

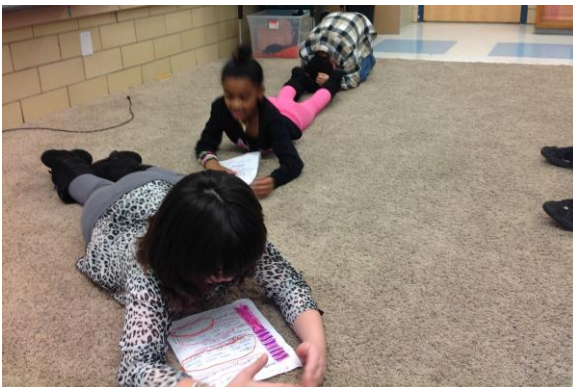
February 7, 2014 - Staunton City Schools Tip Sheet

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MCSWAIN STUDENTS GET CREATIVE WITH POETRY

During January, McSwain's third grade students were inspired to be creative as they worked on a unit of study about poetry. The students explored poetry through a collection of poems from *Bookspeak*, by Laura Purdie Salas. In Ms. Henderson's room, the class split up to read the different voices in *The Middle's Lament*, where the middle of the book is upset because the ending always "gets the last word". Ms. Barney's students used the idea to write their own poems using personification, in which different parts of a pencil, tree, or desk argue about whose function is most important.

The students also designed book covers inspired by *I've Got This Covered*, where a book cover becomes an advertisement trying to get a reader interested. Ms. Chapman also had students write poems and present them in class using the Storybuilder presentation program. The students really enjoyed the creativity of writing poems and designing book covers, as well as presenting their final creations to the other students.



Using the voices of a pencil, its eraser and point, Ava Farid, Saniyah Smith and Payton Vaughn perform for the class.

WARE TEACHERS AWARDED GRANT

Ware Elementary School's Math Coach, Sandra McGrath and 4th grade teacher, Michelle Woolston recently learned that they had been awarded a grant from the Virginia Department of Aviation. Mrs. McGrath learned of the opportunity for a one-time grant of up to \$250 for teachers who submit an idea for a lesson plan based on the principles of flight -- ranging from paper airplanes to space travel. Knowing this project would work well with Ware's STEM activities, Mrs. McGrath worked Mrs. Woolston, who also has an undergraduate aviation degree, to write a grant that would allow the students to study kites.

As a part of this project, the students will use kites to study some of the fundamental laws of physics (lift, drag, torque, tension, and gravity) and to explore how mathematical formulae apply to flight. The students will act as both research scientists and engineers as they research different types of kites, sketch their own designs, and build their own kites. Mrs. Woolston plans to pull together a cohort of upper grade students to do an in depth study of kite flying and kite construction. This cohort will then teach other Ware students how to build kites, and will culminate in a kite flying day this spring.



T.J. Conner, Hannah Pedersen, Dajor Carter and Mrs. Woolston show off the grant approval letter received from the Virginia Department of Aviation.