



Twin Valley School District

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CRACKING THE CODE **Elementary Gifted Support Program Students Spend Day as “Spy Kids”**

Elverson, PA – Code breaking, deciphering and top secret missions...a typical day in the life of an elementary student? It was for at least one recent day for a group of Gifted Support students when the students had the opportunity to be Spy Kids.

Students from all three of the Twin Valley School District (TVSD) elementary centers gathered at the Twin Valley Elementary Center (TVEC) and began their day by deciphering code to ascertain their groups. Sessions were held throughout the day and began with TVEC Art teacher Mrs. Meghan LeClair introduced the Egyptian alphabet so that students could design their names using hieroglyphics.

TVEC Music teacher Mrs. Melissa Ebling taught the students Morse code and demonstrated how different letters could make different sounds using the code. The students played their Morse code patterns on instruments to a YouTube video of Disney’s Mambo Number Five.

Motivating the student’s bodies as well as their minds was Mr. Craig Heller, TVEC physical education instructor. The students worked collaboratively to tackle a team building activity while racing to score the best time.

TVSD visiting teacher from China, Ms. Xiaoxue Wu, used a software program to show the students how Chinese writing has evolved over time. She demonstrated the proper technique on holding a brush to write Chinese with the students practicing with brushes and black paint.

But the learning was not over yet! Two teachers from the Berks County Intermediate Unit (BCIU), Mrs. Kathy Davis and Mrs. Judy Ryan taught the students both Braille and sign language, respectively. Davis showed the students how people with sight difficulties use Braille in their lives, while Ryan taught the students the sign language alphabet and had them practice their names and common greetings.

The elementary Gifted Support program is taught by Mrs. Carol Peterson who worked with TVEC Librarian Mrs. Peg Dombach on creating the exciting Spy Kids program.

“Spy Kids day was a big hit for the children as well as teachers and guests,” said Peterson. “We proved that code breaking is even more than it’s ‘cracked’ up to be.”

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Photo: TVEC Art Instructor Mrs. Meghan LeClair introduces the students to Egyptian Hieroglyphics.

Twin Valley School District is an equal opportunity public education institution that is committed to excellence in education. In partnership with parents and the community, the District aspires to prepare students for challenges in an ever-changing world.