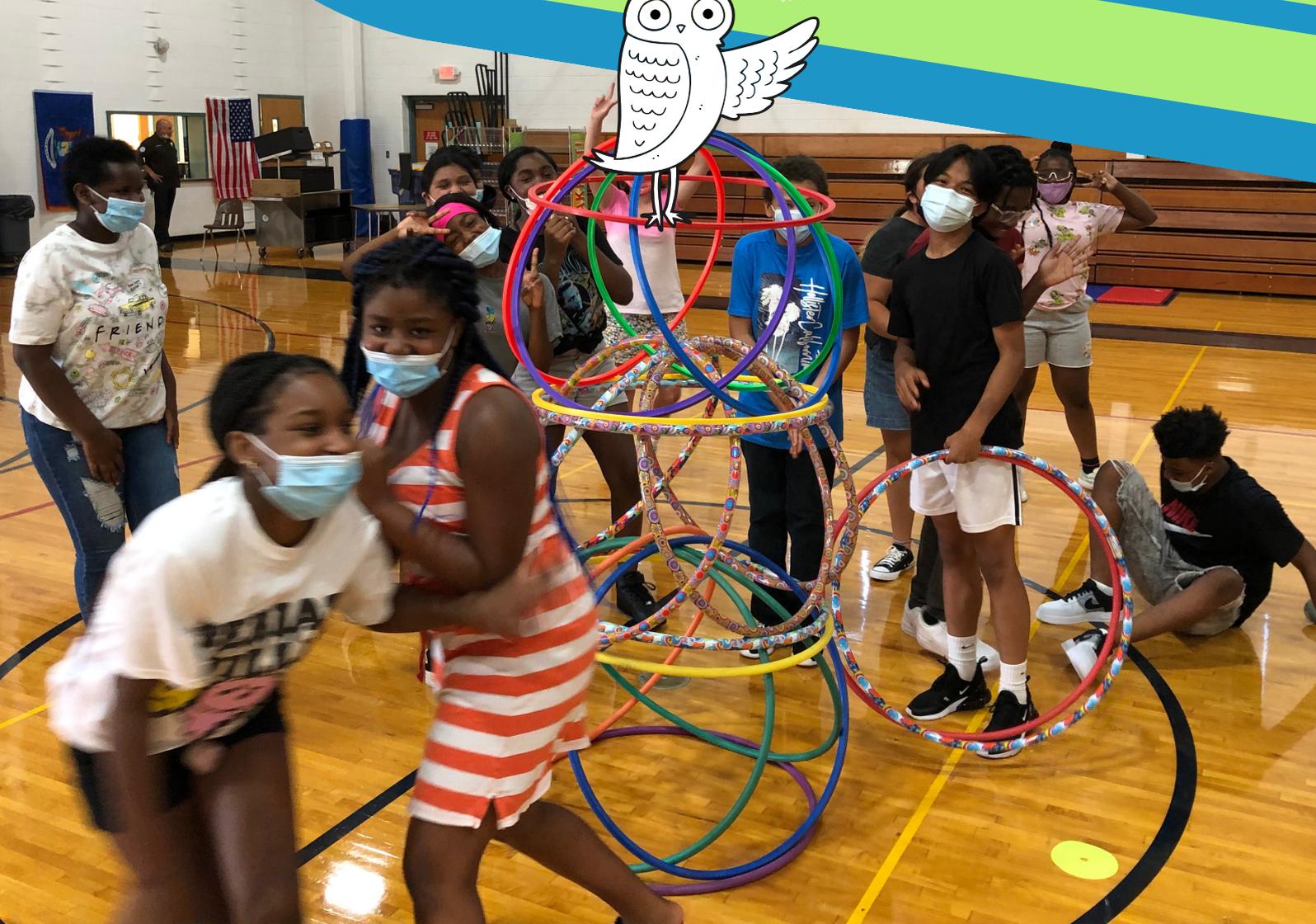
- Respect Yourself
 - Stay on your feet
 - Have fun and do your best
 - Wear athletic shoes
- Respect Others
 - Don't interrupt others
 - Use Good Sportsmanship
- Respect This Place
 - Don't touch equipment without permission
 - Take care of our gym

Consequences

- Strike 1 = Warning
- Strike 2 = Refocus
- Strike 3 = Time Out & Note Home



WHAT A HOOT!



