

# Bulletin

Culver School

1-24-20



## Culver Admin Corner

By ~ Mr. Suarez, Ms. Guarraci, Dr. Smolinski

### PBIS ~

During the months of December and January, our students have been working really hard on their attendance and getting to school on time.

Every morning, students who are in class on time receive a Golden PAW. This Golden PAW is then entered into a weekly raffle; each Friday ten students from kindergarten through fifth grade, and four students from sixth through eighth grade are chosen. The weekly winners get to select a prize of their choice from the PAW house (k-5) and the SWAP shop (6-8).

Additionally, there is an attendance grade level competition, until the end of January. Grade levels who receive 95% or more of student attendance for the day obtain a star on the Attendance Bulletin Board outside the student cafeteria. Take a look at the current leaders!



### **Family Literacy and Math Night ~**

Mark your calendars for Thursday, April 16th. All Culver families are invited to Super Family Literacy and Math Night. The event is from 4:45-7:00 p.m. Feel free to join us for dinner from 4:45-5:15 p.m. The academic event will begin at 5:20, and it will feature several math and literacy-related sessions. More details forthcoming.

### **Reading Corner ~**

With the cold weather, conditions are ideal to spend some time at our Niles-Maine Public Library. The librarians know our kids, as our students love to head over to the library after school. Our public library is an ideal place to find that new, great book. Beyond the shelves, the library hosts many engaging and valuable programs and events throughout the year. Check out their website or grab a library flyer during your next visit. Culver is thankful for our strong partnership with our public library! Together, we are building our love of literacy.

### **Math Corner ~**

One of the best ways for parents to support your child at home is through the use of Khan Academy. Khan Academy provides a library with hundreds of tutorial videos that allows learners to learn mathematics from early math all the way through AP high school courses. In addition to the library of tutorial videos for learners, Khan Academy also provides learners with an opportunity to practice their skills with short activities and self quizzes. Khan Academy is a great resource for educators, learners and parents, and it is all free. To access this great resource, please click on this [link](#).

### **Winter Benchmark Assessments ~**

Thoughts of winter are likely to bring about visions of snow, hot chocolate and sometimes treacherous road conditions. In schools, winter brings about thoughts of snowmen, indoor recess and a new season of assessments.

During the week of January 21st-24th the students in kindergarten through 8th grade will be taking the winter Curriculum Based Measures, also known as CBMs. These are short grade level assessments in both reading and math that help the school see how a student is performing in comparison to same grade peers across the country. This information is also used to inform placement decisions into and out of reading and/or math intervention.

All students who qualified to receive English learning services will take the ACCESS test. The testing session begins on January 15th and ends on February 18th. English

learning students are assessed in their proficiency to read, write, speak and listen in English.

Finally, planning and preparation is underway for our spring assessments as well. The students in 3rd-8th grade have been preparing throughout the year for the Illinois Assessment of Readiness, or IAR, test that is given to students in early-mid April. The IAR is a very rigorous test that assesses college and career readiness and provides the district feedback regarding each student's skills in reading and math. Then in May, the students in 2nd-7th grade will take the spring Measures of Academic Progress, or MAP test. And, once again, the students in kindergarten through 8th grade will take the reading and math CBMs. These data points as well as classroom data, attendance data and behavioral data are reviewed to get a more comprehensive view of our students, both individually and collectively, in order to plan for the future.

### **What we love about Culver ~**

**With Valentine's Day around the corner, we wanted to briefly share what we love about our Culver Community:**

#### **TOP TEN LIST**

10. Culver Cafeteria Cookies
9. The Fun Run
8. The playground
7. Delicious daily breakfast
6. Daily P.E
5. The extracurricular opportunities
4. School resources and supports for students
3. Our warm, welcoming staff
2. The diversity of our community
1. YOU!

**Thank you for all your dedication to our community of excellence!**

# Pre-School Screening



**Niles Elementary School District 71 offers free pre-school screenings for residents who have children ages birth through 5.**

## What is a pre-school screening?

A pre-school screening is a way to determine if a child is progressing typically for his/her age in conceptual, communication, socialization, motor skill and social emotional development. It is designed to identify any child who may need further assessment or monitoring or may be eligible for early intervention services (birth through 2 years old) or special education services through the school district (ages 3 through 5).

