



# Meadow Pond Monthly Moosage: December

MPES is a joyful, affirming, and welcoming community that values common academic and social emotional learning opportunities. At MPES, students, adults, and Max the Moose are inspired to grow and take risks through relevant, active, and engaging experiences.

## Upcoming Events

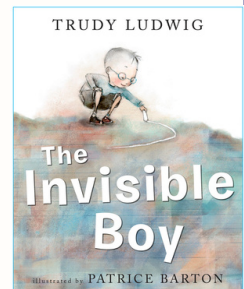
December:

- 12/1- BOE Meeting
- 12/8- Holiday Wreath Making (PTO event)
- 12/8- District Wide ERJ Meeting (6-8pm)
- 12/15- BOE Meeting
- 12/23- Community Meeting (K-5) and Tie Dye Day!
- 12/26- 1/2 Winter Break (School reopens on Tuesday, January 3)

## Monthly Theme

Our theme for December is: "Empathy". This month, we will be reading, "The Invisible Boy". We chose this book because it shows how our actions impact how other people feel in positive and negative ways. Students will work to gain empathy for others, identify the importance of inclusion, and recognize the impact of small acts of kindness.

Our clinicians will continue to push into classrooms during the first weeks of the month to give the kick-off lesson for the monthly theme (Empathy). You can find the clinician lesson for [K-2 HERE](#) and the lesson for [3-5 HERE](#). Our language with students is that empathy is feeling what others feel. It is to understand how another feels, notice and be compassionate.

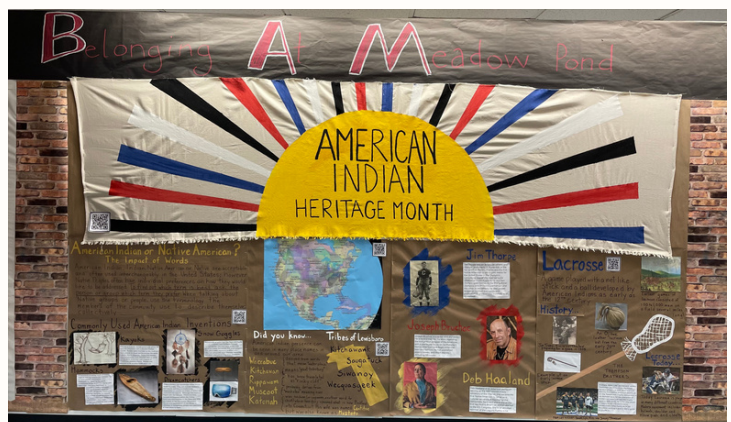


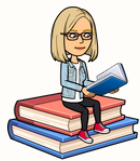
## BAM Committee

November's BAM board for American Indian Heritage Month was amazing. December at MPES is International Day of Persons with Disabilities. This year, the focus is "Neurodiversity". Do you want to know more about the heritage month? Please click [HERE](#) for the growing Heritage Month Summary Document that includes December (Scroll down!). Additionally, [HERE](#) is a book list that highlights different abilities and different ability authors. We are excited to share that the PTO and SEPTO are collaborating this month to send our 4th and 5th graders to Prospect Theater, a nonprofit dedicated to providing competitive and integrated employment to people with disabilities. More information (and a permission slip) to come!

The BAM committee wants to reach out to see if there are any families that celebrate cultures that are not being represented this year. If you would like to share your family's cultural heritage, please fill out this

[survey](#).





# Curriculum Highlights

Here is what each grade is working on in reading, writing, and math during December!

In **Kindergarten**, in math, students will compare numbers to ten as well as classify and count data. In reading, students will pay attention to the words in books in order to develop pre-reading skills. Students will learn to read text from left to right, one word after another, with one-to-one correspondence. They'll also draw on their growing knowledge of high-frequency words and of the alphabetic code to read familiar patterned books. In writing, students will continue to string together words learned through inventive spelling into full sentences, create their own books - dividing their subject into chunks that can be captured across the pages of a book, make decisions about page layouts by studying mentor texts, as well as write lots of sentences across pages in a pattern, using high-frequency words as well as words learned through inventive spelling.

In **First Grade**, we have launched our new reading unit called Word Detectives and your child might tell you about the Super-Secret Detective Agency or the missions each class has been receiving to become word detectives. Play along! Announce that you've heard the BIG news and congratulate them! The unit focuses on the strategies readers use to tackle complex words. Word detectives study words closely to discover how sounds and letters go together. Specifically, first graders are studying words with silent e like "make", and vowel teams such as ee and ea in words like "meet" and "treat". In our How-To writing, writers will notice special features in this kind of writing (lists of things you may need, labels, and step-by-step writing). Our mathematicians will continue to expand on solving addition problems. Students will demonstrate fluency with addition within 10 and use strategies to add within 20. These strategies include counting on, using doubles and near doubles, and making 10.

