



## LOWER SCHOOL STUDENTS ENGAGE

# TAKE RISKS

## AND ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL



PRETTY  
PEGGY  
MOFFITT

LS ACADEMICS

63

girls studying French

46

Dr. Seuss books read in Kindergarten

97

students in the gardening class

49

Reading Fair posters made

Lower School students expanded their horizons and experimented with unique combinations of different subjects, like art and science. While some students created scientific art, others furthered their language skills through activities involving Upper and Middle School students. Whether by overcoming new obstacles in the science lab or exploring new forms of literature, they explored new ways of learning.

**Lower Schoolers exercised their creativity and learned new concepts.**

### ILLUSTRATING ENGLISH

Brightly colored posters decorated with a variety of arts and crafts materials adorned the walls of the Lower School Library. Instead of reading a book, second grade teacher Kim Acosta decided to have her class put on a book fair. The project aimed to familiarize the students with the elements of not only the story they chose but of all stories in general. "This project [was] a great way for them to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the elements of a story. The entire project [was] completed at school and then they [were] displayed in the library," Acosta said.

### CREATING THE GRADE

Beeping and buzzing sounds abounded as fourth graders sewed conductive thread into felt to create battery-operated buttons. Lower School science teacher Amy Banks and the art and technology departments collaborated to create the Lower School's new Invent to Learn class, which carried the STEAM theme. Rather than listening to a lecture about computer programming, students used programming skills to create electronic jewelry. "This [class] is very STEAM, so we're not really teaching science content, it's really more about application," Banks said.

### FACING NEW CHALLENGES

The Lower School got out of its comfort zone and ventured out of its boundaries. This year the Lower School Spanish classes took the opportunity to study with both Middle and Upper school Spanish students. Lower School Spanish teacher Marcela Gerber's third grade class visited Upper School to play the game "Guess Who?" with their senior counterparts. "This is one of the highlights of the year. The fun part [was] that the little girls beat the big girls," Gerber said.

### BEANS TO BABIES

The word Beanie Babies conjures up images of the popular 1990s toy. Tymesia Smaw's primer class, however, took a more literal meaning of the term. For primer's annual Beanie Baby project, students made baby dolls out of actual beans and completed a 15-page booklet on measurement. The project helped primer students learn basic measurement concepts in a fun and applicable way. "[The project was] a creative way for the girls to learn all about measurement and about all of the skills they need to know in order to use measurement tools," Smaw said.

### GETTING TO THE ROOT OF IT

Every week, first grader Isha Ponoth attended Lower School Science teacher Lara Guerra's gardening class, in which students learned about the gardening process and different kinds of plants. Guerra decided to create the class in order to expose students to basic science concepts in a fun way. "I like [this class because] I like to play with dirt and plant cabbage, brussel sprouts, broccoli, onions and garlic. My favorite was garlic," Ponoth said.



Photos by Bridget Colliton and Ms. Carolyn Cooper