## What is the process?

1. Contact Ms. Laura Guarraci, the Director of Student Services, at 847-470-3405 or [Lguarraci@niles71.org](mailto:Lguarraci@niles71.org) to share your concerns about your child's development
2. Come to Culver School to prove residency within the district
3. Complete a screening packet and return it to the school
4. Within two weeks of returning the screening packet to school, parents will be notified of the results of the screening.

Children ages birth through 2 who score below the cutoffs will be referred to Early Intervention for a more comprehensive evaluation.

Children ages 3 through 5 who score below the cutoffs will be considered for further assessment or monitoring by the school district.

*Ms. Laura S. Guarraci*

*Director of Student Services*

847-470-3405

[Lguarraci@niles71.org](mailto:Lguarraci@niles71.org)

*Culver School*

*Niles Elementary School District 71*

*6901 W. Oakton St.*

*Niles, IL 60714*

Please dress your children warmly in the cold winter months. This should include a winter coat, hat, mittens/gloves, scarf, waterproof and lined boots and if playing outside or walking to school snow pants. Students who walk to school during these colder and darker months should be dressed warmly in brighter colored clothes and also need to travel to school in a safe manner. Please remember to use extra precautions when the weather becomes extremely cold.

Please encourage your children to eat a healthy breakfast and lunch daily. Students who eat healthy meals are more likely to have a better academic performance, have fewer behavior problems, and have fewer school absences. When sending lunch to school with your child please be sure that the items in the lunch are healthy food choices. The “Kid’s Healthy Eating Plate” from Harvard University provides information on making healthy food choices and is geared towards children. It can be checked out at:

<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/nutritionsource/kids-healthy-eating-plate/>

**As you begin to make medical appointments and plan for 2020-2021 school year**, please note that according to the School Code of Illinois, all children **entering pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, sixth grade or new to Illinois Schools** must submit a State of Illinois Certificate of Child Health Examination with recent physical examination, health history, proof of up-to-date immunizations, a blood lead test or screening, and diabetic screening no earlier than the first of the year in which their child is enrolled. The State of Illinois Certificate of Child Health Examination should be submitted on or before the first day of school.

**Any student in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade** trying out for an interscholastic team or cheerleading must have a current physical examination form on record noting approval for interscholastic sports. The examination must be on file with the school **PRIOR** to tryouts and current through participation in the sport.

Students entering **kindergarten** or **new to Illinois schools** must also submit a recent State of Illinois Eye Examination report no earlier than the first of the year in which their child is enrolled.

Proof of School Dental Examination forms must also be submitted for the 2019-20 school year by May 15, 2020 for **currently enrolled kindergarten, second grade and sixth grade** students.

Proof of School Dental Examination forms must also be submitted May 15, 2021 for **kindergarten, second grade, and sixth grade students** enrolled in the 2020-2021 school year.

All health forms required for school can be obtained from the school office or found on the school website.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE VARSITY 2019 GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM



The varsity girls basketball team had a fantastic and exciting season. On December 18, 2019 the girls defeated East Prairie in the Little Nine Conference Tournament by a score of 28-18. They finished third place in the conference. This team not only worked hard during practices and games, but also demonstrated true sportsmanship on and off the court. They worked hard all season supporting one another and working toward a common goal. These girls are *champions at heart!* Thanks for a great season and congratulations to the following girls:

Shahtaj Ali  
Mackenzie Bickhaus  
Rylie Gordon  
Ariadne Leon  
Maha Marfani  
Genciana Ortiz

Kayla Pedraza  
Kayla Petrovic  
Elena Pranjic  
Briana Regules  
Emma Schieffer  
Manager Arisha Hakim

## What's New in First Grade?

Welcome back and Happy 2020! The New Year brings many new and exciting opportunities in first grade. Here is what we have been busy learning:

- Math: Addition and subtraction strategies up to/within 20
- ELA: Nonfiction text features, such as captions, diagrams, and photographs
- Writing: Goals and resolutions for the new year
- Science: Arctic animals and their habitat
- Homework: Our January homework packet was sent home last week. It is optional to complete the activities. The packet is due on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

Thank you for your continued support in first grade!

