

Friends School Newsletter

3/01/19

Important Dates

March 13th: Friendship Breakfast

March 14th: Early Dismissal at Noon

March 15th: No School Teacher Inservice Day

March 18th- 22nd: Book Fair

Dear Friends,

Here are this weeks announcements.

March 13th is the Friendship Breakfast. This free fundraising event is a great way to support the school's Annual Fund. If you would like to attend, please RSVP at wesley@friendsschoollouisville.org

There will be early dismissal at noon on March 14th. If you need aftercare please let Melanie know by March 8th. After the 8th you will be charged the drop-in rate.

March 15th there will be no school due to a Teacher In-Service Day.

The Scholastic Book Fair returns on March 18-22. The Mystery reader is returning and we are need volunteers to come in and read to classes. If you are interested in volunteering, please email janapedowitz@gmail.com with your availability.

We hope everyone has a great weekend!

Friendship Breakfast

March 13, 2019

8:00am

The Friendship Breakfast is held in support of the School's Annual Fund. Like most independent schools, tuition covers only a portion of the cost of educating each student, with the remainder made up through gifts to the Annual Fund, foundation support, and individual donations. Every gift is important, as outside funders often look at parent and alumni participation when making decisions about their donations. We don't ask for specific amounts during the campaign— just that you make a gift that is meaningful for your family.

We hope that you will be able to join us on March 13th to learn more about our Annual Fund and the exciting work taking place at Friends School. This free fundraising event provides a great opportunity to discover how you can help create positive change in our school community.

If you would like to attend, please send your RSVP to wesley@friendschoollouisville.org. If you are unable to attend but would still like to support Friends School, donations can be made in several ways.

Visit www.friendsschoollouisville.org
and click on the Donate now banner

Mail a Check to
Friends School
901 Breckenridge Lane.
Louisville, Ky. 40207

Text the word Give to
502.892.0003 and
follow the text prompts



Friends School is excited to welcome a new member to our school community!



Our daughter Lina, an 8th grader at Friends, has been training her 16-month-old dog Meli to become her service dog since July. Tonight they completed the Service Dog Training at Duffy's Dog Training Center in Jeffersonville-- and passed all of the certification tests necessary to meet ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements as a service dog and handler team. We are so proud of their hard work to achieve this!

They & their trainer, David Benson, will do a brief training for staff during professional development on Thursday, March 14, at 3pm. (For those of you who have been at Friends awhile, you might remember Sarah Rosenbalm and her 2 beautiful boys, Weston and Oakley-- David is her brother!)

Until then, some background on how this team developed will hopefully help smooth the path into Meli working at Lina's side on a full-time basis. Many of you have seen Lina & Meli in the halls and classroom in the early part of each school day since the fall in order to acclimate to their new routine.

First, there is some confusion about the difference between emotional support animals, therapy animals, and service animals. Federal civil rights laws provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 govern the rights of a person requiring a service animal. A service animal means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability-- including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability. Emotional support animals provide companionship that may be therapeutic, but do not have special training to perform tasks that assist people with disabilities. Therapy animals provide people with therapeutic contact, usually in a clinical setting, but are not limited to working with people with disabilities.

In our case, Meli helps Lina to maintain-- and sometimes regain-- physical and emotional stability. At the onset of an increase in anxiety and/or panic, Meli often notices certain subtle behaviors/changes and comes to Lina's side. Alternately, Lina can call her with the command "Ease," which in either case elicits Meli to jump on Lina in a hug of sorts that provides deep pressure which soothes/disrupts/lessens/distracts Lina's stress response. This is Meli's primary task; another ("Pause" or "Paws") keeps Lina safe when escalated, and a third ("Block") provides a physical buffer between Lina and other people in crowded areas if Lina become overwhelmed. All of these tasks assist Lina so that she can be more fully functional in family, social, and educational settings.

Meli is a Golden Retriever (with a smidge of poodle on the side). At school, she will always wear a red & black service vest, and a leash attached to a slip collar. Anytime Meli wears the vest, she is working & is in service solely to Lina. This may be an adjustment as we have had another service dog at Friends that sometimes supports other students when not needed by his own student. So in that spirit, we ask that you and your students do not engage with Meli by calling to her, touching her, or asking to pet her. It is easier for both Meli and Lina to maintain this strict protocol in order to limit distractions & avoid putting Lina in the uncomfortable position of having to say "no."

