

Specialty Newsletter - Spring 2009

Physical Education

It's hard to believe that we are coming down to the end of the school year already! It has been a terrific year and I have enjoyed the opportunity to be a part of your child's physical growth and development.

The month of March was spent playing and learning all about basketball. Each of the classes spent the entire month learning the basics of passing, dribbling, shooting, and ball control. The younger classes were very excited about learning to dribble the ball by pushing it down hard so that it comes back up to their hand. The older classes enjoyed the games that are played to reinforce ball control, possession and shooting abilities.

In April they moved on to softball. Again, each of the classes learned the basics of the sport. The younger classes practiced throwing and catching and then worked on their batting skills with plastic bats and hitting off of the tee, and then some progressed on to a pitched ball. The older classes also practiced catching grounders and fly balls and played some lead-up softball games to help them learn the basics of running the bases, as well as playing the positions in the field, learning how to work through a batting order and switching from hitting to fielding. They ended the month with Jump Rope For Heart which is fun way to raise money while getting exercise and learning about heart and lung disease. Thanks to Ms. Essig's 5th and 6th grade class for their hard work organizing and running this event. They worked tirelessly all day taking each of the classes through the various stations.

The first part of May was spent getting ready and practicing for our upcoming Field Day. This is always an exciting day for the children to participate in fun fitness related activities and a great time for all as we wind down another wonderful year!

Mandarin Chinese

Dear Broomfield Academy Families,

I am very pleased that your children worked very hard to learn Mandarin Chinese to the best of their ability during our 2008-2009 school year.

JK Explorers and Junior Kindergarten - they have made their second Chinese book (animal book) and almost finished their third Chinese book (colors book) since January. They had a great performance on Multicultural Day as well.

Kindergarten - they have already finished their animal book and coloring book. They are going to writing some Chinese numbers through the month of May.

Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten students now can count the numbers 0 - 100. They not only can say *very good, ready, and go* in Chinese, but also can say *walk, stop, sit down, stand up, clap hands, and shake hands*. They learned a song called "Find a Friend" which is a very famous children's song in China.

1st and 2nd grade - they now can answer questions such as: *what is your name, how old are you? Which animal year were you born? Where are you from? What is the day today? What day is your birthday? Which color do you like? Which animal do you like?* They can also substitute *you* with their family members in these questions. They are working on some easy Chinese writing as well.

Grade 3-6 - they are fluent in introducing themselves verbally and in writing: *"my name is ___; I am ___ years old; and I was born the year of ___; I am American; I am not Chinese; I go to the Broomfield Academy; He or she also goes to Broomfield Academy..."* They can also use names of their family members in these sentences. They are able to write small paragraphs in Chinese also.

It is such a great year to work with your child. Thank you very much for your support. I hope you all have a wonderful summer vacation. See you next year!

Ms. Li

Spanish

In this last semester Spanish has been full of fun and learning. The Explorers Junior Kindergarteners, and Kindergartens have had so much fun learning the "Donde Estas?" game, and the Days of the Week song. The 1st and 2nd graders have spent some time learning about spring and insect vocabulary, the calendar, and days of the week. The 3rd -6th graders have spent more time on verbs, adding more to their vocabulary sheets. They also learned directions and had a fun scavenger hunt. Finally they have been learning about Mexico, and ancient civilizations such as the Aztecs, and the Mayans. We will spend the last few weeks learning about Spain and the Incans. All students got to learn a little bit about Cinco De Mayo! Overall it has been a productive year with lots of new learning and I am looking forward to an even better year next fall. Gracias a todos!!

-Senorita Varani

Technology

In **Jr. Kindergarten** we are working on our ABC's, as well as doing some I-spy and other computer programs.

In **Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade students** have been doing keyboarding lessons with Mavis Beacon and BBC typing. For practice at home, visit:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/>

The children have improved over the last two weeks. Many have moved past the home row keys and are learning other letters. Over the summer they should practice these skills.

4th graders are all most finished with their school brochures. In this lesson they had to interview a teacher or staff member and make a school brochure in Publisher featuring that teacher or staff member. They will start Mavis Beacon Typing when they are finished.