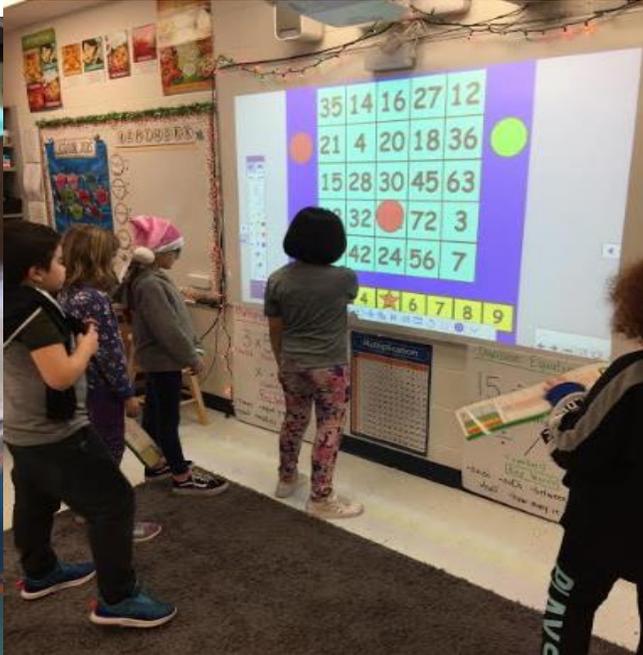
The First Grade Teachers,

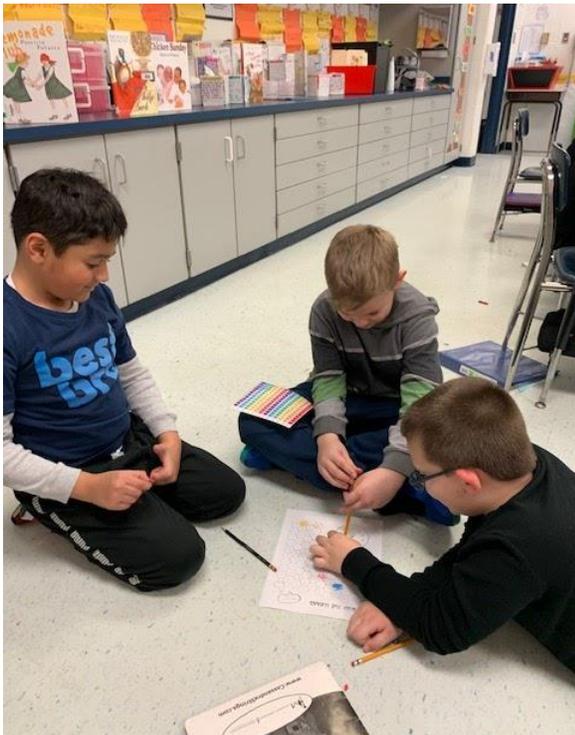
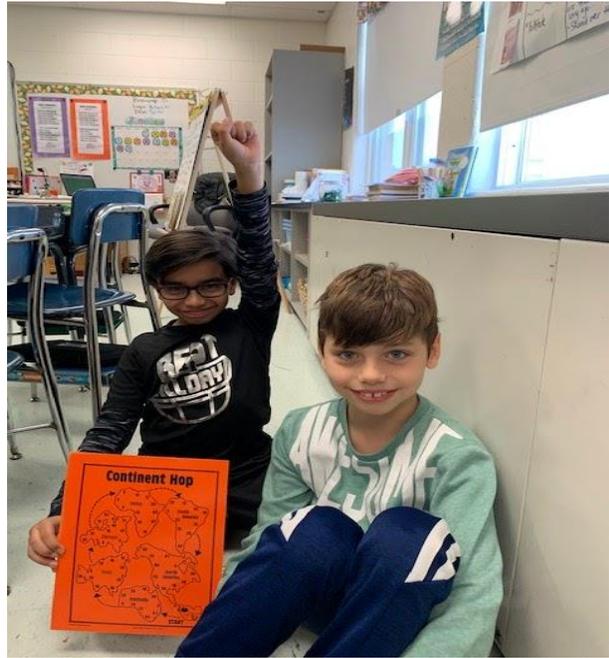
Mrs. Lamancusa

Mrs. Jensen

Mrs. Mennella

This quarter, the third graders are exploring the meaning of multiplication and division through the use of problem solving. Students began this unit by building on their second grade knowledge of repeated addition and arrays to gain an understanding of multiplication. They are continuing to build upon their mathematical knowledge to see the relationship between multiplication and division. Since multiplication is a critical area for third grade, students will continue to build on these concepts throughout the year, working towards fluency by the end of the year.





