



O'HARA STUDENTS CRACK THE CASE OF ZERO THE HERO

It was the 100th day of school, and some O'Hara kindergarten students did not know what great mystery awaited them. When they arrived, they found out they had to find Zero the Hero, who was kidnapped by Agent 99. But where could he be?

In looking for a new way to celebrate the milestone day, teacher Kaylee Krepps came across the idea of a spy mystery. Classrooms were magically transformed into spy labs, and, in true detective fashion, some of the students donned hats, mustaches, and trench coats. Some carried magnifying glasses. There was even a ransom note. In order to rescue Zero the Hero, they had to complete missions all revolving around the number 100.

How would the students find Zero the Hero? By bowling to 100, using invisible ink to write numbers to 100, using engineering skills to build a structure using 100 cups, counting by 10s to 100, and drawing what they would look like in 100 years. Clues were all around the school, and the students had to put the clue words they found together in order to find where Zero the Hero was hiding.

Kindergarten student Eliza Boy says she and her classmates had to work hard to find Zero the Hero.

"We didn't think he was anywhere! We had to work on top-secret missions to find out where our next clue was," Eliza

says. "It made us proud when we found Zero the Hero because we worked so hard. He was saved because of us! When the class found Zero the Hero, we cheered and shouted 'Hooray!'"

According to kindergartner Jian Kim, all of the 100th day activities were "really fun."

"The whole classroom was decorated, and we had to be secret agents in disguises," he says. He also points out that Zero the Hero "was a good hider."

"The kids absolutely loved this experience," says kindergarten teacher Emily Suchevecich. "The students were engaged throughout the entire day and enthusiastically completed the hands-on, collaborative activities. They could hardly wait to crack the case!"



The best part, according to Ms. Suchevecich, was seeing the students learn in such an engaging way. "They learned the value of collaboration and persistence while working in groups to complete many of the missions, and they became engineers when they worked in teams to build a structure," she says. "Most importantly, they were able to experience first-hand how rewarding and fun learning can be."

And, yes. Zero the Hero was rescued and the students rated the day a perfect 10!

