



AAP @ Lemon Road


MS. AVERY STRAW

What's Happening in CCT? What is CCT?

Critical and Creative Thinking is a class taught as part of the specials schedule by Avery Straw, our Advanced Academic Resource Teacher (AART). Advanced Academic Programs (AAP) has two goals in FCPS: differentiation for high ability learners and talent development. This class expose students to opportunities for thinking deeply or differently, and we use critical and creative thinking strategies as well as AAP curriculum to develop critical thinking in our Lemon Road Lions.

What does this class look like @ Lemon Road?

During our **first quarter**, we learned about the CCT strategies of Visualization, Point of View (POV), and had a lesson on the concept of the quarter: community, relationships, change, or systems. Upper grade students represented themselves as a color, symbol or image; completed a POV writing activity, and imagined themselves from different perspectives. Our younger students did some picture transformations, using a known letter or number and turning it into something new. They draw and wrote from an animal's perspective, and considered the situation of the tortoise and the hare.





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Second quarter was great fun! We began by introducing all grade levels to Socratic Seminar. Socratic Seminar is a powerful and engaging teaching and learning strategy that challenges students to think and apply knowledge at increasingly higher levels. Our younger students did this on books like *The Water Princess* and *The Bad Seed*, while our older students looked at the piece of art, “Comedian,” by Maurizio Cattelan. We had robust and fascinating conversations around what art is, in addition to considering why someone would pay \$120,000 for this particular piece of art. We wrapped up our last week before winter break with a Strategy Games day. This day allows students to choose from a variety of building options, like Keva Planks, Magnatiles or Legos as well as strategy games like Rush Hour and Mastermind. These activities are fun, but also build spatial awareness, strategic and logical thinking, and collaboration skills.

In January, we focused on vocabulary development. Our younger Lions created adjective monsters based on the book, *Go Away, Big Green Monster*, while our older students read the book *Miss Alaineus*, then defined and illustrated their chosen word for display for all our students. Some of these are still in process but look for them on the walls next time you come into school!

Questions about AAP programs in Fairfax County? Contact me anytime!
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