



Truro Central School's **PUMA PAGE**

March 2019

TCS CARES CLUB

Truro students have started a new after school club called TCS Cares Club. Its mission is to spread a little kindness throughout our community. So far, students have put together care packages for a local soup kitchen, made valentines for residents at Seashore Point, and have begun a supply drive for the Animal Rescue League in Brewster. If you would like to donate any used towels, blankets or pet toys, please contact the TCS Cares Club at (508) 487-1558. Thank you!



CELEBRATING LUNAR NEW YEAR

February 5th marked the New Year for many Asian cultures, including China, Korea, and Vietnam. One of our Chinese-American families shared some of their traditions with preschool and kindergarten students. They wore traditional Chinese costumes, and brought pork dumplings and Chinese sweet bread to share. They also told their classmates about some of the fun activities they do to welcome in the New Year. It was a great opportunity to share and learn about different families' traditions. Thank you Zachary and Zoe for sharing your celebration with us!

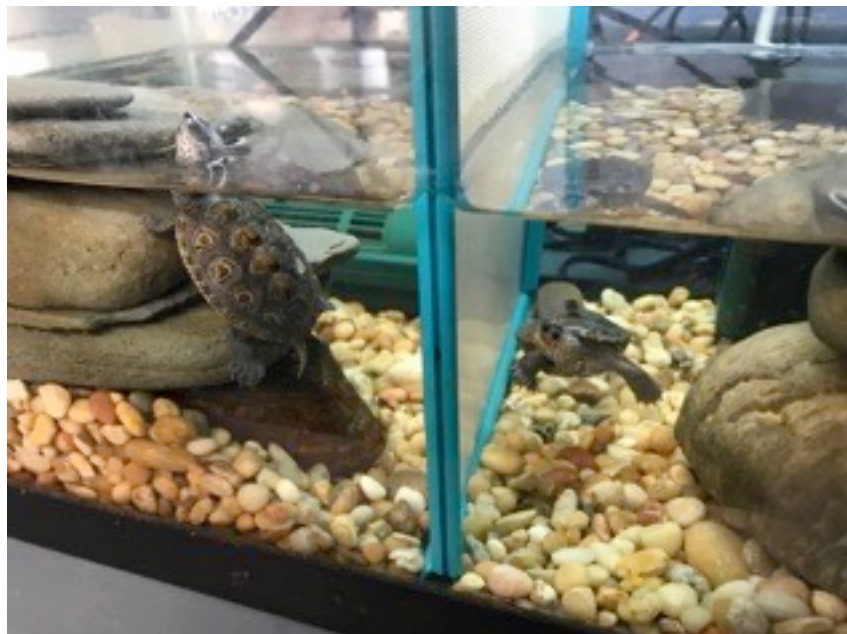


DIAMONDBACK TERRAPIN HEADSTART

For the second year in a row, Nina Picariello's first graders have been participating in the Massachusetts Audubon's Diamondback Terrapin Headstart Program. Along with students in Monomoy, Wellfleet, and other schools across the Cape, our Truro Central School first graders are caring for two tiny turtles. This threatened species is the only turtle that lives in brackish water, making its home in the salt marshes along Cape Cod shores.

Each week, first graders weigh Nacho and Taco, tracking how much they grow. Hatchlings are tiny, weighing around 5 grams, and are about the size of a quarter. Both of our turtles have nearly doubled in size, and enjoy a diet of chopped up seafood and turtle pellets. Normally, diamondback terrapins would be hibernating at this time of year, but since these turtles are warm and safe, they are still active.

Diamondback terrapins were nearly hunted to extinction in the 19th century because of the fad for turtle soup. Although their population on the Cape had begun to rebound once this food became less popular, loss of habitat, an increase of human activity in that habitat, and wildlife pet trade are once again threatening this species. Hatchlings are particularly in danger. The Audubon's Headstart Program allows a higher percentage of hatchlings to survive, keeping them safe during the stage the turtles are most vulnerable to predators. For more information, check out Massachusetts Audubon's website, massaudubon.org, or visit the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary.



SPREADING KINDNESS

With Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday sharing a month with Valentine's Day and the 100th day of school, students all over the building have been reflecting on kindness, love, and the things they appreciate. Here are just a few of the displays students have put together for the month of February.



