

Rise Up & Write!



WELCOME!

AJLA "Rise Up & Write" is a space for students of all ages to celebrate the writing that they have been working on at school. From building foundational literacy skills to crafting paragraphs of work- AJLA students cover it all! Please enjoy our class writing features, each displaying developmentally appropriate technique through drawing, letter formation, and spelling. Nurturing the progress of skills is our goal- not perfection!

WHAT IS IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE?

- Class Writing Features
- March Birthdays
- Word Search
- Mindful Moment

Third Grade

Over the winter, third graders wrote small moment stories during Writer's Workshop. They brainstormed ideas, drafted, revised, edited, and published their stories on Book Creator, an app on the iPad. When they finished the publishing process, they had the opportunity to share their stories with the first grade class!



Winter Snowball Fight!

By: Cameryn Wilson (3rd Grade)

It was a snowy morning. I got dressed. I ran outside and my sisters followed me. The first thing we did was have a snowball fight. It started to get cold and my fingers felt like they had frostbite. I told my sisters that I was cold and my fingers felt like frostbite. I ran to the back door because I was so cold and my sisters followed. I had to take my gloves off to open the door. My hands were freezing!!!

When we got inside, our mom took off our snow gear. The first thing I did was wash my hands with warm water. At first, it felt tingly, but then it felt nice. I asked my mom if I could get hot cocoa with marshmallows. She said, "Yes!" I was shocked with excitement!

The hot cocoa tasted like warm paradise. It warmed me up. I finished my hot cocoa and I got to watch a movie. After all it was an exciting day!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Devin Bellamy- March 1st
 Lucas Feith-Ribeiro- March 3rd
 Jorge Cevallos- March 4th
 Ava Geoghegan- March 6th
 Zion Scott- March 7th
 Kate Rojas- March 7th
 Zeus Mendoza- March 9th
 Amora Wilson- March 12th
 Kamora Wilson- March 12th
 Christopher Ibarra- March 23rd
 Ana Julia Azevedo- March 26th
 Kyrii Ramos- March 26th



First Grade

First grade has been investigating what is in a name! We read "Your Name is a Song" by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow and first graders became fascinated with this side of identity. This story follows a little girl who is frustrated when her peers and teachers mispronounce her name. Her mother teaches her about the musicality of names that come from all over the world, celebrating the beauty, history, heritage, and magic that make up a name. First grade is exploring names through writing, song, and art to uncover how our names are all unique and special- just like us! Students discussed the story of how they got their name with their grown-ups and they have been hard at work writing their own histories! First graders apply the spelling rules they have learned to their writing, but also use "inventive spelling" when appropriate.

Second Grade

Second grade is currently working on informational writing. Our class has been reading and listening to different stories about inspiring people to celebrate diverse change-makers throughout history. One activist we learned about in class is Amanda Gorman. Students were able to listen to a few of her original poems and read her book "Change Sings". After exploring Amanda Gorman's activism, our second graders wrote an informational piece of writing that includes facts they learned about her. We are excited to continue building on our informational writing skills as we read more non-fiction books about significant members of our history!

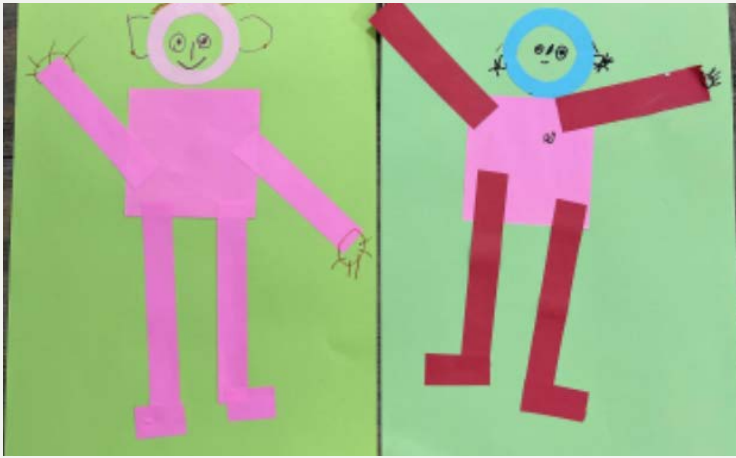
My name is Zenlonie Ocsius.
Zenlonie is two names put togethr.
Zen means peaceful and calm. Lonnie
means redey for battle and noble. my
Mom put it two gother two always
keepe a peaceful and right state
of mind and to be prepared for
what evr badls I mite have in my life.
Mom says I am living my true meaning
of my name.

