

Pre-Kindergarten Update

March 2024

Academic Focus

To begin learning during the month of February, our pre-k students were introduced to a variety of studies (Boxes, Tubes/Tunnels, Pets, Exercise, etc.) Through the concept of Children's Choice our pre-k students chose to focus on the **Pets Study**. Students investigated the kinds of animals that are pets, characteristics of pets, foods that pets eat, and how to care for pets. During these investigations teachers focused on using letter-sound knowledge, connecting numerals with quantities, demonstrating knowledge of living things, and showing flexibility and inventiveness in thinking.

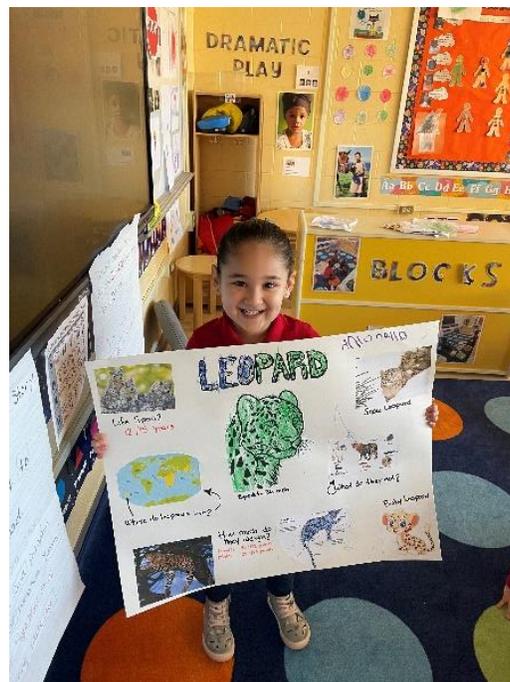
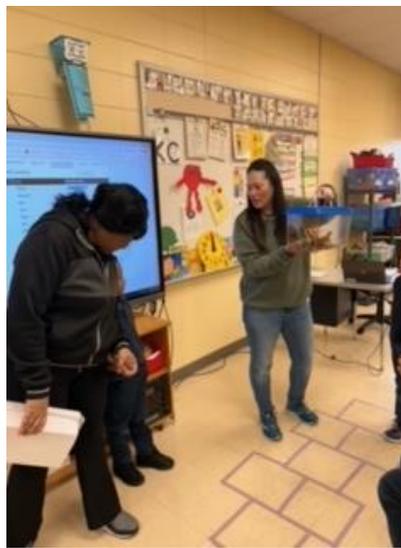


Nob Hill - Ms. Crawford

Students explored the Pets Study using a variety of hands-on learning activities. Graphing using rainbow goldfish, learning new vocabulary words then sorting domesticated vs. wild animals, building fine motor skills by painting with feathers, exploring the visual arts, etc.

Chateaux - Ms. Brown

Families were invited to join the class and share their interesting pets and pet enclosures. Students introduced their classmates to their newborn kittens, a snake, and a lizard. Afterwards students drew pictures of their favorite kind of pet.



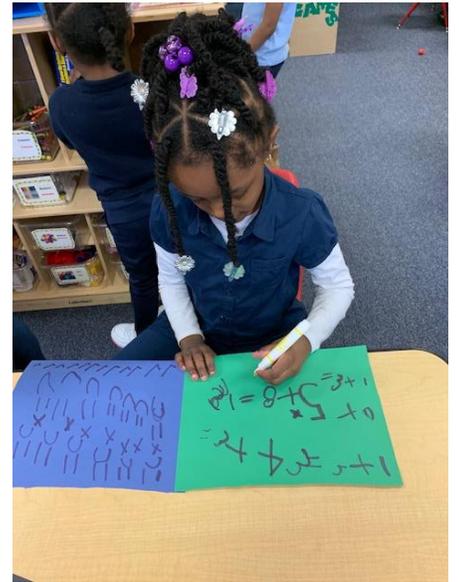
S.T.E.A.M. Academy - Ms. Willis

After learning about cats during the beginning of the Pets Study, students at the STEAM Academy used a project-based approach to learn about the feline species. They explored, researched, and grew their knowledge about various types of cats, before presenting their findings to the class.



Markham Park - Ms. Castillo

Literacy and math concepts were the focus as students matched pet pictures to their beginning letter/sound, practiced writing skills using pet words, and created and extended pattern.



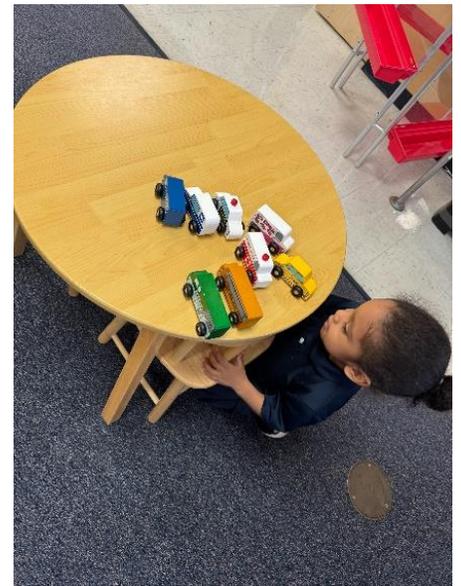
Mae Jemison - Ms. Burden

More math and literacy at Mae J as students matched numerals with their quantities, explored early addition concepts, used letter cubes to spell out their names, and used letter sound knowledge to read three letter words.