The fourth grade students worked hard preparing for their first opportunity to participate in our school's Spelling Bee. Great job fourth graders!

Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Nelson and Mrs. Priban.



Here are pictures of Mrs. McGarry's 5th grade and Ms. Oh's 2nd grade classes. Reading Buddies meet every Thursday to do various activities in reading, writing, and math. The children have been having a great time getting to know one another.



More pictures of 5<sup>th</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Reading Buddies.



# Middle School Newsletter Information 2019-2020

## 6th Grade

ELA DeBoer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mrs. DeBoer's last day before her Maternity Leave will occur on Friday, January 17th. She will miss her students terribly, but is extremely excited to be a first-time Mommy! While she is gone, she knows students will be in great hands as Mrs. Butrus will be her substitute. Mrs. DeBoer will be on Maternity Leave from Friday, January 17th until Monday, April 6th. During that time, please contact Mrs. Butrus at <a href="mailto:abutrus@niles71.org">abutrus@niles71.org</a> with any questions, comments, or concerns in regards to Language Arts.</li></ul>
Math Klauer Mathews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>6th grade students are starting up a topic on multiplying fractions and Pre-Algebra will be starting a unit on integer exponents. Students will complete homework on Pearson as practice for their upcoming quiz. Please continue to use Moby Max as an extra tool for math practice.</li></ul>
Science Polich	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In Science, 6th graders are learning about compounds and elements. We will be exploring the properties of various elements, and how they can react with other elements to form compounds.</li></ul>
Social Studies Polich	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In SS, 6th graders are discovering the ancient civilization of India. We're learning all about the unique geography of this area, as well as exploring all about the history, culture, and religions of this fascinating civilization.</li></ul>
Enrichment Masini	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Literacy Enrichment students are busy preparing for a debate against East Prairie School, taking place on January 22. The 6th grade has the affirmative stance on the topic, "Technology Should Replace Textbooks in k-12 Schools." They have spent the last month researching both sides of the debate and are using the Claim-Evidence-Reasoning strategy to organize their argument.</li></ul>

## 7th & 8th Grade

ELA Nerwin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>8th grade students explored the Declaration of Human Rights and created word art summaries to visually represent it. We then researched what these rights look like in our</li></ul>
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<p>Ross</p>	<p>world today.</p> 
<p>Math Klauer Mathews</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7th grade math students are finishing up a mini-project in which they created advertisements for imaginative products and sold them at discounted prices to their classmates. Students went “shopping” on a \$300 budget and calculated the sale prices, subtotals, 10% tax, and total amount spent. Additionally, students calculated a 6% commission that they earned on the total sales made on their own product.</li> </ul>
<p>Science Exline</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As we return to class after winter break, the 7th grade students have started their chemistry unit. In this unit students will use their knowledge from the previous quarter about physical and chemical properties to understand how the periodic is organized and arranged. Students will also be able to analyze the specific properties of each element to understand how chemical families are determined.</li> <li>8th Grade students have also started their chemistry unit this past week. The students will be expanding their knowledge of the periodic table and individual elements as we further test chemical reactions and learn how to balance the chemical equations that represent them.</li> </ul>
<p>Spanish Smolenski</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students in 7th-grade Spanish have been learning how to describe themselves and others, how to use articles (a, an, the) and proper word order. Students in 8th-grade Spanish are learning how to express emotions, extend and accept invitations, how to talk about activities outside of school, how to use stem-changing verbs like jugar and poder, how to say they are going to do something, and they are learning about some of the ways Latinos</li> </ul>

influence our culture in the USA.



Students in 7th-grade Spanish worked in small groups to prepare for a quiz.

## Enrichment

Masini

- Literacy Enrichment students are preparing for a debate against East Prairie School, taking place on January 22. The 7th grade has the negative stance on the topic, "The Olympic Games Should Have a Permanent Home." 8th grade has the negative stance on the topic, "Democracy is the Best Form of Government." Both grade levels have spent the last month researching both sides of the debate and are using the Claim-Evidence-Reasoning strategy to organize their argument.