In **Second Grade**, students will continue to learn from nonfiction texts. We use the book, Eruption! The Story of Volcanoes by Anita Ganeri and other stories about volcanoes to introduce learning from Nonfiction Text Sets. Students will then choose a topic and use their own nonfiction text sets to build their knowledge on that topic. They will notice connections, sequence, and cause/effect in nonfiction texts. In writing, students will use these skills to create and publish an Expert Writing nonfiction book. By the end of this unit, students will celebrate their success with nonfiction by sharing their knowledge and published work. In math, students will be learning strategies for subtraction and they will be subtracting within 100. They will also be able to choose from strategies within their mathematical toolbox to express their mathematical thinking. Students will also have fun in science while learning about the Properties of Matter.

In **Third Grade**, during reading, students are engaged in Mystery books in their Mystery Unit. They are predicting, looking for clues, finding suspects and motives, opportunities, as well as red herrings, in books. Students are enjoying the book, The Absent Author. In writing, students are busy in a unit called, "Changing the World." Students are writing to persuade others on various topics for changes at school, home and in their community. In math, students continue to build their understanding of Multiplication and Division. They are looking for patterns, enjoying 3 Act tasks, singing songs such as the 9's song and manipulating fact triangles.

In **Fourth Grade**, students will continue their work in their non-fiction unit by researching and learning about a Native American tribe. In writing, students will write a five-paragraph persuasive essay with reasons and evidence to support their claim. In math, students will use operations with whole numbers to solve problems and learn about factors and multiples.

In **Fifth Grade**, fifth graders will continue to explore a variety of nonfiction texts in reading. Students will practice analyzing the content of passages to determine organizational structure and main idea. Students will also practice strategies for summarizing nonfiction passages. In writing, fifth graders will use their skills as journalists to research a topic of interest and then use the writing process to compose a feature article on that topic. In math, the focus will be on estimating and calculating quotients with whole numbers.

# Updates and Reminders



Hi MPES Families,

Can you believe that it is already December? November was filled with moments of gratitude and thankfulness. Yesterday at Community Meeting, we celebrated the heroes in our lives. Also, students starting receiving pins if their names were called from the Moolah Bin. One student from each class is called each month at random. Students are working on collecting the 5 MPES pins! Before the students leave Meadow Pond, they will each receive the five pins to carry the Meadow Pond Spirit with them into middle school.

**Weather:** Our chilly weather is here! As stated in the Family Handbook, please be sure your child comes to school in clothing that is appropriate for outdoor play. If the temperature, including wind chill, is below forty degrees, students should be prepared to play outside wearing coats and long pants. On snowy days, students should also bring snow pants, boots, hats, and gloves. As per our school district physician, Dr. Louis A. Corsaro, if the temperature, including the wind chill falls below twenty degrees ("feels like") temperature, the students will stay inside for recess. Students will have access to lots of fun indoor recess toys.

**Lost and Found:** We have a GROWING Lost and Found. It would be helpful if your children had names on their items so we can return them. Additionally, please have your child check the Lost and Found for missing belongings.

**Early Drop-off:** If you are dropping off students early for Chorus, Ambassador meetings, Recycling Matters Club meetings, etc., please drop them off on the side of the school where regular drop-off occurs.

**"Officer Brett" Schlosser:** Our district's new SRO has been visiting MPES on a weekly basis. He was even the guest elbow bumper earlier this week! Officer Brett is looking to be visible to the students and staff and for his presence to be normalized, familiar, and accessible. Officer Brett has also participated in some of our drills and has been a resource to the Building Safety Team throughout the year.

**A Note from "What's Blooming at Meadow Pond":** Well...actually nothing is blooming but we have some beautiful evergreen arrangements to brighten the cafeteria this month. Some volunteers went around our school grounds to find some interesting branches for us. We are so excited to have these new arrangements on our tables starting tomorrow. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped make these beautiful decorations!

**A Note from Recycling Matters Club:** We are collecting gently used winter boots, snow jackets, snow pants, scarves, sweaters, fleece, mittens and gloves of ALL sizes. Please place all items in the BLUE bin in front of MPES - collection ends December 16th. All donations will be brought to the Community Center in Katonah.

**Spirit Day for December:** This year, we are celebrating our school spirit and community expectations through our Monthly Spirit themes. Get those outfits ready!! Be creative and have fun! Reminder that December 23 is Tie Dye Day.

Have a wonderful December and Happy New Year,

Ashlyn and David

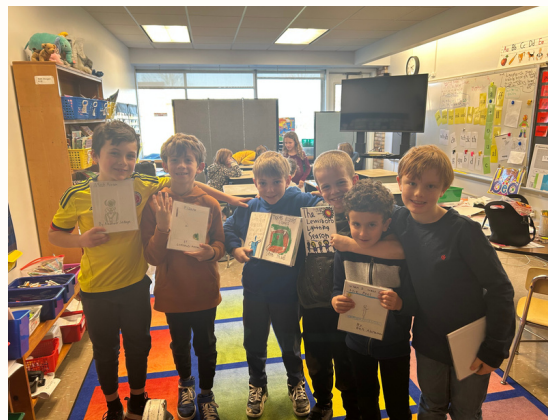


# Moosey Moments from November



Community Meeting and Hero Day!

Garden Committee Event



3rd Grade Writing Celebration

Music to our ears!

