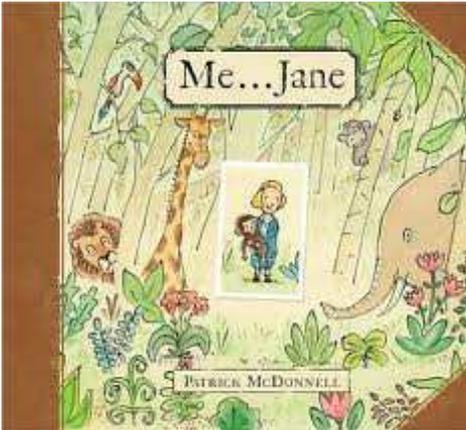


November 2013

Dear P.S. 154Q Community,

"There are so many people who have dreamed seemingly unattainable dreams and, because they never gave up, achieved their goals against all odds, or blazed a path along which others could follow. They inspire me. They inspire those all around them." – Dr. Jane Goodall

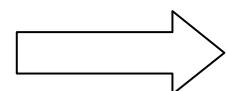


The story, **Me...Jane**, by Patrick McDonnell, begins with a young Jane Goodall and her very special stuffed chimpanzee, Jubilee, with whom she shares a special bond. As a child, Jane observed the natural world around her. She found great joy as she watched birds making their nests, spiders spinning their webs, plants in her backyard, and squirrels chasing each other around the trees. Throughout her childhood years, her curiosity ran wild and she felt a sense of wonder as she longed to be a part of this magical world. In the story, Jane dreams of "a life living with and helping all animals," and one day she finds out that her dream has come true. This beautiful biographical picture book sends us a clear message about reaching for your dreams and never giving up.

As we continue preparing our students for college and careers and pursuing their dreams by our new Habits of Mind program, we want to demonstrate how these habits will help students achieve their hopes and dreams. This month we are focusing on "**Listening with Empathy and Understanding**," and "**Working Interdependently**." We hope that our students will listen to Dr. Goodall's story and see how she practiced these important skills as a primatologist, environmentalist, humanitarian, and United Nation Messenger of Peace.

As many grades begin to launch their nonfiction unit of study this month, this is a great book to use to encourage students to become curious and want to learn more about this special person who has had a major impact in the world. Students can research Dr. Jane Goodall, chimpanzees, environmental conservation, and the continent of Africa to grow their knowledge beyond this text. In doing that, they can also practice reading non-fiction texts, paraphrasing information, writing off their thinking maps, and determining the main idea of non-fiction texts. The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) asks us to read a balance of fiction and non-fiction texts and this book provides a good launch to our non-fiction units.

Students may also want to learn more about the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI), she founded in 1977, which is a global nonprofit organization that empowers people to make a difference for all living things around us. Dr. Goodall says that, *"each one of us makes a difference. We cannot live through a single day without making an impact on the world around us—and we have a choice as to what sort of difference we make. The life of each one of us matters in the scheme of things, and I encourage everyone, especially young people, to make the world a better place for people, animals, and the environment."* This month, students at P.S. 154Q will be collecting "**Coins for Communities**," to begin to make a difference in our community. Please collect and donate your loose change so that we can make a donation to Habitat for Humanity.



This book lends itself towards addressing some Common Core Reading Standards for Literature:

- ✚ Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.
- ✚ Describe characters in a story and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.
- ✚ Explain how specific aspects of a text’s illustrations contribute to what is conveyed by the words in a story.
- ✚ Compare and contrast the point of view from which different stories are narrated, including the difference between first- and third-person narrations.

As we read to gather information for our writing pieces, here are some ways that we can use thinking maps to organize our thoughts for writing:

Thinking Maps	Possible Activities
Circle Map	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Brainstorm everything you know about chimpanzees. ➤ Write any prior knowledge you have about Dr. Jane Goodall
Bubble Map	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Describe young Jane in the story. ➤ Describe Dr. Jane Goodall.
Double Bubble Map	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Compare and contrast Dr. Jane Goodall to another Animal Rights Activist or scientist. ➤ Compare and contrast young Jane’s childhood to your childhood.
Tree Map	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Categorize all of the things Jane loved to do as a young girl. ➤ Categorize famous people and what they did to help the world. ➤ Categorize famous people and their dreams that came true.
Brace Map	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Create a brace map for the parts of Africa.
Flow Map	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Put the events of the story in order.
Multi-Flow Map	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Create a multi-flow map with the event- Dr. Jane Goodall became a scientist, Animal Rights Activist.
Bridge Map	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Create a bridge map with the relating factor “was an activist for.” Dr. Jane Goodall was an activist for animals as Susan B. Anthony was an activist for women’s rights. ➤ Create a bridge map with the relating factor “helped.” Dr. Jane Goodall helped chimpanzees as Mrs. Winter helped D.J. with his bullying problem.

We will also be working on adding **Frames of Reference** to our Thinking Maps this month, which is a perfect place to identify the sources we are using to gather information, identify different points of view, and synthesize information to highlight why it is important.

We hope that these **vocabulary words** are just a starting point for learning new words this month that connect to social studies and science content:

Vocabulary Words		
cherished	curious	chicken coop
tree sap	beneath	jungle

Remember each one of us makes a difference! Happy researching!

Sincerely,

Dr. Davidson, Mrs. LaPorte, and the Teacher Leaders Team