## Art

Lurie

- The 7th Grade students have been developing their 3D drawing skills as they tackle the challenge of drawing a lucky Bamboo Plant in a transparent vase filled with pebbles. Students use colored pencils to create highlights and shadows throughout the drawing. They change the direction of their lines to suggest the form of an object. Students also include the elements of twisting, winding and overlapping stems to further open up the space in the drawing. The results are impressive and luminous works of art!



## Happening in the STEAM room...



Kindergarten students learned about the structure and function of objects while exploring engineering. They applied their knowledge to design and build their very own painting tool.



Our first graders have been hard at work learning about animal adaptations. They will be applying this knowledge to prepare a traveler for an expedition to a harsh environment.



The second graders concluded their properties of matter unit by testing the device they created to keep an ice pop frozen for an hour. These students are definitely excited to see that they didn't have much melted!



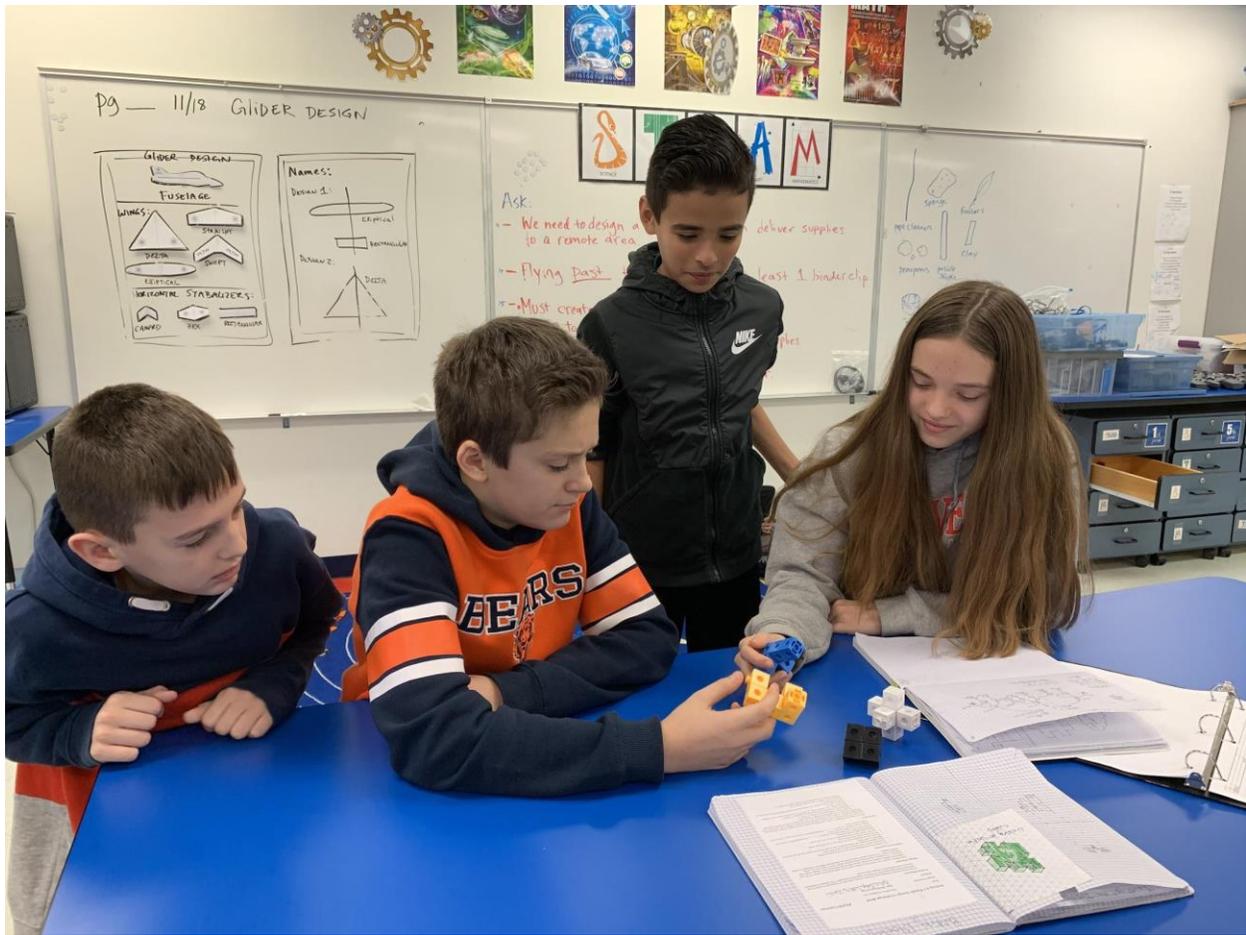
These third grade problem solvers used the engineering design process to create model gliders that can drop supplies to a remote area that has been struck by a natural disaster.



