



STUART ELEMENTARY

Love • Learn • Lead

January 2019
School Highlights

Students



Manners Luncheon

The 5th graders at Stuart recently participated in the annual Manners Luncheon at Aubrey's. While there, the Director of Schools, Dr. Dyer, stopped by to say hello! The students were wonderful representations of our school and district. We appreciate Aubrey's for hosting them and the fifth grade team for teaching our students manners that they can use into adulthood.



100th Day of School

Is it just us or have these students have aged a lot since the first day of school? Students at Stuart celebrated the 100th day of school by dressing like they were 100 years old! Students all around the school could be seen celebrating the milestone with enthusiasm and lots of laughter. Many teachers celebrated along with the students by dressing up and having students complete 100 Day activities. Not only did the students enjoy the themed work, but the teachers got to see how much growth the students have made since the beginning of the school year. What a fun-filled day!



Email to Andrea Byerly by 25th of each month.

Staff

Teacher of the Year



Congratulations to Brandi Beard for being voted Stuart Elementary's 2019 Teacher of the Year! Brandi teaches kindergarten and is adored by her students. She has been teaching for 9 years. When asked what she loves most about teaching, Brandi stated, "I love building relationships with students and watching the huge gains they make from the beginning to the end of the year." In addition to teaching, Brandi also serves our Stuart family as the Title 1 Family Engagement Coordinator. She is also helping with the Spring Musical and is a Student Leader sponsor. The Stuart staff is extremely appreciative of all of the time and hard work that Brandi pours into serving our students. We could not think of a more deserving educator.

Interventionists & Assistants

This month, we would like to recognize all that Stuart's assistants and interventionists do to better our school community. Several assistants serve daily in special education rooms and aide the classroom teachers in instruction, classroom management, and inclusion. They work diligently to ensure that each student is well supported and has the support that they need to progress. Julie Turner, RTI Coordinator, and Kimberly Bradford, Instructional Facilitator, supervise the remaining interventionists and assistants. When asked about their contribution to our school Bradford shared,

"The assistants that I supervise provide reading instruction in small group settings to our K-2nd grade students. This year, they have poured their energy into making sure students are being exposed to deeper level comprehension discussions in groups. They have gone above and beyond, as they have spent time in Stuart's Learning Lab studying research based approaches to increasing comprehension." On any given day, you can find assistants in classrooms supporting students who need additional help academically, socially, and emotionally. Turner supervises the interventionists and stated, "They work hard to plan lessons for small groups of students using

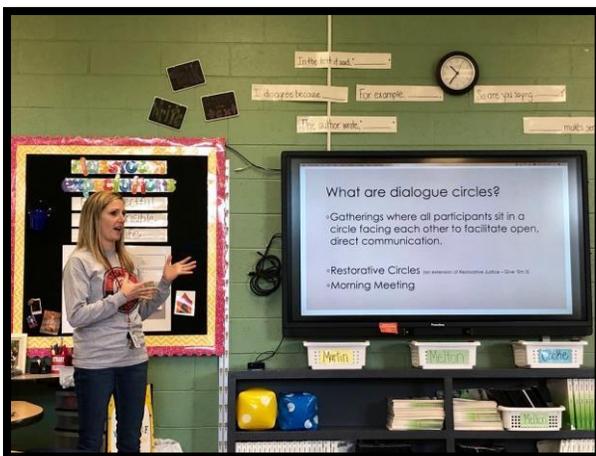
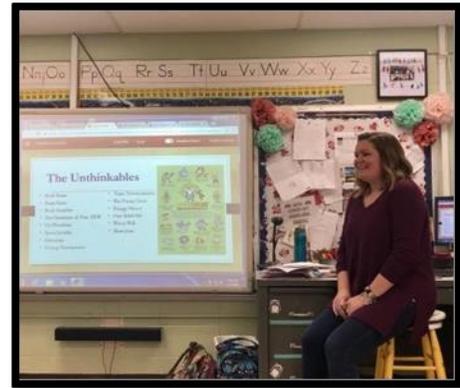


**Not pictured above: Rachel Hindman, Meg Metzger, Dianne Passavant, Dawn McBride, and Julie Smith*

research based programs that are designed specifically to support students in certain areas of foundational skills deficits that have been identified through our universal screening process that occurs three times each school year.” The interventionists monitor student progress frequently and respond by adjusting lessons to best meet the changing needs of students. Students from kindergarten up to fifth grade benefit from this support in the areas of foundational reading, writing, and math skills. Both the assistants and interventionists are relentless in making sure gaps are filled and students are supported at Stuart. Stuart is greatly impacted by the service our assistants and interventionists provide and we are thankful for the value that they add to our school community!

School

Professional Development Carousel Sessions The first day back from break started with a professional development day for the staff in which they were provided resources and strategies for managing student behavior. Presenters of the mini-conference included: Evan Powell, Megan Martin, Heather Coulston, Adrienne Chancey, Denise Longley, and Alicia Kahrs. Each presenter was able to pull from their field of expertise to provide insights to the rest of the staff on how to recognize the behaviors that students are having, where they are stemming from, and how to better approach them. Evan Powell and Heather Coulston both suggested ways to teach students to improve and discuss their thinking, behavior, and feelings. Megan Martin presented on integrating dialogue circles in the classroom to build connections, manage behaviors, and give students a voice. Both Adrienne Chancey and Denise Longley shared their insight on how to recognize and track autism in the general education classroom. Alicia Kahrs discussed the challenges of working with defiant students and de-escalating situations by simply changing the way that we, as adults, react and recognizing that challenging students are looking for significance. Following the wonderful carousel sessions,



teachers expressed their gratitude for the insights provided by their colleagues and their excitement for the ways that they could integrate what they had learned into their classrooms.

Recipe for Reading

Stuart Elementary's Recipe for Reading night provided families a night of reading fun! Students and their families got the chance to read and make winter snacks that went along with the stories that they were exploring together. The student's enjoyed making their sweet treats but they enjoyed eating them even more. Students also got to make slime, which was a huge hit! We are thankful to Ms. Beard for organizing this event, the staff that helped make the event possible, and the families who brought their students on a cold winter evening.



Data Wall

Student Learning Teams are digging in to examine students' mid-year reading benchmarks and math scores. The teams, along with Kimberly Bradford and Julie Turner, have been analyzing and tracking student progress in both areas. Frequently updated with current scores and placements, teachers can check the wall to see how the students are progressing and



adjust their instruction accordingly so that they can best meet student needs. We are thankful for all of the time these teams have put into developing such a valuable data analysis tool.