Dexter Welcomes Dr. Minor!

Dexter students shared their learning with two special guests on Wednesday: Dr. Judith Minor, Director of Student Excellence for DoDEA Americas, and Dr. Lisa Coleman, Community Superintendent for GA/AL Schools.

Minor and Coleman toured the school and visited with our fifth-grade students. They shared their activities — working with words, listening, writing and reading — and explained their thinking!

Dr. Minor also participated in a focused collaboration session with our Pre-Kindergarten education team. During our focused collaboration time, we foster collaboration, improve practices, and seek to increase student achievement.

Thanks, Dr. Minor, for visiting our wonderful Dexter Eagles!
Grade Level Highlights

Here are just a few of the exciting things going on in Dexter Elementary.

PSCD and Pre-K

The Pre-k and PSCD classes are soaring this school year. We are currently learning about trees! We will be observing and comparing trees to learn about what lives in them, what they’re made from, and who cares for them. We hope that this study will help children explore and appreciate nature. As we study trees, we will use literacy, math, the arts, and technology to explore the topic in depth. We will learn important social studies and scientific concepts through firsthand investigations.

Kindergarten

We are so excited about the progress our kinder-babies have made so far. 65% of our students have mastered rhyming words. 95% of our students have mastered connecting numerals to objects 1-5. Please check your email and/or Google Classroom for assignments and information from your child’s teacher!

Upcoming skills

ELA-question words, nouns, letters s, t, n, sight words: I, like, the, see, we, go

Reading-retelling key details, describe and compare characters, letters

Writing-write a key event, write an ending, write an opinion, write a comparison

Math- counting objects, number recognition and formation, one
to-one correspondence, classify, define, and identify 2D shapes

**Science**-complete our animal unit, weather and seasons

**Social Studies**-How can I help a new student at our school?

“Nothing is IMPOSSIBLE, the word itself says, “I’M POSSIBLE!”-Audrey Hepburn

Ms. Alexander and Mr. Miller
Mrs. Allen and Mr. Rodriguez
Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Fields
Ms. Frasier and Mrs. Ramey

**1st Grade**

First Graders are working hard. In reading, we have been talking about different kinds of characters in stories. We are making good progress on learning our sight words. In writing, we’re continuing to work on using capital letters, correct spacing, and various end punctuations to conclude sentences. In math, we are working on using different strategies to solve addition problems (counting on, doubles, and doubles plus/minus one). In science, we grew alfalfa, wheat, oats and rye grass in our terrariums. We are observing pill bugs and sow bugs in their habitat. We also drew a map of our terrariums in our science journals. In social studies, we are discussing how to be a good helper in school. We are having a great time learning!

**2nd Grade**

2nd Graders have been working hard and having fun learning! We completed unit 2 in math, learning about and practicing
numbers in base 10 operation and place value. In Science we have been learning about plants and animals. Our brassica plants are thriving and growing more every day. Our caterpillars are in their chrysalises, and we are anxiously awaiting our butterflies. In ELA we are in unit 2 of Benchmark Advance, learning about adverbs and irregular past tense verbs. Our phonics skills for this unit are long o, long, e, and long i sounds. In social studies we have been learning about how geography affects our community, and we are moving into our unit on economics.

2nd graders continue to collaborate with their peers and engage in collaborative discussions involving "What if... " questions throughout all subject areas. It’s a great time to be in 2nd grade!

3rd Grade
Students in third grade are studying similes and metaphors. The students were given the task of choosing a saying that uses the word “like” or “as.” They then illustrated the literal meaning of the saying on one side of the paper and the metaphoric saying on the other side. There were many giggles and laughter as they illustrated their sayings. Many students presented their work as well as acted out their saying. Our pictures were hung in the hall for all classes to view.

4th Grade
Fourth grade students are working diligently to maintain their goldfish, mealworm and guppy populations. During the past two weeks, students learned how to properly care for their new class pets and document changes in growth. Students were so excited to witness the mealworm pupae hatch into adult beetles right before their eyes!
In addition, Dr. Winston’s class participated in the Flat Stanley Project. Students wrote and mailed letters to relatives and friends in different states and countries. The class was delighted to receive mail from places as far away as New York, Philadelphia, Ohio and Scotland. Also, fourth grade classes are learning how to integrate technology into their assignments. Students created several awesome projects using Wixie and Google Slides.