The training to become a service dog and handler team is lengthy and thorough. Meli has gone to all-day school with a team of trainers in Southern Indiana for over six months. Throughout the process, Lina, her dog, and her parents have had 10 one-on-one 1.5- to 2-hour private sessions with David Benson to learn, practice, and refine what Meli has been learning, customized to meet Lina's specific needs and environment. David has already met at Friends with Lina, Meli, Lina's teachers, and the leadership team in order to develop specific plans about the logistics & challenges of integrating Meli into the environment so that she can: 1) benefit Lina, without 2) adversely impacting other students. Meli has been coming to school through morning meeting each day since November & has already supported Lina in many public access situations (grocery stores, movie theatres, etc.).

All of Meli's documents attesting to her training, certification tests passed, vet records with proof of immunizations (including rabies), and local animal licensing will be kept on file in the office.

Lina will take Meli out for 2 daily bathroom breaks, usually in the grassy area outside of the middle school classroom. Lina is authorized to toilet Meli by herself as long as she is within sight of her teachers. Lina has a backpack at school that contains food, water, waste bags, and cleaning wipes for Meli if needs arise. Lina takes the responsibilities of a handler very seriously; it is an unusual feat to be a service dog's handler at such a young age. Those two girls are a great team! Thank you so much for supporting Lina & Meli as they begin working together full-time in school. We are happy to answer any questions or work to resolve any concerns that may arise.

Best,
Caleb Olin & Kristina Peters, Lina's proud parents

Reading is Dino-Mite!

