



Devereux School

September 30, 2020

To the families and members of the D@W community,

It has been a long summer full of planning, listening, and making difficult choices regarding the mental and physical health and safety of all. We are now over a month into the 2020-2021 school year and are absolutely thriving! We thank you all for your trust, patience and cooperation in making this in-person learning experience a reality again. We could not do it without you and are absolutely thrilled to be back!

August started off on a great note. We spent plenty of time getting to know one another and having some well deserved fun- playing kick the can, kickball and exploring the trails of Waring. We celebrated our successful first week together and Madame Virginie's birthday with a student-organized party and authentic *tarte tropézienne*- a true treat to have outside of the South of France. To "hit the books" we created obstacle courses for math, studied plant and fungi species we ran into on the trail such as reishi, chicken of the woods, ghost pipe and white pine. Back "in" the classroom we hosted monarch caterpillars (thank you Suzanne!!), studied their life cycle and had a scavenger hunt to find plants around campus which support their life cycle. With an empty campus we had an incredible opportunity to visit the greenhouse and sketch scientific diagrams of the odorous South African Starfish Flower (*Stapelia gigantea*) in bloom. The scent wasn't too potent but there were fly larvae residents!

Now that we've hit September, Our Age of Exploration unit has officially set sail! We have begun learning about some of the many explorers that made their mark in history by "discovering" new lands and having constructive conversations about why, exactly, the word "discovery" is in quotation marks. As a part of this unit, we have also begun reading *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by AVI, a tale of twists and turns about a thirteen-year-old girl sailing across the Atlantic in the year 1832. Through our reading both in class and personal, we've been searching for and sharing incredible vocabulary words to add to our spelling lists each week. The kids are wonderful "word detectives" and continue to flabbergast us with their findings. With our spelling lists each week we are able to identify the suffixes and have been focusing on how these endings can help us determine the different parts of speech used in language. In math we are solidifying our multiplication and division skills while learning about distance measurements, their equivalents and how to convert them. The expedition on researching explorers has taken off and we are anticipating learning all about them while watching the kid's self-made boats hit the sea at our first Poetry Café of the year in November!

Until then,

Kasey, Veyla and Madame Virginie