Mae Jemison Early Childhood - Ms. Scott

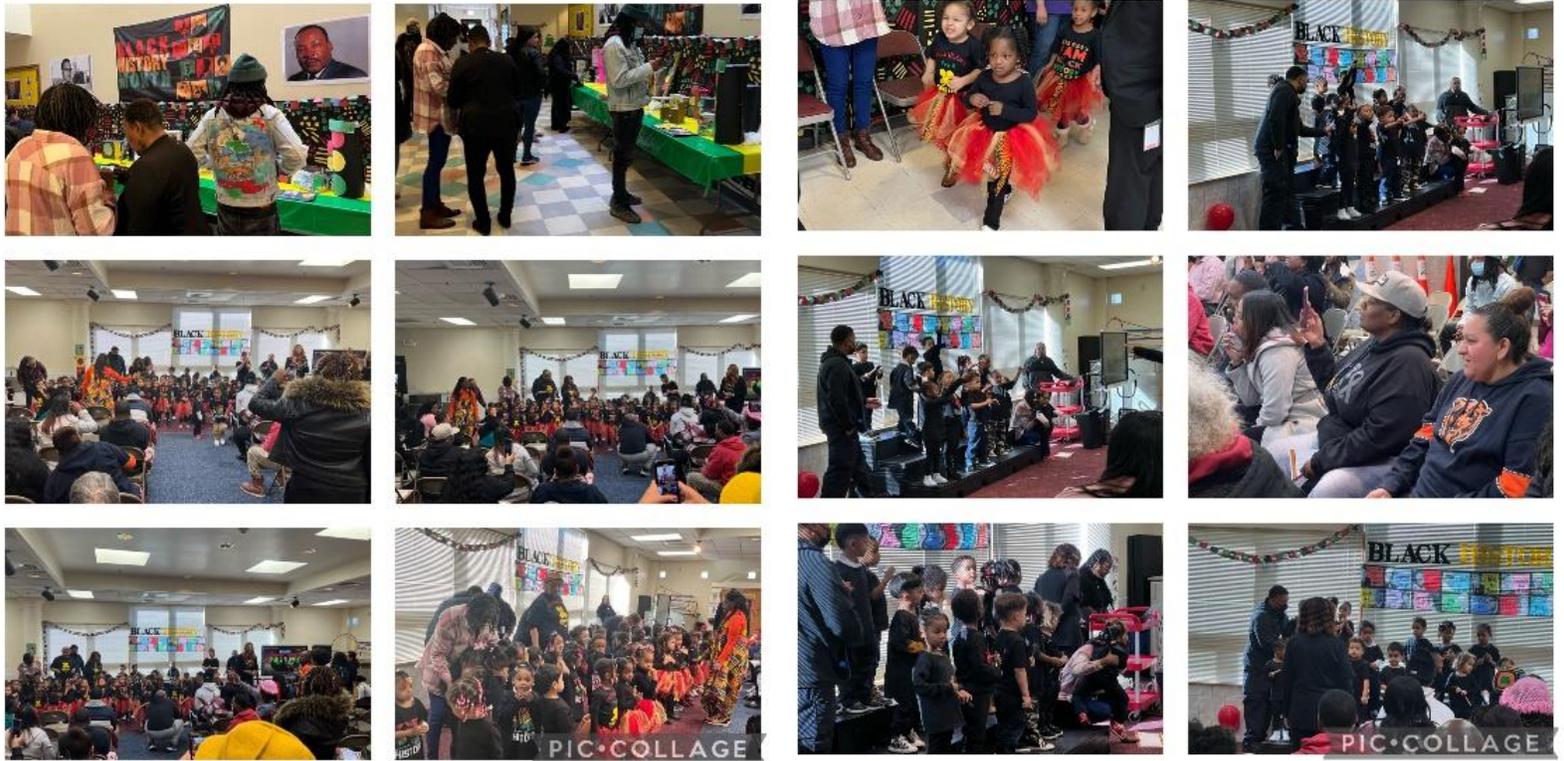
To support the needs of our students, a new Early Childhood classroom opened at Mae Jemison in February 2024. Our Student Services Department and special education team worked diligently to prepare for the incoming students. Students spent the first few days in their new environment exploring the materials and getting to know each other.



Bronzeville Children's Museum

Children in our Preschool for All Expansion program visited the nation's first and only African American children's museum. Designed for children to engage in learning through hands-on activities, the children explored healthy eating, inventors, and stem exhibits.





On February 15, 2024, the **Primary Learning Center** held its Black History Program themed around: It Takes a Village. Students sang songs by artist such as James Brown and Sam Cooke and danced as their parents/families watched and cheered them on. Families then visited the students Invention Museum - projects created by our 3-year-olds - of famous inventors of color.





Parent involvement was high at the **Primary Learning Center** during the month of February as families spread love through the school's Love Day Dance.



Pre-K Parent Workshops

During the hands on “Math Everywhere!” workshop on February 16, 2024, Pre-K Parent Coordinator Ms. Arostegui, guided parents to discover easy ways to build math into their child’s day.

On February 27, 2024 Dr. Harwell and Nurse Morgan of District 144, introduced a CPR class to our parents/guardians that helped them learn basic skills to help save their children and others in the case of a medical emergency.



Upcoming Events

3/15/2024: Pre-K Parent Workshop – “Positive Parenting”

3/18/2024: PLC Meeting

3/19/24 – 3/27/24: Kenootz Pizza Field Trip