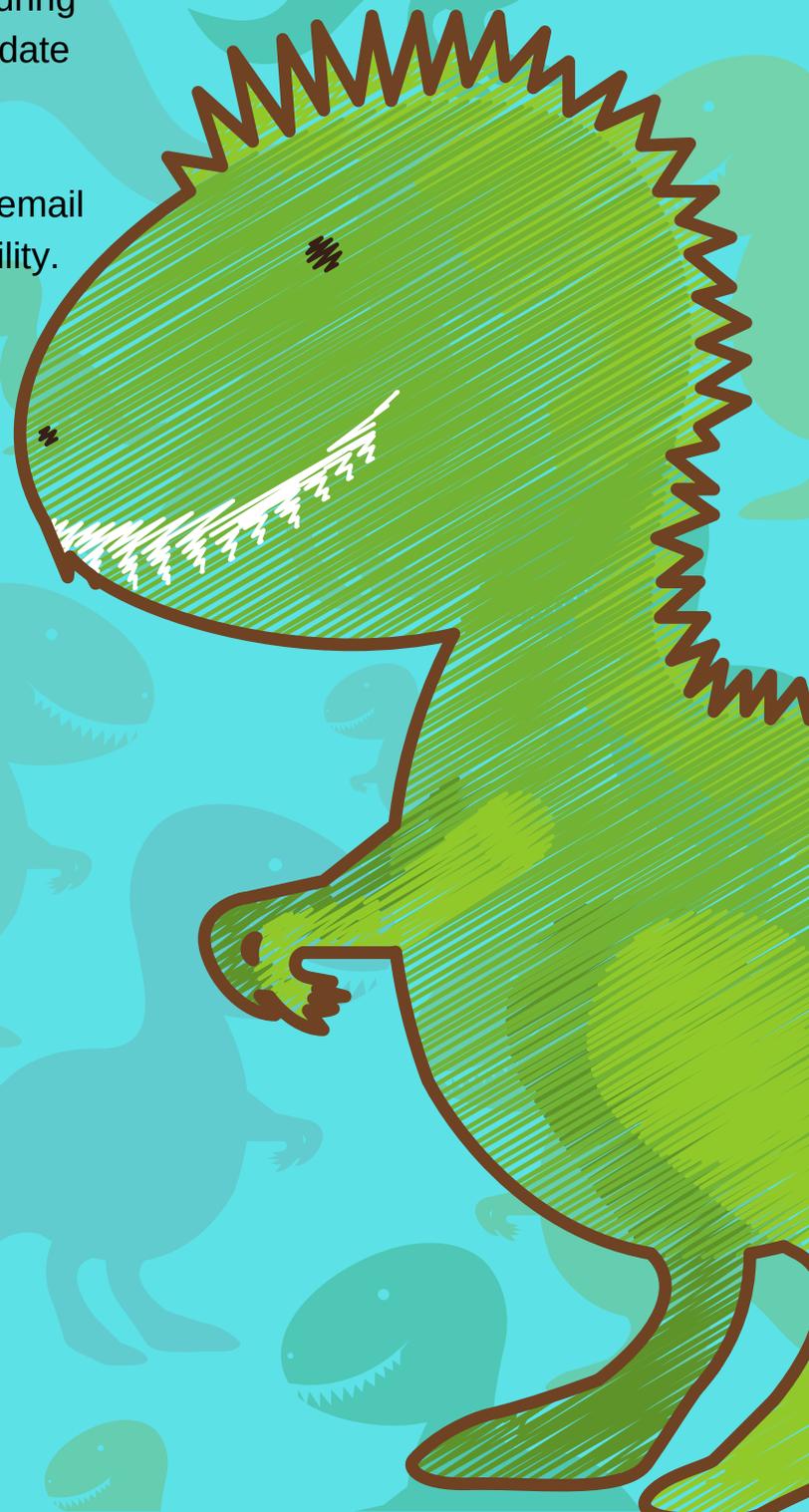
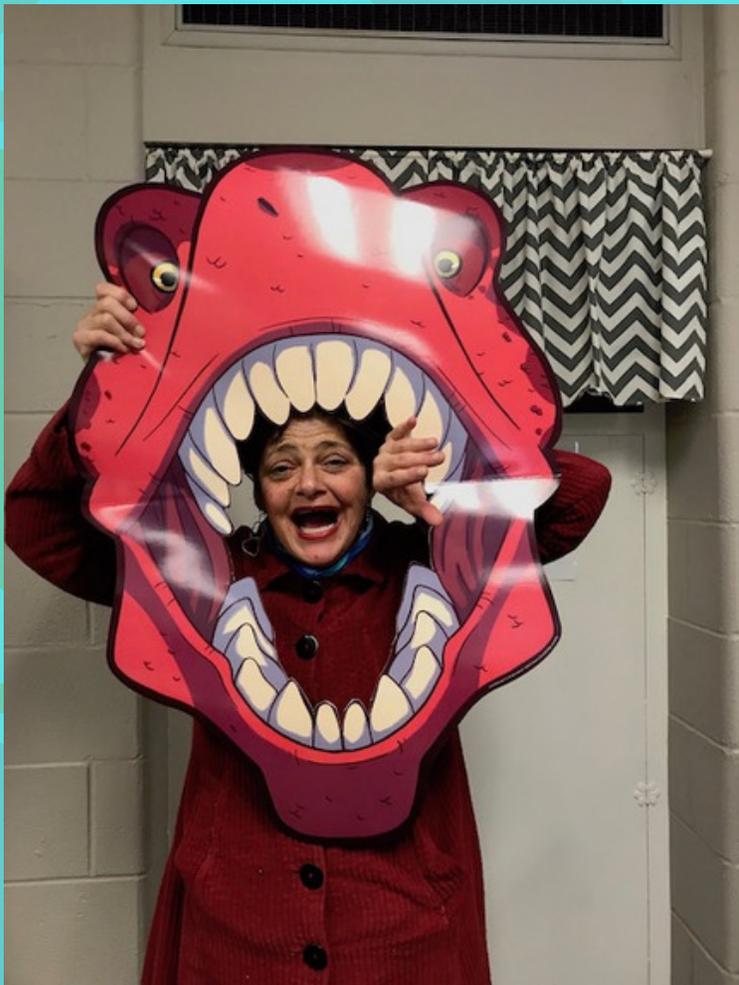
Get Ready for the Scholastic Book Fair

March 18-22 located in the school lobby!