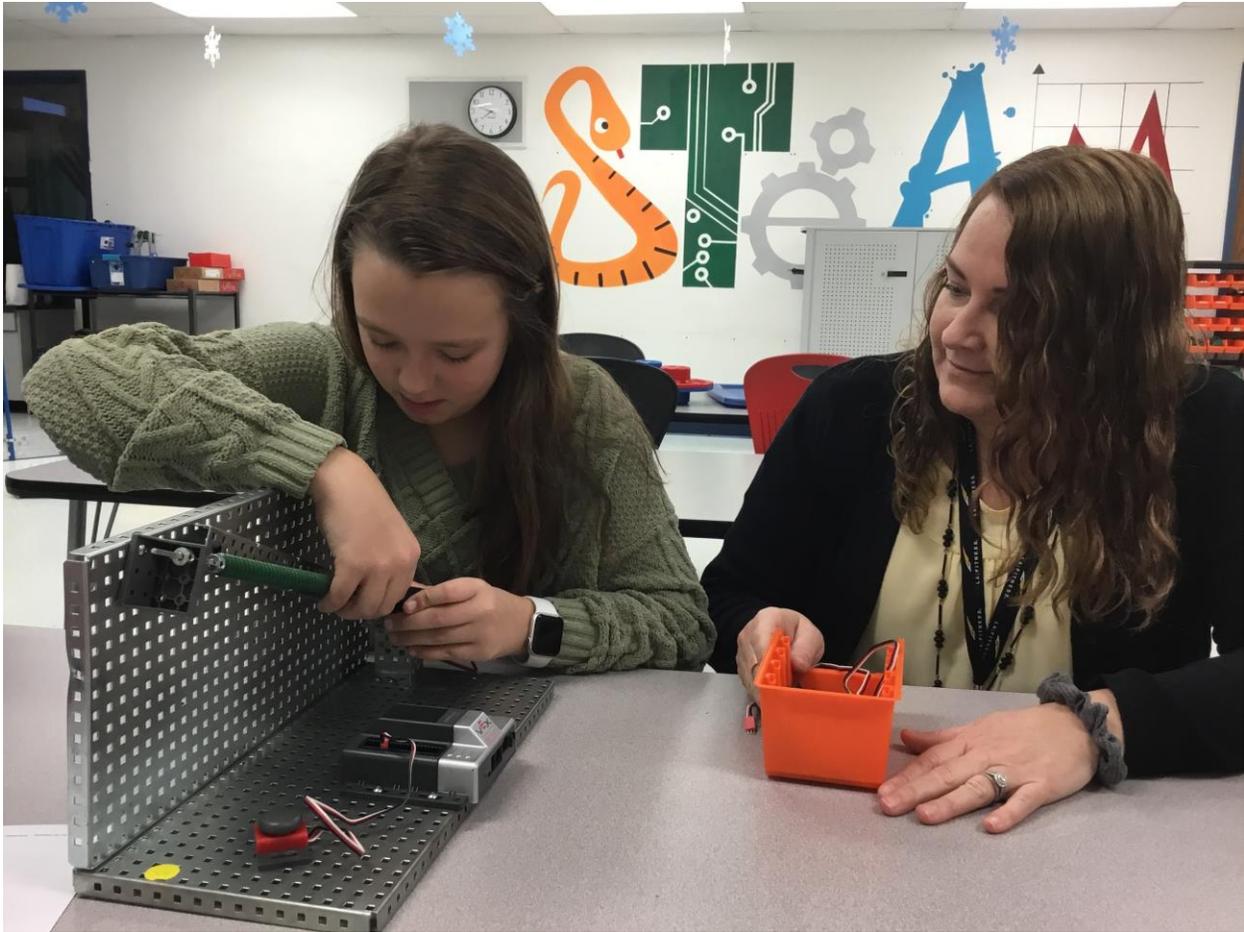
Fourth graders are testing the effects of speed and energy on vehicles. They will be applying this knowledge to engineer a vehicle restraint system to keep an egg safe during a collision with a brick wall.