The **5th & 6th Graders** have finished a power-point presentation. They will also be practicing typing / keyboarding skills.

Thank you to all for a great year. I hope you have a sunny summer.

Michele Horn, Computer Teacher

Music

The energy and enthusiasm from all the students hasn't "skipped a beat" in music class. It has been amazing to see the growth of everyone throughout the year!

As you can probably guess, plenty of our time in music class this Winter and Spring was directed towards preparing for the Spring Program, "Character Matters II," as well as Multicultural Day back in March. I have been really pleased with every student's eagerness to sing, act and participate in these performances. It has been fun to see their acting and singing skills develop and to see the students really embrace the teamwork that goes along with making these programs successful.

Aside from these performance-oriented activities, we are always working on other activities and lessons to keep our music, dance and creative skills growing. In the younger grades (JK Explorers, JK and Kindergarten), we have been taking lots of imaginative musical journeys. We've learned lots of songs about taking trips- to the zoo, to the circus, on a picnic or to the riverside. We spend part of class learning the words and tune to the song, and then we brainstorm actions or dance moves to help tell the story. Then we add

instruments that fit the sounds or ideas involved in the songs. Recently we had a class all about the sounds of water. As part of the class we explored how to make sounds on 8-10 different instruments that replicate various sounds of water- raindrops, rushing water, swishing and storming.

In the middle grades (1st and 2nd grade), we expanded on some of the songs and activities done in the younger grades and learned some new ones and incorporate co-operative games. For instance, for Cinco de Mayo we learned a Mexican Folk Song, "La Vibora (The Serpent)." After listening to the song in Spanish, we then listened to it in English and made sure we understood the translation and story of the song (a big sea serpent snatching up fruit sellers off of a boat!). Then we played a game in which two people formed a bridge for the "serpent" (the rest of the class, forming a snake-like line) to pass under. On the final word of each verse, the bridge members collapsed the bridge on a member of the serpent. Whoever was captured then chose a fruit group (bin of instruments) to choose from and play along to the steady beat as the game continued until the whole serpent was captured.

In the 3rd and 4th grade, a majority of our time this spring was focused on preparing for the program because of the larger acting and singing roles involved with the older students- what a talented bunch! When time allowed, sometimes we have also added on to the lessons and games from the younger grades but sometimes I chose new activities or songs to challenge their skills and understanding. Some of those songs were focused towards Earth/Arbor Day ("Save the Planet"), as well as Cinco de Mayo ("La Cucaracha").

The 5th and 6th graders continue to work on their instruments each day in music (aside from a brief break the week of the Spring Program). We had our first short performance in March at the Multicultural Day concert- they did a great job preparing for this and I was really proud of their performance. We are now working towards another short performance at the Talent Show on the last day of school. Please help students to remember to bring their instruments to school EVERY Monday and Wednesday from now until the end of the year, as well as encourage them to practice at home each day- it makes a big difference!

Thank you all for a wonderful second year here at the Broomfield Academy. I hope your summer break brings you lots of sunshine, music and fun! See you next year!

Sincerely,
Ms. Kleinsteiber

Art News

This trimester our young artists have been very busy!

Junior Kindergarten has enjoyed making beautiful creations based on the letter of the week. It is always fun coming up with projects that meet the criteria!

Kindergarten has looked at several artists and made beautiful art work based on the style of these artists. We also had fun creating bugs and flowers during the insect unit.

First grade is exploding with color; we have created several works while learning about color. Your students know primary, secondary, complementary colors and the difference between warm and cool colors!

Second Grade has been studying many different artists: Jasper Johns, Matisse and Rousseau. The students have enjoyed studying the artist and then creating works of art in that style!

Third and Fourth grade are art machines. We have study African art, Islamic art, and Andy Warhol! Each unit has been more exciting than the last and we are really enjoying Pop Art.

Fifth and Sixth grade has looked at perspective drawing, M.C. Escher and tessellations, blue willow china patterns. We also enjoyed a mini unit on glass fusing, my personal art medium, to produce beautiful pins for mothers day!

As you can see we have been very busy in the art department and I would like to take a moment to say thank to PTO because of your generous gift early this spring each student was able to make a special present for Mother's Day. Thank You.

Khristina Dean