Amanda Gorman's birthday
is on 3/7/1998. she is a poet. she
wrote a poem for a doctor, teacher and
a veteran. she shows kindness by tell-
ing people to be brave.
I wonder if she changes a lot of
lives?



PreK Green

Pre-K Green has introduced Mat Man to our classroom! Mat Man is an engaging Pre-K classroom character that embodies the Learning Without Tears approach to drawing with multi-sensory activities and strategies that help young learners develop strong drawing and cognitive skills!



Kindergarten

During Writer's Workshop, Kindergarten students are learning to write in complete sentences and create detailed illustrations. Their drawings support their ability to compose an idea with great detail. They are currently working on writing a sentence that matches their drawing. A school wide theme that we have been focusing on at AJLA is kindness and exploring different ways in which we can help one another feel valued and respected. The Kindergarteners took pride in creating goals for themselves to work towards so that they can continue to spread acts of kindness throughout our AJLA school community. We are excited to see how our personal goals and acts of kindness continue to grow throughout the remainder of the school year!



WORD SEARCH

L	E	A	R	N	I	N	G	L	W
H	C	X	K	V	W	F	B	O	S
O	O	M	C	C	K	V	E	V	F
P	M	A	G	R	I	A	M	E	M
E	M	F	J	E	N	Z	I	O	W
S	U	A	Y	A	D	P	B	E	Q
L	N	M	L	T	N	E	K	P	O
M	I	I	B	I	E	A	X	J	Q
H	T	L	Y	V	S	C	F	P	T
U	Y	Y	B	E	S	E	S	T	P

- | | | | |
|-----------|----------|----------|--------|
| community | creative | learning | family |
| peace | kindness | hope | love |

PreK 4

Throughout Black History Month, PreK4 read several books by black authors, featuring inspiring black characters. One of our favorites was "Tar Beach" by Faith Ringgold. It tells the story of a young girl in Brooklyn, New York who spends warm summer nights on her family's rooftop and dreams of flying over a city that accepts her and her family, no matter the color of their skin. Faith Ringgold, the author, used African American quilting traditions to inform her illustrations, and even eventually turned "Tar Beach" into a real quilt! We were inspired by her creativity and so we created our own quilt of stories using shapes, patterns, colors, and illustrations. Our stories include visiting the beach, playing with our families and friends, and going on adventures! See what stories you can find hiding in our quilt.



PreK White

PreK White has been working on prewriting skills through easel painting! Easel painting promotes prewriting skills as students:

- learn how to hold a brush (requiring students to use a pincer grasp to hold the tool).
- move their hands, wrists, and arms to create images on paper.
- develop control over their marks.
- develop hand-eye coordination and small motor control.
- have to cross their midline while engaged in this activity. Crossing the midline is important because students are using both sides of their brain to coordinate smooth, controlled, and complex movement.



MINDFUL MOMENT: COOL DOWN WITH MISS JEN

All feelings are ok and are healthy to have. We can feel happy, sad, mad, scared or calm. There is no such thing as a bad feeling. Sometimes we can have a really big feeling. It is only a problem when that huge feeling gets in the way of us doing what we need to do or even having fun. That is when we need to do something to release that feeling to help our bodies to feel calmer. A great way to do this is to BREATHE! Here is a fun way to help us relax our bodies:

Hot Chocolate Breathing:

- Sit up tall and relax your shoulders and face
- Picture a steaming cup of hot chocolate in front of you
- Smell the hot chocolate as you take a big breath in through your nose
- Breathe out from your mouth over your cup to help your hot chocolate cool down
- Repeat until you feel more relaxed and comfortable