Fifth grade has been hard at work modifying their robots to collect three cubes in two minutes, while trying to avoid the red zones!



Sixth grade STEAMers are utilizing the engineering design process to create a novelty puzzle cube with very specific criteria and constraints.



Seventh grade students have been tackling the world of robotics through mechanical, electrical, and computer engineering.



Eighth grade STEAM is writing code to program a game app they created called Germ Fighter. These students are testing the functionality while trying to beat their high score.



### **Challenge/Adventure Education-Climbing Wall**

Challenge/Adventure activities have become popular in today's schools. These activities offer students challenging movement experiences which help them learn problem solving, responsibility, teamwork & decision making. Students in 3rd-8th grade receive a wide variety of these experiential activities during Physical Education class at Culver.

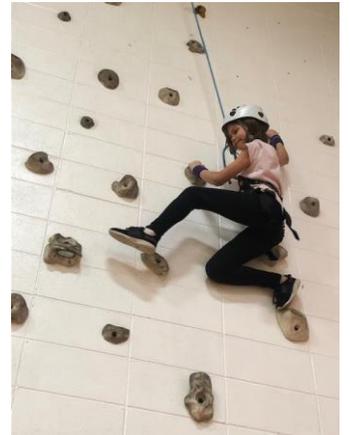
Through participation on the **climbing wall**, a student will:

- Develop an increased sense of personal confidence/self-esteem while attempting to reach their potential.
- Develop compassion for self & others by trying something in a group setting that does not have a guaranteed outcome.
- Develop trust, responsibility, communication and cooperation through the use of the belay system.
- Develop initiative, decision making and problem solving abilities,
- Improve physical competency.
- Experience success while having fun.

Each student will be taught the following:

- Safety Instruction
- Climbing technique
- Equipment & Belay System Information
- Climbing Commands & Procedures

Here are some students in action!!!



# News from Technology Class

Our K-5 students did an amazing job participating in the 5th annual Hour of Code sponsored by Code.org. Students developed and employed strategies for understanding and solving problems using methods to develop and test solutions. Among other things, students used abstract models and algorithmic thinking in exploring and finding solutions.



Culver school was 1 of the 140,168 events registered world-wide in 2019.

**Great Job!**

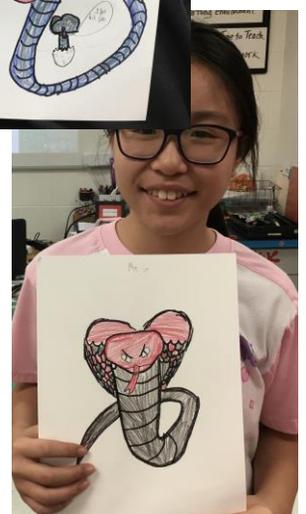
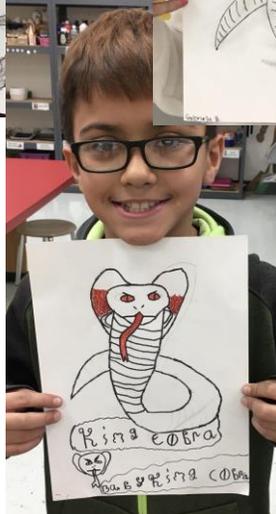
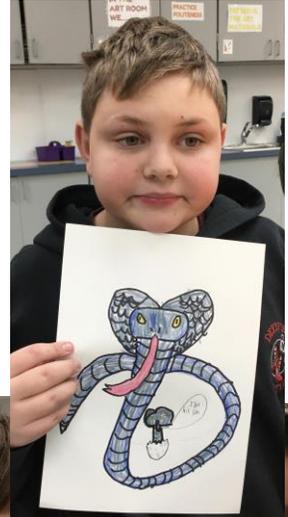
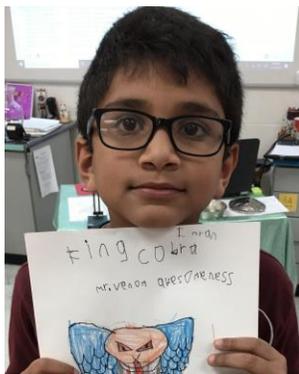
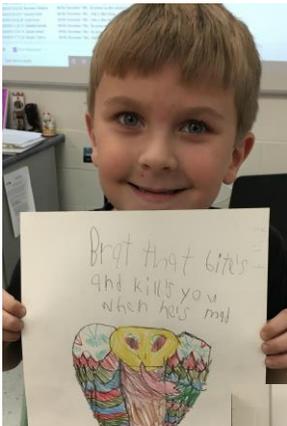
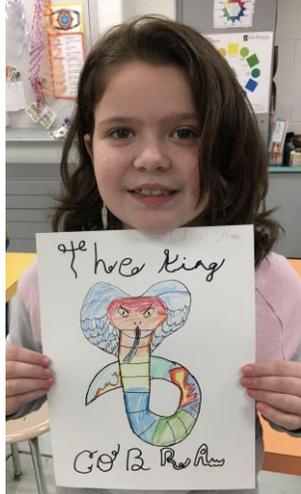
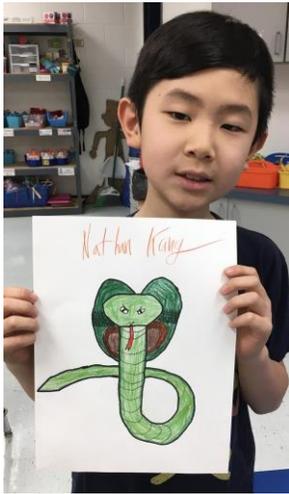