ECO-ART

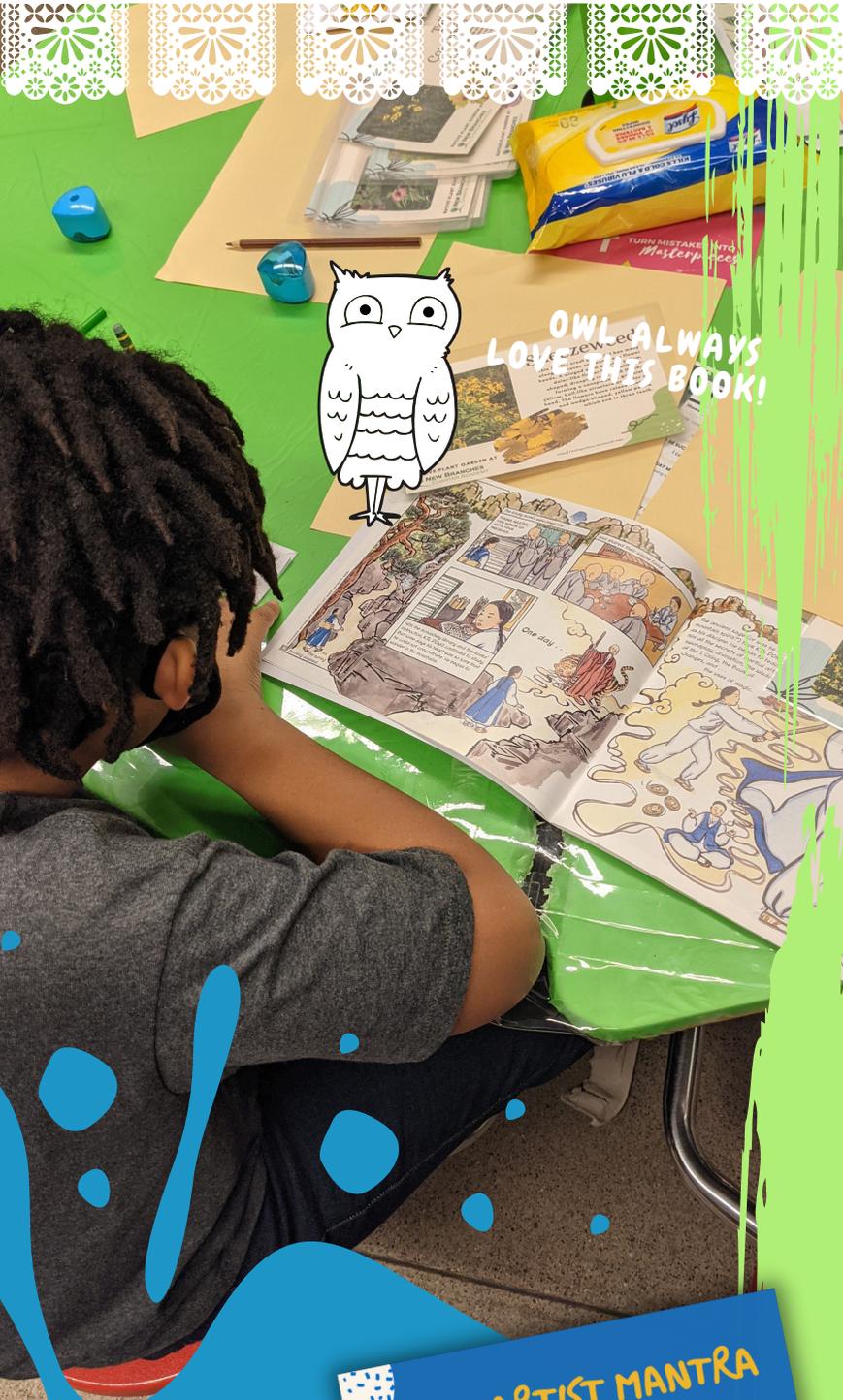
by Mrs. Graves

Happy October!

Last month, students learned all the procedures of the Eco-Art room! We practiced our beginning-of-class get-together where we say three good things, go over what we will be doing in class, and say our "Artist's Mantra." We timed how quickly, calmly, and quietly we could get our supplies and how best to clean up in an orderly and timely fashion. Students modeled how to stay in their seats while working on projects like a wallet for their Honey Bucks and turning mistakes into masterpieces. I am so proud of the students for getting into these routines and sticking with them!

October starts the real creating! Students in Kindergarten are learning about chickens, 1st to 6th grade are learning about native plants, and 7th and 8th grade are learning about native and invasive species living in our Great Lakes. These projects will include colored pencils, paper folding, collage, and paper mache.

Throughout the month of October, students will begin to learn about Dia De Los Muertos and the art forms associated with the Hispanic holiday. Throughout the year, students will learn about different cultures and their art forms. To kick off this year-long learning journey, students have been enjoying the books donated by the community for the Diverse Art Library being established in the Eco-Art room. Students are reading the books, having wonderful conversations about "who is an artist," and writing heartfelt thank you letters to the community!





DIVERSITY EQUITY AND INCLUSION

WAY TO WORK TOGETHER LADIES!

by Ms. Tari

Welcome back to school! It has been a great start to the new school year! The 5th-grade girls Rock has now expanded to 6th grade as well. So far the girls have worked on getting to know each other and holding trust circles. We have also had very meaningful conversations about growing and changing through middle school. The girls are starting to work on "beauty bags," which will contain personal necessities. If you are interested in donating any items, please let me know! tarimacias@choiceschools.com

September 15th kicked off Hispanic Heritage Month.

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, and celebrate the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. Some of our students have helped us decorate the halls with fun facts and famous Hispanics who have made great contributions to sports, education, politics, science and the arts. We look forward to celebrating the rest of the month by learning more about hispanic heritage.

During National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 to October 15) we recognize the contributions made and the important presence of Hispanic and Latino Americans to the United States and celebrate their heritage and culture.

Many Hispanics in the United States came from nearby places, like Mexico, Cuba, Central America, or South America.





SO MANY CHOICES!

PBIS

by the PBIS Team

We are in week 5 of the school year and our PBIS practices are in full swing! We had a sensational Battle of the Hives (aka classrooms) for the top performers in school-wide routines! Congrats to Mrs. Badeau's 5th grade for taking first place.

Our students made their second visit to the Honey Cart last Friday which will now be held in the gym and will be called the "Honey Store." While many students used their honey bucks to purchase individual items, we also saw some class groups pool their bucks to purchase

whole class privileges like extra PE time. It was a great learning experience as the student groups decided how to make everything fair when making a group purchase. Quite a few students made the decision to not shop at all, instead opting to save up for bigger ticket items.

We are so proud of how our student body has adapted to PBIS expectations from moving through the school considerably to how they treat both teachers and peers.

Keep up the good work New Branches... October looks like it will be a stellar month for student achievement as we grow in our positive behavior choices each day.

