



## ENGAGED LEARNING IN THE FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

December 5, 2022

### **Farmington High School** **FHS Drama Club**

The FHS Drama Club, helmed by English Teacher Michael Gagnon as Director and Counselor Kurt Daigle as Producer, put on three performances of Joseph Kesselring's *Arsenic and Old Lace*. *AOL* is a theater classic. Despite its age, it remains popular among both professionals and amateurs, and for good reason. It's a true farce, full of larger-than-life characters and strung together with hilarious situational comedy. It's also a very demanding show, calling for an extensive set and feats of physical comedy and slapstick above and beyond your typical production. It is the kind of show where every performance demands the actors' full commitment to the roles.

The cast starred Oliver Przech ('23) as the protagonist, theater critic Motimer Brewster; and Jordan Altimus ('23) and Rowan To ('24) as his deceptively sweet, but secretly murderous aunts. Owen Hill ('25) brought the villainous criminal Jonathan Brewster to life, supported by his accomplice, the plastic surgeon Dr. Einstein (not the famous one) portrayed by Marissa Nadeau ('24). Morgan McDade-Parsons ('26) portrayed Mortimer's hapless girlfriend Elaine and Eyden Gorman-Doyle ('26) made his debut as Mortimer's goofy younger brother Teddy. Other cast members included Michael Gove ('26), Alaina O'Keefe ('26), and Emma Reynolds ('26) as a dysfunctional but good-natured police force led by the hard-nosed Lieutenant Rooney, played by Theo Mancini ('24). Eva Skindaras ('26) and Abbey Gerace ('26), meanwhile, portrayed potential victims of the aunts' schemes.



**Friendsgiving**

FHS had a very successful Friendsgiving celebration on Tuesday, November 22.



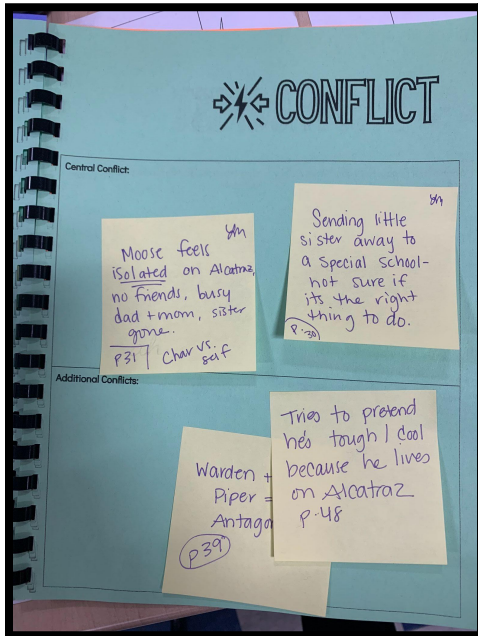




## **Irving A. Robbins**

### **Cultivating Independence in Independent Reading**

At the beginning of the school year, our English teachers at I.A.R. and F.H.S. were fortunate enough to be visited and taught by renowned literacy consultant, Kate Roberts. As a result, students in grades 7-12 are more regularly “jotting” and conferring about their reading. Teachers learned new techniques and strategies for supporting students in becoming more self-aware, independent readers! Our 7th and 8th graders demonstrate their self-awareness by identifying personal reading goals, committing to targeted action steps with their teachers, and following up in individual or group conferences to track progress towards those goals. Our teachers are consistently modeling the habits of mind of Engaged Collaborators and Self-Aware Individuals in their own professional learning and transferring it to their teaching and learning practices in the classroom.



### **Sharing the Joy of Reading**

Each Friday, the library at I.A.R. buzzes with the sound of preschool student giggles and middle school student reading. In partnership with the Farmington Preschool Collaborative, I.A.R.'s Library and Media Specialist, Alysson Olsen, facilitates reading partnerships between 7th and 8th grade students and our preschool students. I.A.R. students read aloud, ask questions about the book, and debrief how the books made their younger “buddies” feel. Our 7th and 8th grade students know how important it is to not just demonstrate the skills of being an engaged collaborator, but also how to model it for younger students!