The Mystery Reader Returns

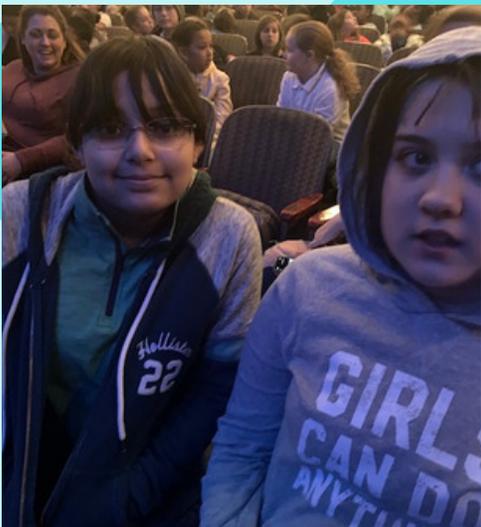
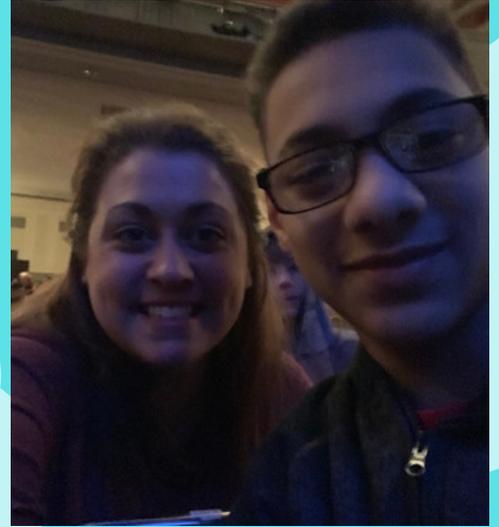
We need parents and other volunteers to come into the classroom and read to your class during the entire month of March. You choose the date and time that works best for you.

If you are interested in volunteering please email janapedowitz@gmail.com with your availability.