Mr. Hirsch

# October and November After School Extracurricular Art Activities with Ms. Lurie

This fall, the art room welcomed some new, slithery and scaly friends as students from grades 2-5 learned to sculpt ceramic fish and draw king cobras.

Below are some images featuring our students and their creations.



## After School Extracurricular Ceramics

Students grades 2-5 practiced handbuilding with clay and used plaster stampers as surface decoration in order to create these ceramic fish. Below are a few samples of our glazed and shiny, ceramic fish projects.



We are busy as always in the Media Center!

### Reading

We are excited to be participating in the Illinois Children's Choice Awards! Students in grades K - 3 have been listening to and reading Monarch nominees. Once they read 5 books, they will be able to vote. Students in grades 3 - 5 and 4 - 8 are invited to read Bluestem and Rebecca Caudill books. After students read these books, they fill out a short form. Students who read 4 Bluestem and/or 3 Caudill books are eligible to vote. Students who read 6 Bluestem or Caudill books will be invited to a reading celebration after spring break!

### Projects

The following grade levels are or will be working on the following projects:

Second Grade: Caldecott Award or Honor Book posters

Third Grade: Biography Cubes

Fourth Grade: State Study

Fifth Grade: Explorer Trading Cards

Keep Reading!

Ms. Glaser

# Culver Parking Lot

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are really concerned about the safety of our students at both arrival and dismissal. As a result, we have instituted procedures to keep all students safe during this time. It is important that we adhere to the procedures outlined below:

- Pull forward in the green zone
- Do not drop off in the red zone next to the fence
- Unload on the passenger side
- Walk to your designated area
- If your child is not able to get in or out of the car by himself or herself, please park in the lot and walk to the designated lines

Please contact the office with any questions.

Thank you for working together to keep our community safe,  
The Culver Staff





# **Niles School District 71**

*A Community of Excellence*

**The Niles 71 website now features a resource page! As we teach our children to ask for help when they need it, we also encourage families to ask for help when they need it. To support our mission of developing the whole child, Niles 71 is providing a list of resources for parents to access as needed. On this page we are highlighting community resources that may be useful to our families.**

**Included in this list of resources are:**

- **Basic Needs**
- **Financial**
- **Mental Health**
- **Language**
- **Health**
- **Multi-needs resources**

**If you have any questions about these resources or need additional resource information please contact: Kathy Morrissey, School Nurse, Linda Kraus, School Social Worker, or Liz Lawrence, School Psychologist.**

**These links are being provided as a convenience and for informational purpose only; they do not constitute an endorsement or an approval by Niles Elementary District 71.**