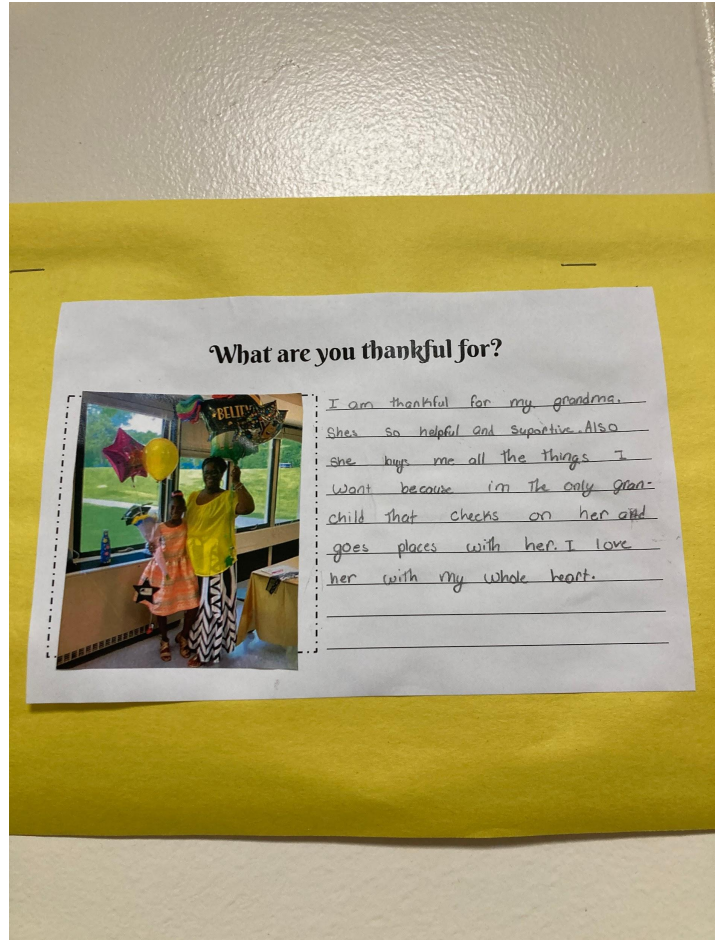
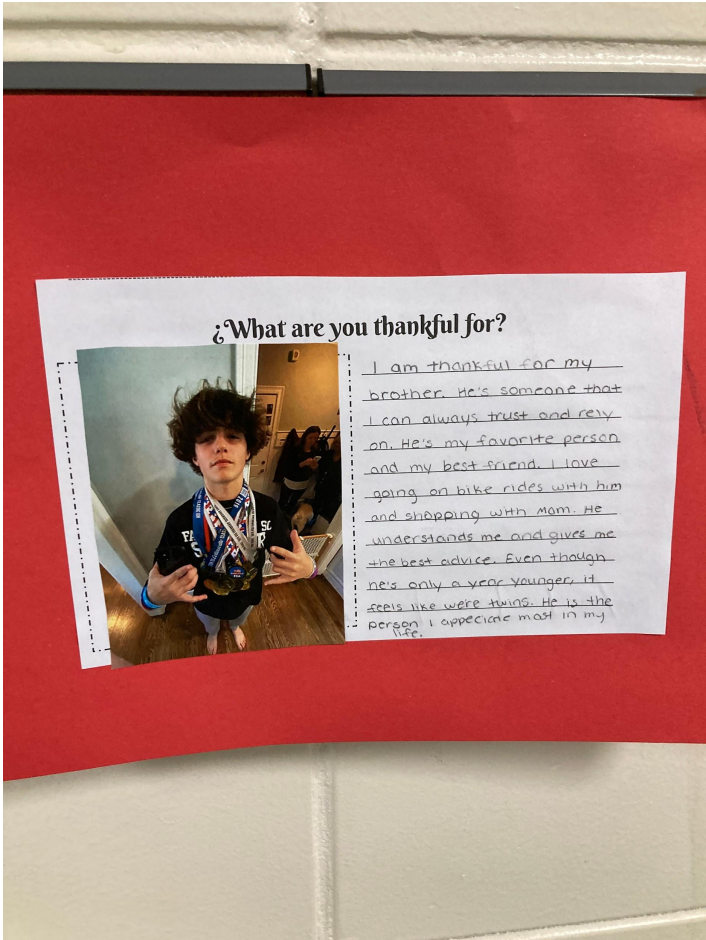
## **Annual Fun Run has amazing participation!**

IAR held its annual fun run on November 2! Over 200 students participated, and we raised funds for the American Red Cross, specifically for those impacted by Hurricane Ian. There were celebrations for the students who placed in the top five, for the most team participants, and for those who showed the most school spirit. We are excited to keep this tradition going as we are civic-minded contributors. We also had a great appearance from the FHS Riverhawk.