Field Trip to Brown Theater

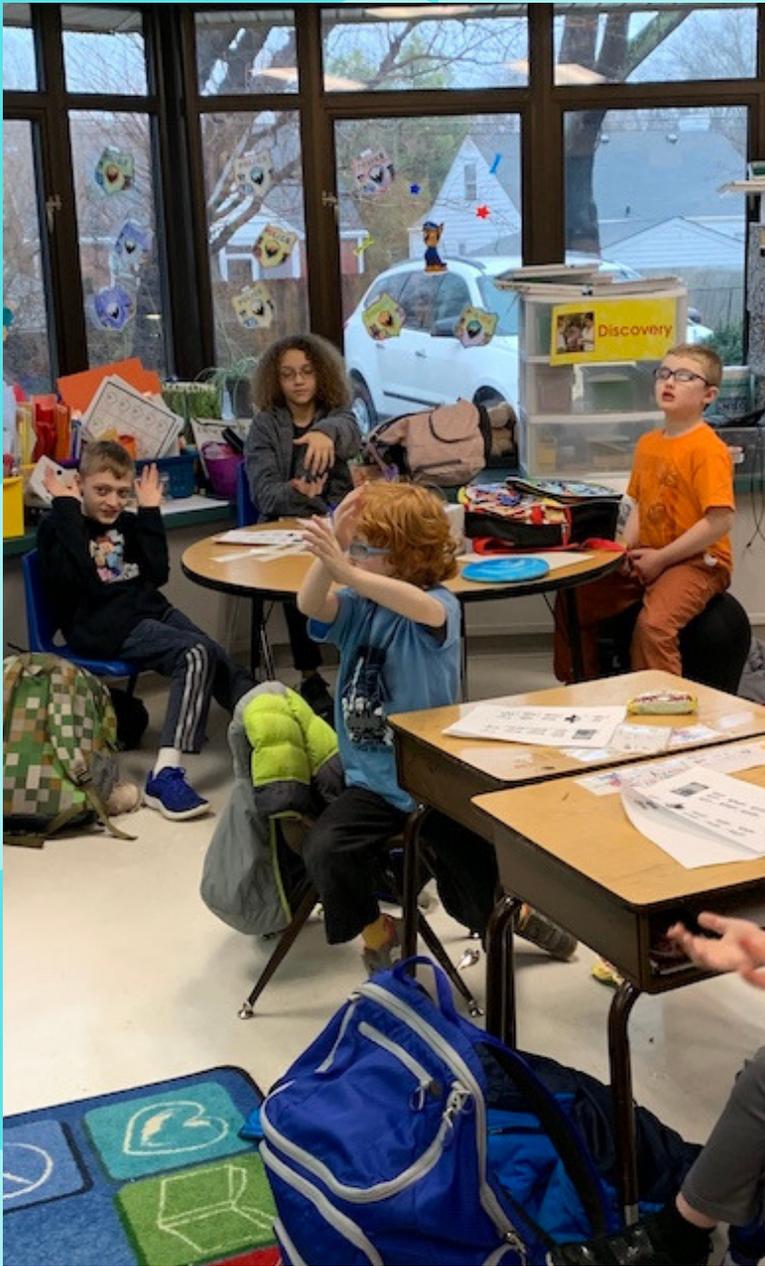
Black Violin



Field Trip to Brown Theater: Black Violin



Sign Language Club