5th Grade

Fifth Grade students and teachers are enjoying the new social studies curriculum. Presently, we have been learning about the Aztec Empire. Fifth Grade teachers collaborated with the art teacher for our last processing activity. For this task, students had to design a flag for the Aztec Empire. Their flag had to have at least one symbol that represented something important about the arrival of the Aztecs in the Valley of Mexico, something important about their capital city of Tenochtitlán, and something important about how they conquered and ruled their neighbors. As you can see, we have a lot of talented artists!
Ms. Smith’s Jedi Academy

Jedi Academy students are learning about animals and their habitats. They are learning how animals are different from one another. They are also observing and discussing different animal footprints or tracks. The students are learning to select books of their own choosing and enjoying the reading corner. In November, the 1st grade Jedi Academy will learn about maps and how to use them to find their way from one place to another. They will learn about helpful tools, such as maps and signs, that can help people find different places. The 4th graders will focus on geography topics, especially the modes of transportation that people use to get from one location to another. They will explore various types of transportation and the things they transport. They will also learn that maps are tools that show locations of cities, states and other information.

Art: Ms. Laws

Dexter has been working hard in art!

Kindergarten started a unit on lines! We made line carpets and line sculptures; and now we are exploring shapes as well as creating festive fall trees.

First graders also created line carpets and line sculptures. They are reviewing shapes by sketching and cutting out their original shape robots.

Second grade has been learning about community and maps: we took the past few weeks to paint our paper, draw our streets and landmarks, and fill those maps full of color!

First and Second graders are now creating owl drawings inspired by Van Gogh’s Starry Night.
Third grade finished their cave paintings to depict scenes of the first peoples and animals.

Fourth and Fifth grade had done observational drawings in their sketchbooks, focusing on the contour lines of everyday objects. They then observed their own shoe to create “shoe art” which they painted.

Fifth graders also used what they learned in Social Studies class to design their own Aztec maps, a collaboration done with the Fifth grade teachers.

Third through Fifth grade classes are now creating pumpkin paintings also inspired by Van Gogh’s Starry Night.

Music: Ms. Bocanegra

We have been celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month in music classes the past few weeks. Students have learned about famous Hispanic musicians like Celia Cruz (Cuba) and Tito Puente (USA/Puerto Rico). We have also learned some beautiful dances such as cha cha cha, bachata, salsa, and Los Machetes, a dance from Mexico originally performed with machetes! Ask your student to show you how to do the dances at home.

Physical Education: Dr. Alderman

This fall your child can look forward to working on specific Learning Goals:

Kindergarten through Second Grades

- **Locomotor movement** – walking, galloping, sliding, jumping, hopping, etc.
- **Non-locomotor movement** – balance, twisting, bridging,
bending, etc.

- **Equipment Manipulation** – bounce and catch a ball with two hands, tossing, kicking a ball, using body or object to safely strike, tap, jump, or kick from a stationary position, etc.

- **Social Interactions** – Sharing, respect of self and others, cooperation, exhibits physically active lifestyle, participation, outside play, and understanding the benefits of physical activity, participates in physical activity outside of school setting

**Third through Fifth Grades**

**Locomotor movement** – Traveling in a variety of directional patterns, dodging and fleeing

**Non-locomotor** – transfer weight from one body part to another

**Equipment manipulation** – Strike, dribble, catch, and kick a moving object, jumping a turned rope by self or others, overhand and underhand throw at a target and floor hockey.