## The Spirit of Gratitude and the Season of Giving

I.A.R. students engaged in a series of advisory lessons to remember the importance of gratitude prior to Thanksgiving break. Students wrote in their gratitude journals, expressed thanks to their classmates for their contributions to the school community, and wrote thank you notes to educators, friends, and family. Each advisory class shared their products in the hallway and on bulletin boards. Also, the student council organized a donation for Farmington Food Pantry to support others in need during the holiday season. We encourage all students to express gratitude because as Dr. Laurie Santos, professor of psychology at Yale University and FPS convocation speaker, suggested it spreads joy and happiness.





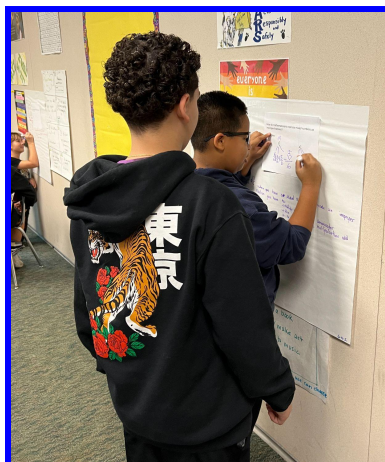
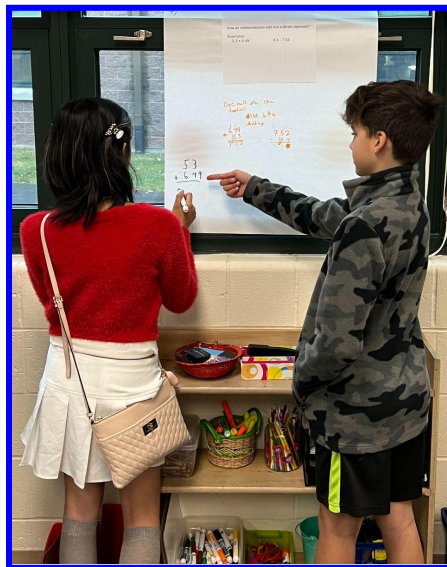
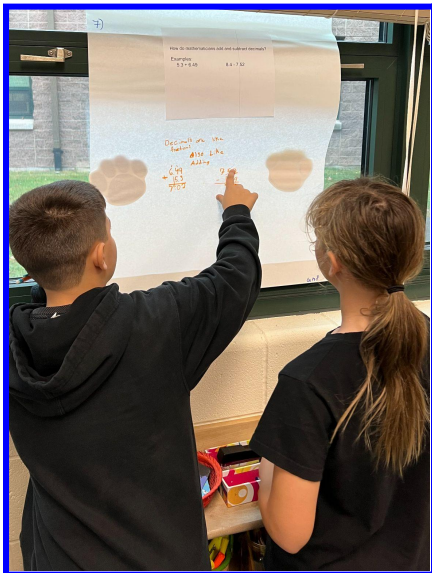
## **West Woods Upper Elementary School**

### **Giving Thanks at West Woods**

As a West Woods CREW, we have been celebrating Thanksgiving by reflecting on what we are thankful for, and finding ways to express our gratitude. Students have been engaging in reflective, collaborative discussions with peers and crafting thoughtful letters to those individuals that they are thankful for in their lives. Students are also learning that gratitude requires us to stay alert of the role of others in our lives and to empower kindness with action. During CREW time, teams have been discussing the many benefits of showing gratitude, including its impact on physical and emotional health, and the positive impact on our community. We have much to be thankful for as a WWUES family, and want to express our sincere appreciation to our Farmington community, teachers, families, and staff for loving and supporting our grade 5 and 6 learners. Our CREW believes the *West is the Best!*

### **Mathematicians at West Woods Exhibit Risk-Taking, Perseverance, and Collaboration**

West Woods mathematicians spent the first two months of school building classroom cultures where exploring, risk-taking, persevering, collaborating, and communicating are natural parts of their routines. Through these daily practices, students are not only learning the math content, they are also learning to *think* and *problem solve* and become mathematicians.