A visit with the Piglets



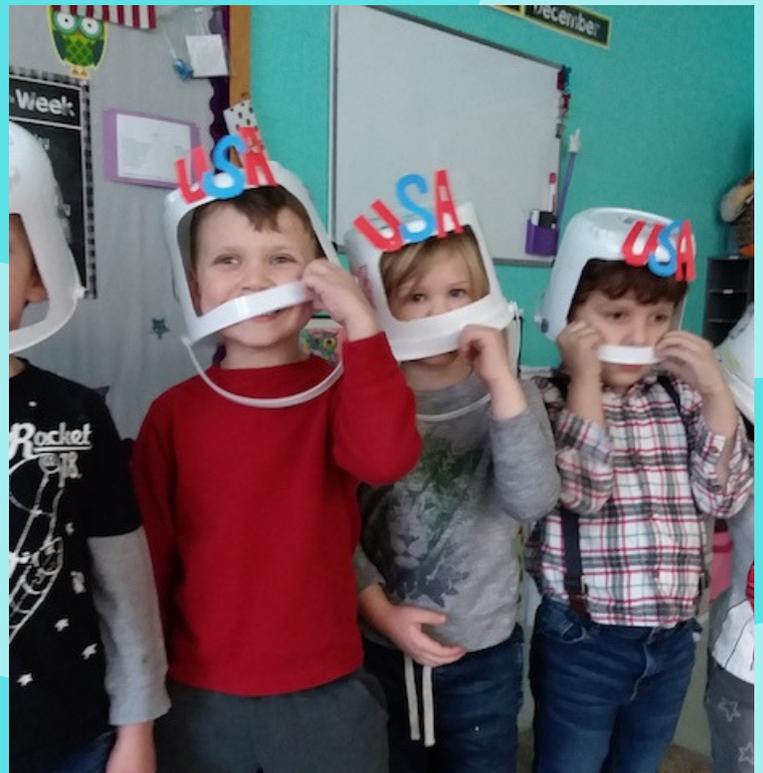
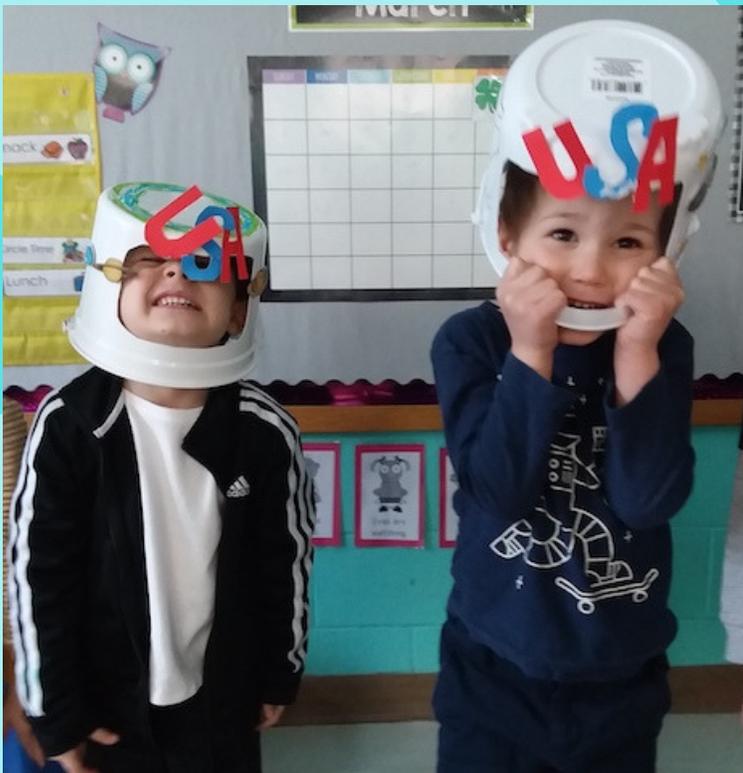
A Visit with the Owls



