

Fourth Grade Focus: Poland

Global Week 2019 - Lower School

This week has been filled with fun activities centering around Poland!

Monday: We began the week off with eating cheese pierogis while making the Polish flag. Students made the simple flag out of paper and a popsicle stick. We read about the geography, history, and Poland's Independence Day. We read about how Poland always struggled to be independent and not ruled by a foreign country. Students were put in groups where they had to create a timeline of major events that happened in Poland's history that led up to them being an independent country. We then venture outside to play some games on the blacktop. The first game was called "Running Fox" or "Idzie Lis" where one student had a handkerchief and ran around the circle saying the chant. They played the handkerchief into the hands of another student who then bumped the person to the right of them. The person bumped had to run around the circle without getting touched by the handkerchief (fox). We played another game called "The Witch and the Angels" or "Baba Jaga y Anioly." In this game we needed two groups: the witches and the angels. We drew two big circles for each group showing it was their home base. The witches had to tag the angels and bring them to their bases. The game began with the angels saying the witch chant. If an angel was in the witches' base then another angel could run over and try to tag them, letting them run free. This game is similar to "cops and robbers" and the kids had a lot of fun running around. When we came inside there was a short writing activity where students chose from six prompts and wrote about independence. After we read the article about Poland's independence we created the Polish emblem out of a white plate and a red plate. Students had to cut the shape of the white eagle on the white plate and glue it onto the red plate. They turned out great!

Tuesday: We began the morning making Polish Butter Cookies With Jam (Ciasteczka Maslane z Dzemem). Students were set up in stations in the Makerspace and were given a job. They had to cut the recipe in half using their math skills. The dough came out a little dry, but the cookies tasted delicious! I passed out recipes to students who wanted to try making them at home :) We finished up our Independence Day craft and read a little more about Poland their daily life. We watched a video on the 16 voivodeships in Poland and traced them onto maps. Students then put their math skills to the test and answered questions about the land of Poland and Illinois. After that they started researching their animal or plant native to Poland. We then went outside to play Level 1 of a game called "Ciupy." It is very similar to "Jacks" and we played it in teams.

Students had to roll 5 stones onto the ground, throw one up in the air while picking one up from the ground. It was exciting to watch!

Wednesday: This day was jam packed with specials and fun activities! Students had PE and Mandarin back to back. Then I had students do Polish Gwiazdy, which is paper cutting. It is similar to making a snowflake, but instead of random cuts students made a symmetrical design and cut that out. In computer class they made another traditional Polish treat, wafer cookies. In the afternoon FACETS came to the theater and showed us some amazing international films. The films were in French, Japanese, English, Swedish, and Guaraní.

Thursday: I had Ms. Quaid's class come in the morning and eat some pierogis! After that they colored a piece of white paper and we did the Polish Gwiazdy activity. We then went outside to play the "Idzie Lis" or "Running Fox" game. After that I had my class come back. I read more about Poland's land, economy, government, and a few myths about how things came to be. We watched a short video on the history of Poland. We then wrote about the similarities and differences between Poland and the United States. I then read about plants/animals native to Poland. Students researched a specific plant or animal and wrote a paragraph and drew a picture on SeeSaw. Students then painted their plant or animal. Some students then made a Kahoot or Jeopardy with questions and answers of everything they have learned this week.

Friday: We went on our field trip in Aurora at Feed My Starving Children. Students packaged food that would then be sent around the world. They each had a specific task and worked together as a team to ensure they packaged everything properly. As a whole group we packaged 156 boxes which is 33,696 meals! It would feed 92 children every single day for an entire year. It was amazing to watch the kids hard at work and they had a lot of fun. It was a great way to end Global Week.