## **Union School**

### **Celebrating Veterans Day as a Union School Community**

On Friday, November 11th, the Union School community honored Veterans Day with an assembly, special artwork and bulletin boards, and handwritten letters of appreciation. Veterans were invited into the school to be honored at the student-led assembly. The Union School choir sang patriotic songs. Students learned about the history and importance of Veterans Day.





## Thanksgiving and Gratitude at Union School

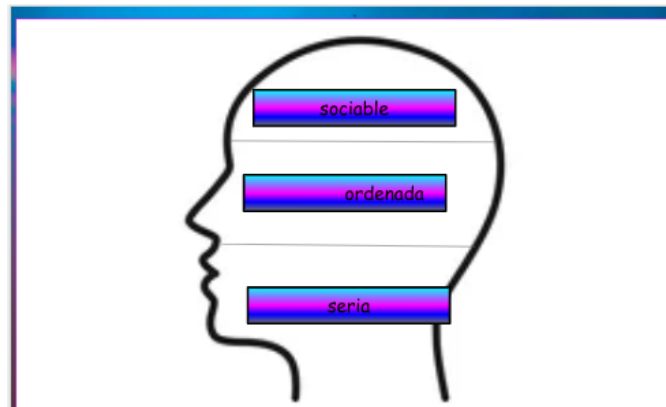
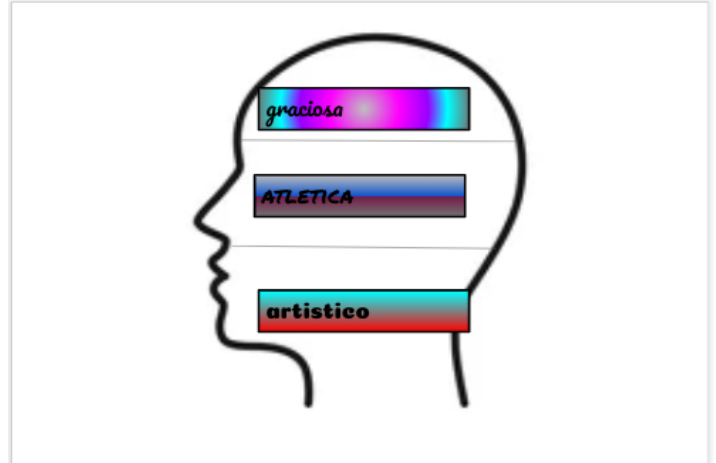
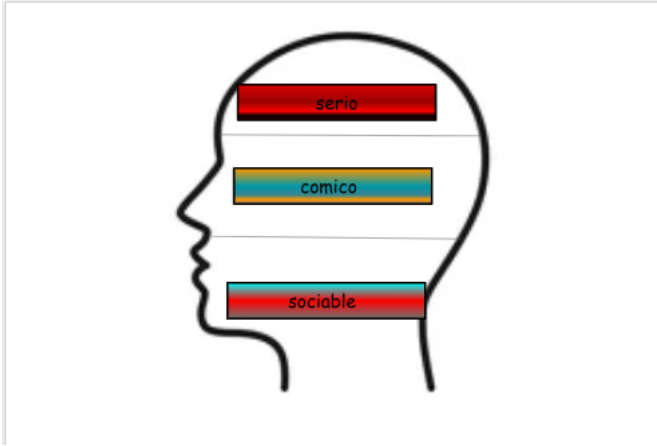
Students and teachers have been discussing gratitude throughout the month of November. Third graders have been brainstorming things they are thankful for and created gratitude lists that are hanging outside their classrooms. Kindergarten students created "I am thankful" books and painted beautiful artwork of turkeys to celebrate the season.



## **East Farms**

### **East Farms' Self Aware Individuals**

Third graders at East Farms School are learning how to be self-aware individuals. In Spanish class, students reflected on their own personalities and chose three adjectives that best described who they are as individuals.



### **Disciplined Thinkers:**

Fourth graders at East Farms School are disciplined thinkers exhibiting creativity, flexibility and persistence. Students created videos at home showing their own reactions to both delicious food combinations and interesting ones. Students needed to research the appropriate vocabulary and reaction words in order to create an authentic video.