4th & 5th Grade Yoga

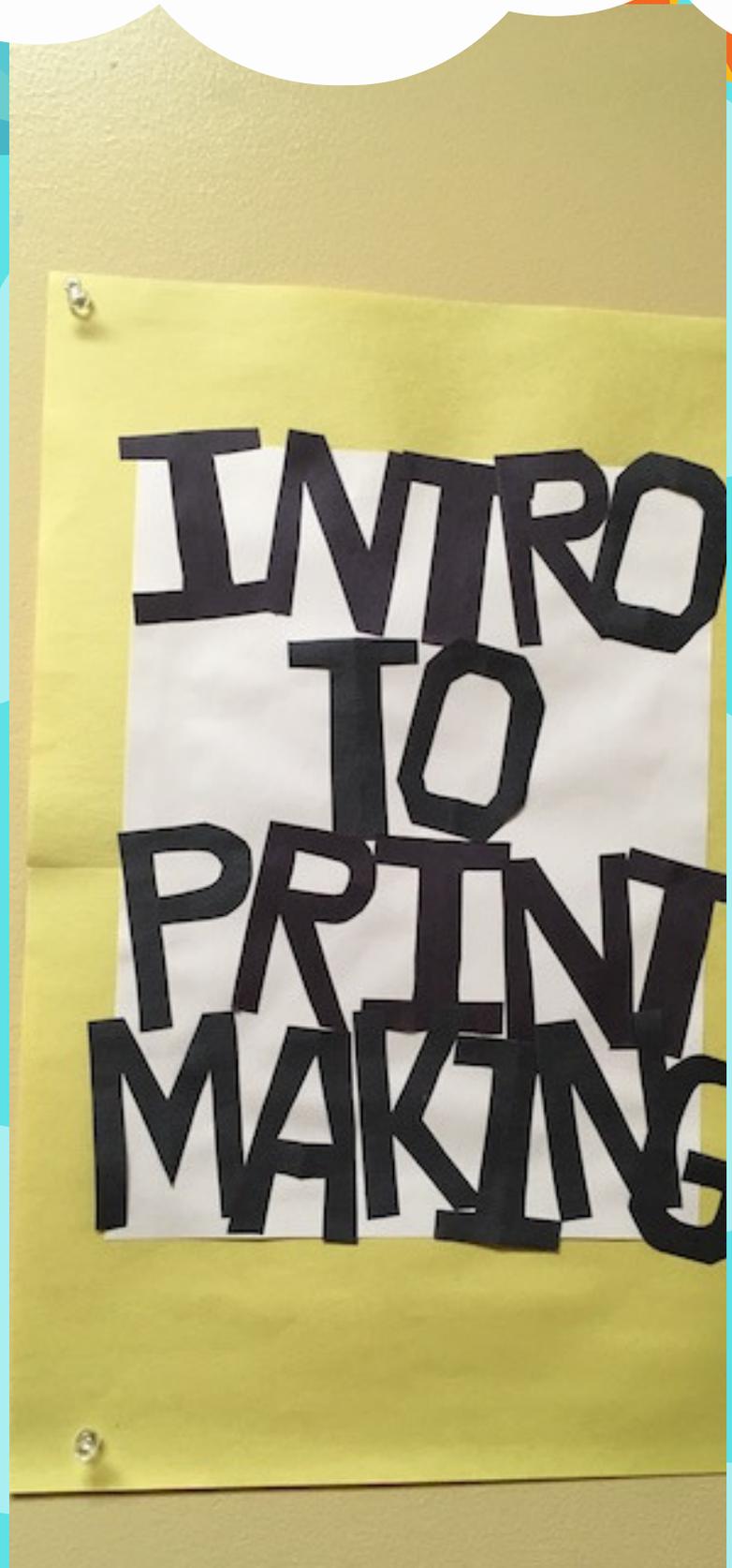


THE ART OF FRIENDS SPACE EXPLORATION

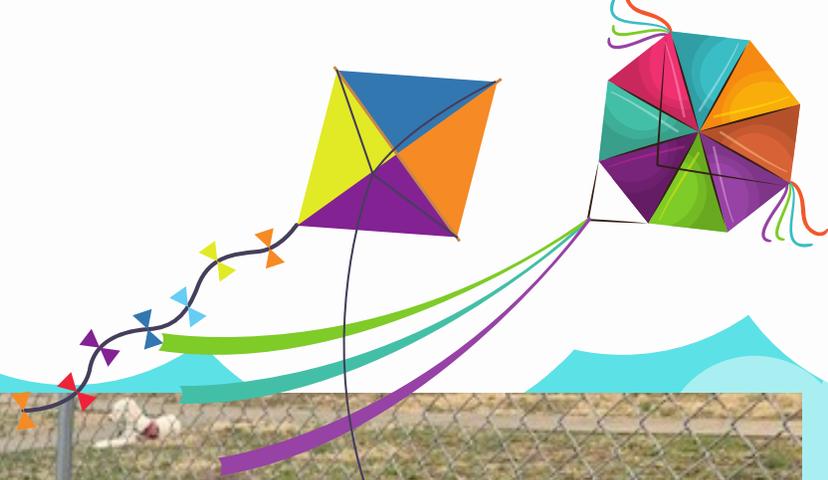


THE ART OF FRIENDS

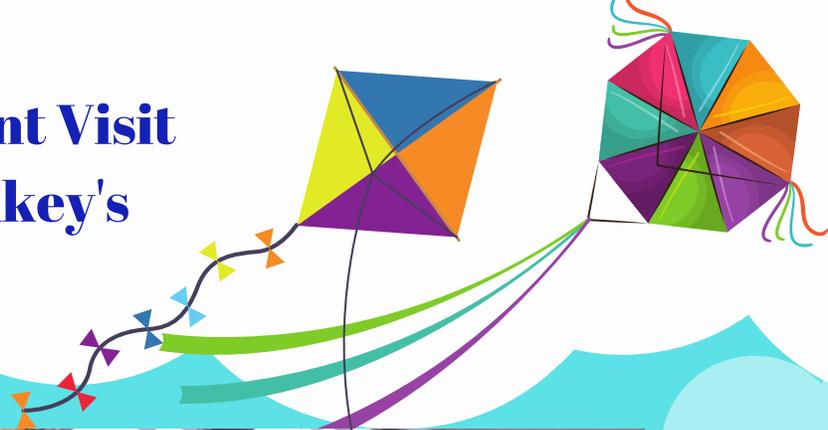
INTRODUCTION TO PRINTMAKING



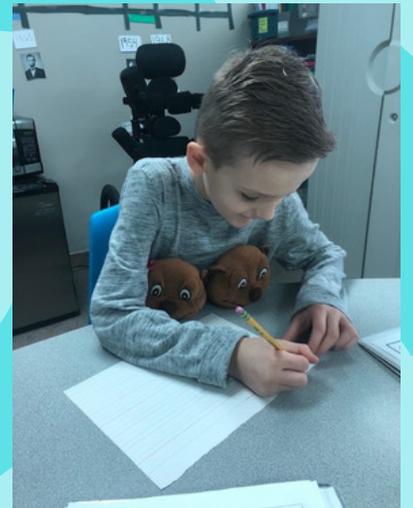
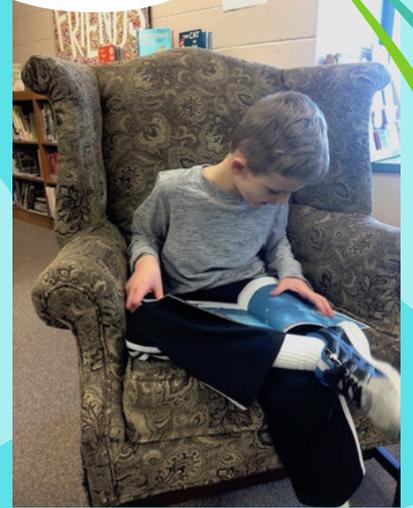
