



March 4, 2022

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

Although February is the shortest month of the year, it didn't stop us from cramming it full of discovery, adventure, and intrigue. We wrapped up our unit on Western Folk Traditions, tested the impossible *and* our knowledge of the French language, filled our minds and tummies, and even packed in a field trip or two.

This month, we ended our romp through the enchanted woods for our unit on Western Folk Traditions and determined whether the impossible was possible for our long-term project. We learned about three of the major fairy tale authors and wrote compare and contrast pieces on various tales. We even tried our hand at tale-telling ourselves, illustrating comic versions of lesser known Grimms fairy tales.

While we tested our own fairy tales at home, we became familiar with the scientific method by testing others in the classroom. We determined if sound waves could actually make something move and played with buoyancy to test whether it's a good idea to play by a well – surprise! it's not. In math, we have moved onto fractions, working on how to add and subtract fractions, and the relationship between improper fractions, mixed numbers, and fractions in their simplest form. We also dipped our toes into some geometry by helping Suzanne Hale prepare for a soon-to-be pollinator garden, finding the square footage of the garden bed and planting native plant species so they can undergo cold stratification. Looking forward to having you back to plant – thank you, Suzanne!

February may as well have been the month of celebrations in our classroom. We celebrated not just Scarlett and Zara's birthdays (*joyeux anniversaire!*) but also the many contributions of Black Americans, such as Claudette Colvin, during Black History Month. We celebrated Lunar New Year by reading the folktale behind the Chinese zodiac, finding our own zodiac animals, and indulging in a Chinese food lunch – *merci Madame et Elizabeth* for coordinating!

But! That's not all. After weeks of practice and preparation, we took the Grand Concours, the national French language competition. Although we won't know our results for some time, Madame commemorated our achievements by making us a whopping 60+ crêpes! We were thrilled to lend our hands (and mouths!) in this D@W tradition that's been on hold since the pandemic began.

The entire month of February was stuffed to the brim with activity and adventure but this last week was practically bursting from the seams! We ventured out to the Museum of Print in Haverhill, MA. Frank, the museum director, was a wealth of knowledge on all things printing, and even let us print our own names and assist in making "slugs" for the fifth-graders.

And now, we're off to spring break with snow on the ground and sunshine in our sights. See you in spring!

Veyla, Kasey, & Madame Virginie