## **West District Elementary School**

### **Honoring Our Veterans**

West District Tigers are **civic-minded contributors** who are learning to show compassion, responsibility, and stewardship to those in our community who have sacrificed so much for the safety of our country. On Friday, November 11, 2022, West District School welcomed our community veterans back into school for the first in-person Veterans Day celebration in many years. The families of our students shared pictures and stories of their time serving our country, and many joined us in person to be honored during our assembly. Ms. Adrienne Foret, our talented music teacher and a proud service member in the Connection Army National Guard, shared what being a member of the military has meant to her. Students collected quarters to make a generous donation to Operation Gratitude, an organization whose mission is to honor the service of our Military and First Responders by creating opportunities to express gratitude, and a beautiful wreath was placed at the Veterans' Memorial at Town Hall to honor the sacrifices and service of our military veterans. West District Tigers are filled with gratitude for the men and women who have served and continue to serve our country so proudly. Thank you, Veterans!



## Expressing Our Gratitude

In celebration of the Thanksgiving holiday, West District Tigers identified ways to demonstrate their gratitude. Classes read Thanksgiving stories and created gratitude trees to celebrate all the people in their lives for whom they are so grateful. Students identified family members, pets, our service people, and their teachers as important people in their lives who are deserving of their gratitude. In their classes, many students created centerpieces to bring home to their families as expressions of gratitude and love. As global citizens and civic-minded contributors, students are learning to demonstrate their gratitude by showing compassion for others and service to their communities. Following the Thanksgiving holiday, students are collecting snack foods to contribute to the Farmington Food Pantry. This act of service was organized by our Student Council as an act of service to our community and an expression of their gratitude.

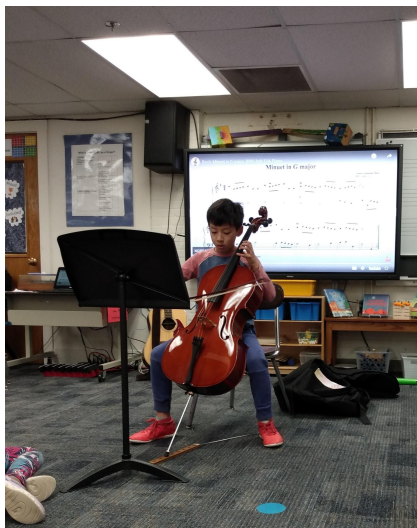
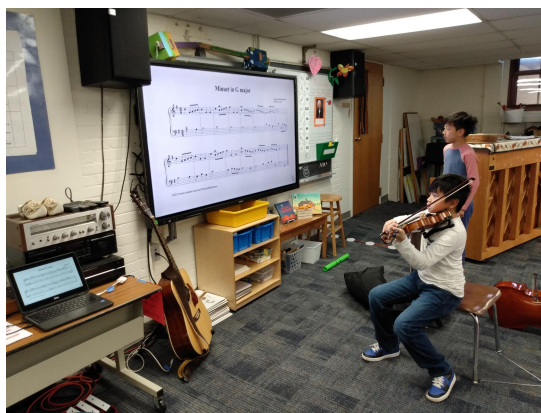




## **Noah Wallace School**

### **Engaged Learning and Honoring Our Veterans**

Noah Wallace students have been singing, dancing, reading music, and playing instruments in music class. All students have listened to our Musicians of the Month: Lin Manuel Miranda (September), Johann Sebastian Bach (October), and Yo Yo Ma (November). We came together as a school on November 11th to honor our Veterans. We offered several performances to the Veterans in our community: the Noah Wallace Choir (grade 4) performed *My Country 'Tis of Thee*, Audrea Wang and Mrs. Gilligan performed *This Land is Your Land* on the piano, and the whole school sang *This Land is Your Land*. We are looking forward to the following music events and hope to see you at our choir concert on December 15th on the front steps of the school!





## Thanksgiving Activities at Noah Wallace

Our first graders made turkeys with feathers that showed what they are thankful for. Our kindergarten students made bracelets. Each bead represented something that the student was grateful for in their lives. One kindergarten class made cranberry sauce and bread to share with their families.

