

March 2014



# Passion Project Introduction



Dear Parents,

Something exciting is happening in our First Grade classroom! Last week I introduced your First Graders to the word **Passion** and about creating a Passion Project. We started with creating Heart Maps (your student's Heart Map is attached) which got students thinking about what they love to do, what they are good at, and what interests them. We also listened to the story of 9-year-old Caine Monroy who created his own Passion Project of a cardboard arcade! (<http://cainesarcade.com>)

## What is a Passion Project?

Passion Projects give time for students to explore their curiosities. They will be given opportunities in class to work on their chosen Passion Project with guidance along the way.

It will have 3 components:

- Ask a Question/Present a Goal
- Working towards the goal or answering the question
- Sharing with the classroom community

(Some examples to help your brainstorming: write a book about an animal, design a board game, create a survey and collect data, ask a science-related question, learn to knit, ask and research about a wonder you may have, build a robot/structure, complete a difficult puzzle)

## Why is a Passion Project important?

Students take ownership in their own learning. They explore something they want to learn about. A Passion Project sparks curiosity, and students have an opportunity to be intrinsically motivated. This adventure will encourage life-long learning, imagination, perseverance, self-awareness, adaptability, as well as other life-lessons.

## How will a Passion Project work in our classroom?

Students will work on their project during some Morning Work and Choice times throughout the week. After Passion Project Proposals (see attached) have been submitted, I will confirm with families as we begin the process. As an end product, students will present their topic to our classroom community (Morning Meeting, KidBlog, etc.) to showcase their passion.

I am excited to share this opportunity with your child! I am sure we will need to tweak things along the way as we embark on this new adventure in 1st grade. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me ☺

Sincerely, Heather Wilson

*Resources for your own curiosity about the Passion Project movement:*

<http://www.geniushour.com/> & *The Passion Driven Classroom* by Angela Maiers and Amy Sandvold