

Fairy Tales Come Alive at the Doyle

The Wakefield Educational Foundation (WEF) recently awarded Doyle pre-school teacher, Erin Schermerhorn, grant funds to purchase “Fairy Tales” STEAM materials. The materials are shared with other preschool classrooms at the Doyle.

Last year, the Doyle School integrated fairy tales into their curriculum to explore character studies with the students. The goals for the Doyle School improvement plan, as well as the professional practice and student learning goals, are around pre-literacy skills. This area has been targeted for improvement based on feedback from Kindergarten teachers regarding how to better prepare students for entering elementary school.

The “Fairy Tales” STEAM materials include manipulatives to accompany their character studies, which help educators reach their higher-level practices and expand the concepts for all students, struggling and advanced learners. To be able to physically touch the characters and act out problems presented in the story enables students to engage at a much deeper level with the text.

Teachers also appreciate the all-inclusive learning provided by the materials, bringing more math and science into their classrooms, which is always challenging at the preschool level. Students using “Fairy Tales” STEAM were observed engaging with the materials and each other to collaborate and solve problems.

Ms. Schermerhorn submitted a grant application through WEF’s annual grant process. WEF continually encourages staff and PTO leaders to submit innovative enrichment projects for consideration. To support the grants, WEF raises funds throughout the year by conducting fundraisers such as: the WEF Wakefield Public Schools Calendar, which showcases student art throughout the system; Chocolate Rose sales; and the Annual Adult Spelling Bee, as well as community donations. WEF is awarding staff and PTO leaders just over \$25,500 for the 2017-2018 school year and has awarded over \$320,00 to the Wakefield Public Schools since 1989.



Doyle Early Childhood Learning Center Preschool students in Ms. Schermerhorn’s class.