**Social Integration** – demonstrates appropriate behaviors in the classroom, cooperation in group activities, understands the value of equipment, and demonstrates concerns for others, exhibits physically active lifestyle, participates in physical activities outside of school that are interesting, engaging, and personally enjoyable

**Information Specialist: Ms. Porter**

Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 to October 15) is a time for people to remember how Hispanics have helped shape America. People across the country celebrate the month in different ways. Some museums have displays that show the work of Hispanic artists. Festivals are held in some areas. These events often include Hispanic music, dances, and foods. Feel free to use this Google link to go to a Choice Board on Hispanic Heritage. You can click on the images and go directly to each of
the websites.
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1xZ3kAHRzXr3VnU2G7MEdd1U3sM3A6xQdHWQRCfSfM/edit?usp=sharing

Have fun exploring and learning!

Mrs. Porter
Information Specialist

Reading Club

The reading club has started off with great participation and enthusiasm. This month we will continue to discuss Fall in addition to kindness, unity, and other topics. Please encourage your child to read aloud and discuss their readings with you.

Other Activities at Dexter:

Technology in the Classroom

Students in Third Grade have been busy doing a variety of computer based projects. Students in Ms. Averett’s Class were working on doing research in PebbleGo on the three levels of government: Local, State and Federal. Once the students completed their research they created a presentation or poster in the style
of their choice in Wixie. Ms. Boyer’s class made a comic strip in Wixie about the lifecycle and care of their class crawfish. The students incorporated video, photographs, clip art and narration into their project. Ms. Dvorak’s class asked her students to design a community and make a map of that community in Wixie. Students had to consider what services, stores, and amenities would attract people to that community.

From Nurse Lynn: Flu Vaccination Requirement

Dear Parents, Guardians/Sponsors,

Flu season is here!

DoDEA requires all enrolled students to receive a flu vaccine. The current cut-off date for providing flu documentation to the school is December 1, 2021.

Currently, there are no scheduled Fort Benning flu clinics. Please feel free to reach out to local pharmacies that provide flu immunizations. I would make sure your insurance is accepted by the provider before your child receives the flu vaccine.
If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me using the contact information listed below.

Lynn Swinford, BSN RN
Dexter School Nurse
706-545-7770
lynn.swinford@dodea.edu

Upcoming Events

- Oct. 15th - Last Day to Participate in Fall Parent Communication Survey
- Oct. 18th - Parent Conferences - No School for Students
- Oct. 19th - Early Release 2:15
- Oct. 20th - Unity Day
- Oct. 20th - Fall Picture Day
- Oct. 25th - Oct. 29th - Red Ribbon Week - Daily Themes TBA
- Oct. 27th - National Bullying Prevention - Wear orange
- Oct. 29th - PreK Report Card Prep - No School PreK Only
Need Special Services for your children?

Do you live on post and suspect your child has a disability in the areas of academics, social, emotional, physical, speech/language, and/or cognitive development?

Please contact:

Educational and Developmental Intervention Services (EDIS) - if you have a child aged 0-3 with concerns in these areas.
Phone: 706-545-3835

DODEA GA/AL Schools Student Services – if you have a child aged 3-6 who is not currently enrolled in school with concerns in these areas.
Phone: 706-545-7276
DOES READING ALOUD REALLY MATTER?
Yes!

Research shows that reading aloud is the single most important thing you can do to help a child prepare for reading and learning.

Why read aloud?

- Language Development
  - The number of words that a child learns in elementary school is a key predictor of his or her future success.

- Instill a Love of Reading
  - Your example demonstrates that reading is important, pleasurable and valued.

- Knowledge Gained & Shared
  - Books are a pleasure, yes, and they are also informative. You and your child can learn something new as you read aloud.

- Literacy Skill Building
  - Vocabulary, Phonics, Familiarity with the printed word. Storytelling, Comprehension.
  - Reading aloud builds literacy skills.

- Brain Development
  - From birth to age 3 are critical years in the development of language skills.

- Bonding
  - Is anything better than sharing a good book?

Don't good parents already read aloud daily?

No!

More than 15% of young children, 3.1 million, are read to by family members fewer than three times a week.

Only 48% of young children in this country are read to each day.

Reading 15 minutes every day for 5 years:

27375 minutes

Is 15 minutes enough to make a difference?

Yes!

Tell a friend at www.ReadAloud.org