Pittsburgh - City of Innovations

During the month of February, the whole school focused on how people live, work, learn and play in the city of Pittsburgh.

LIVE

The introductory week of the Pittsburgh Unit concentrated on identifying our city as Pittsburgh, how it was founded, what characteristics make it unique, and where our school, homes and special attractions are located on a map of the city.

Mrs. Solomon’s friends take a close look at a Pittsburgh Mural drawn by Pittsburgh artist Doug Cooper. The mural covers three walls at CMU’s Cohon University Center.

Beau and Nick set up a city scene on the Green Rug.

Jemma and Roxy practice writing as they make their “I live In Pittsburgh” locker tags.
Mrs. Opferman’s group took a campus field trip to see the Pittsburgh mural by Doug Cooper that is in the University Center.

Rhys completes a United States Map at the Science Center.

Max and Judah work on understanding basic mapping skills while tracing animal paths on maps from the book *As The Crow Flies*.

Daniel works on making a folder to store the maps that he made.

The Peaceful Room friends Face Time their classmate Jacobo and his new school friends at his new school in Bogota, Columbia.

Owen, Ryan and Sardor discuss special things about Pittsburgh as they play a “Pittsburgh Highlights” Matching Game.

Matti and Hudson build the top story of a Pittsburgh skyscraper.

Nola and Asher sketch their houses from a photograph.
WORK

During this week, we discussed and explored what people do for work in the city of Pittsburgh to make the city a great place to live.

Brylie, Jillian, Jemma, Maeve and Sara practice their work as doctors in the “Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh” Dramatic Play Center.

Dr. Morowitz, Jack’s dad, visits the school to talk with the children about being a doctor at Children’s Hospital.

Campbell learns about different jobs as she plays a “Community Helper” Lotto Game.

The Block Center is a very popular place to build Pittsburgh scenes.
Judah works with a hand drill as a Carpenter in the Woodworking Center.

Sara and Rhys explore how some Simple Machines work.

Owen brings a robot in his Sharing Bag and demonstrates how it works. The group talks about how Pittsburgh (and specifically Carnegie Mellon) is a leader in Robotics research and development.

Emma works as an architect and designer as she sketches her house from a photograph.

The friends take apart some old electronic equipment to learn about what’s inside and how the things might have worked. They practice using hand tools such as screwdrivers and pliers.
LEARN

There are so many things to learn and ways to learn in Pittsburgh. This week, we learned about some things that make Pittsburgh special such as the Steel Making Process, Bridge Building, Mr. Rogers and Andy Warhol.

Jacob, Sammy, Gwendolyn, Charlotte, Beau, and Daniel experiment with different materials and methods to build bridges.

Campbell and Matti practice being the teachers in the “Children’s School” Dramatic Play Center.
Friends learn that steel was a very important industry in the city of Pittsburgh, and that there are still Steel Mills that have been modernized and are operating in Pittsburgh. The children use familiar objects to learn about the basic Steel Making Process.

Marley’s mom, Alexis, helps to introduce Mr. Rogers and his wonderfully gentle approach to teaching young children to the Green Room friends.

The children make connections between the current PBS show, *Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood*, and the original *Mr. Rogers Neighborhood* show that was developed in Pittsburgh.

We listened to many Mr. Rogers songs and sang the new versions from *Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood* as well.

Roxie, Ethan and Jacob paint Pittsburgh City skylines and bridges to create Mono Prints in the style of Andy Warhol.

The friends practice square dancing to the songs of famous Pittsburgh composer, Stephen Foster.
There are so many fun places to go and exciting things to do in our city! Some of the favorites include going to Phipps Conservatory and the Pittsburgh Zoo, and celebrating our great Sports Teams.

Avery, Roxie and Daniel play with loose parts and “junk” and glue them down to create a Junk Sculpture like Andy Warhol used to do!

The afternoon friends use unit blocks and animals to create the Pittsburgh Zoo, one of the favorite places for children to go in Pittsburgh.

"Hoot, Owl, Hoot" is one of the Green Room's favorite cooperative game to play. Camryn, Jacob and Brylie work together to finish the game.
Beau and Avery learn letters, numbers and basic strategy skills from some of the Green Room’s iPad games.

Jack adds his name to the chart of favorite places to have fun in Pittsburgh.

Nola and Brylie sort Pittsburgh sport logos, equipment and uniforms.

Marley takes her turn in the invented “Race To The Point” Game.

The Green Room friends had fun playing the Pittsburgh Candyland Game that the Kindergarten Made.

Max and Campbell paint with black and gold/yellow - our Pittsburgh colors.

The gardeners are very busy working in the Phipps Conservatory Dramatic Play Center.

Hudson helps the wooden balls move along an elaborate ramp design. The children experimented with different designs that worked and did not work.
Birthdays, Special Events and Visitors

The month of February was full of special events and visitors!

Roxie’s mom joins the afternoon class in celebrating Roxie’s birthday.

Kathleen McLean from the Fort Pitt Museum taught the children about the land around the point before Pittsburgh was Pittsburgh. She brought several artifacts they the children could touch and play with.

Tyler’s sister Kiana visited and read a story to the group.

We celebrated Valentine’s Day by creating special messages and artwork for each other.
Louise Sturgess from the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation visited to talk with us about Pittsburgh at different points in history. She brought a model of a house that the children helped to “rehab” by adding repaired parts.

Miss Debbie from the Carnegie Library came for her monthly reading time.

Lauren Hraber does a music lesson with the children once a month that connects to our school themes. This month she brought her mother, a teacher and Pittsburgh composer, to do a special lesson with the children.
100 Days of School PARTY

The friends count 100 pieces of food to create their morning snack.

Max fills in the missing numbers on a 100 board.

Finn, Hudson, Roxy, and Owen figure out what to do with 100 paper cups in the 100 Cup Challenge.

Emma and Mira help to glue 100 items on the numbers that make 100.

Gwendolyn makes the number 100 with 100 wooden cubes.

Jillian and Maeve create the number 100 headbands.