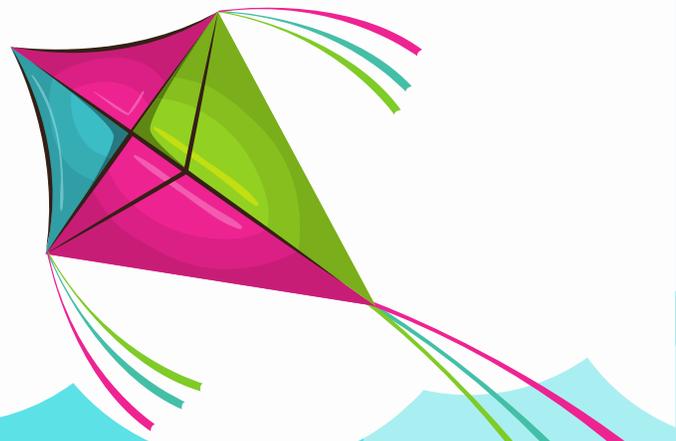
Gallery of Friends



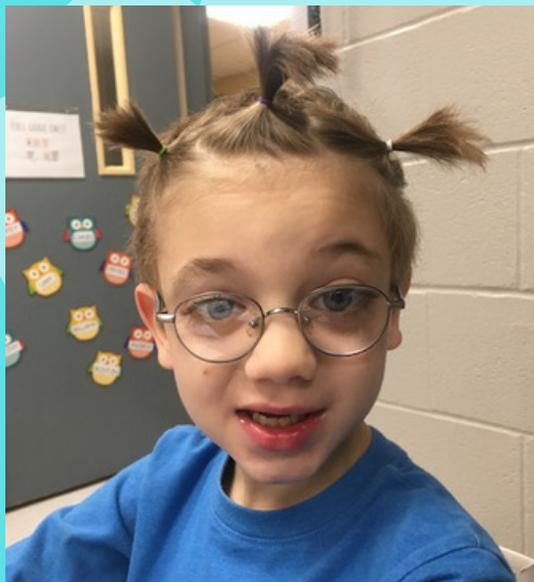
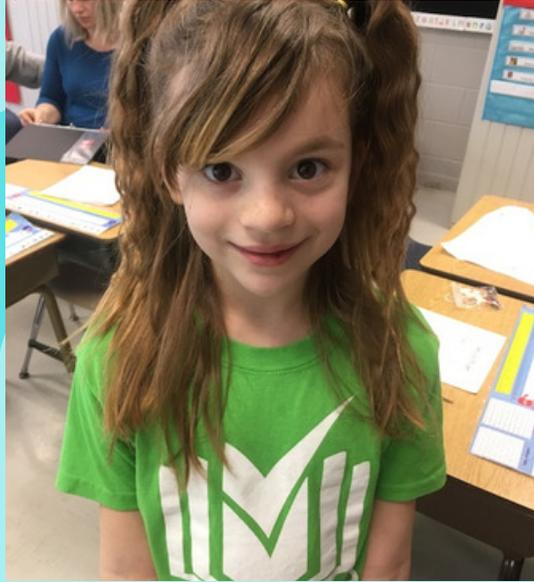
St. Matthews Fire Department Visit with the Frogs & Mighty Monkey's



Gallery of Friends



Gallery of Friends



Congratulations Star Students

