

Specialty Newsletter Spring 2010

Art Room Notes



Junior Kindergarten has been learning “Art through the Letter”. All of our art projects center around the letter of the week, either by process or outcome.

Kindergarten has started exploring different artists such as Mondrian and Klee. Each student then produced work in the style of each artist.

First Grade has been working on color theory. We started with primary colors, secondary colors, and color mixing. We are now looking at cool and warm colors and how they can effect what we see in art.

Second grade has been studying Matisse. We have been looking at Goldfish (1919) and are producing wonderful works with a cylinder as the central theme, similar to Goldfish.

Third thru Sixth grade have been studying Monet. Then we tried to create our own impressionist painting using a sponging technique and colored pencils. I was very impressed by our students and their grasp of impressionism. Each student had something unique to offer. We are now in our “Recycling Structures” unit. Each student has free rein to create something awesome out of cast offs.

I am very proud of all our artists and thank them for all their hard work!

Mrs. Khristina Dean

Mandarin Chinese News

I am very happy to tell you that your children worked very hard to learn Mandarin Chinese. They have not only learned the language but also have been exposed to Chinese culture, like Chinese New Year traditions (Zodiac, foods, colors and customs), Chinese tea culture, Chinese calligraphy, Chinese paper cut, and origami. I believe they all have a better understanding of Chinese culture now.

Explorers – They have learned family members, Chinese numbers, the calendar (days of the week, yesterday, today, tomorrow), colors and animals. They also learned children’s exercises and songs.

Junior Kindergarten – studied family members, Chinese numbers (1-100), the calendar (months of the year, days of the week, what day is today), weather, colors and animals. They learned children’s exercises and songs as well.

Kindergarten - has studied family members, Chinese numbers (1-100), and they are able to say the numbers between 100 and 200, the calendar (months of the year, days of the week, what day was yesterday, what day is today, what day will be tomorrow) and weather, colors and animals. They learned children’s exercises and songs too.

The students have made such great progress since January. I am so proud of them. Thank you very much for all your help and support.

Have a wonderful summer vacation!
Ms. Li



Spanish Specialty News

This semester has been going wonderfully in Spanish. The first and second grade has been working on different vocabulary such as el cuerpo (body), los deportes (sports), and comunidad (community). We are almost finished with our workbooks; we will review them for the next couple of weeks. First and second grade will also be working on some basic picture dictionaries for students to take home and practice with over the summer. Finally, we learned all about Cinco de Mayo and made woven Mexican placemats and Aztecan Jaguar mats.

Third through sixth grades have continued to work on the workbooks and vocabulary that goes with them such as verbs and subject pronouns. We also have had conversation on how to answer questions such as Que es, (what is it)? Finally, the students continue to work on their independent projects on different Spanish speaking countries. The projects will be finished soon and will be presented in class. What a great semester! The students have put in so much effort and really improved their Spanish speaking, reading, and writing skills!

Drama



In drama this year we have learned so much together. The students have learned about improvising, speaking to an audience, stage presence and directions. We also have learned about story and how to create a meaningful character and plot. Recently, we have discussed empathy, and what it means, how it affects us as actors and how we can use it. They have role played how to be better listeners to learn empathy. Finally, we are working on our different talents for the talent show and how to perform solo acts, such as monologues. The students have come a long way in their understanding of how theater and drama is created even in the everyday world around us.

Ms. Varani

Music

The Explorers, Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten classes have done impressive work finishing up their musical instrument unit. They have done a terrific job identifying many instruments by sight and sound, as well as learning what instrument “family” they belong to.

In addition to preparing their songs and parts for the Spring Program, these classes also had a great time learning some new story songs, including “Old Grey Cat”, “Abiyoyo,” and “Mama Don’t Allow”. After listening to the songs and reviewing the stories that they told, students then chose different parts and took turns acting out the story while listening and singing along.

During the past few weeks, we have been learning songs about different types of transportation and simulating the various sounds and actions of trains, boats, cars, jets, etc. with both our voices and instruments. They've also had lots of fun learning a few silly songs about make-believe insects that like to dance.

1st and 2nd Grade spent a good deal of the spring preparing their songs, lines and dance choreography for the Spring Program. We have also spent a brief unit reviewing musical instruments and what families they belong to, as well as describing the characteristics of their sound.

We also learned some songs related to Earth Day in April and have since begun a unit on patterns in music. They've had a fun challenge trying to sing songs while divided into groups each playing their own pattern, as well as accompanying songs with improvised ostinatos (repeating melodic patterns).

3rd - 6th Grade also spent a majority of time this spring preparing their roles and songs for the Spring Program. Before the Spring Program, we began a unit on Music History by investigating characteristics of, instruments and composers of the Early Periods of Music History. We will finish off the year by studying the Late Periods of Music History, including music and composers of the Romantic and Contemporary Eras. This class also did a great job on a brief unit of reviewing musical instruments and families and describing the tone and characteristics of instruments' sounds.

Ms. Kleinsteiber

Physical Education

It has been a terrific year and I have truly enjoyed working with all of your children and seeing them grow in their development.

In honor of "March Madness," we spent the month playing and learning all about basketball. Each of the classes worked on the basics of passing, dribbling, shooting, and ball control. The younger classes learned how to dribble the ball using only one hand and pushing the ball down so that it comes back up to their hand. They also learned to bounce pass with partners. The older classes worked on ball control, dribbling, passing and shooting through different games to reinforce these skills. The month wrapped up with Jump Rope for Heart. Many thanks to Ms. Essig's 5th and 6th graders for their efforts in organizing and helping with this great event. They did a terrific job and it was very exciting to see all the money raised for the American Heart Association. Thank you all!

In April they worked on softball and kickball. The younger classes practiced throwing, catching, batting and kicking. They learned how to run around the bases and also how to switch from fielding to batting/kicking. The older classes practiced these skills as well and then they progressed to actually playing a modified version of each of these games.

The first part of May was spent practicing for our upcoming Field Day. As always, this is an exciting day for the children to show off what they've learned throughout the year as well as participate in fun, fitness-related activities. What a great way to wind down another wonderful year!

Mrs. Shelley

Technology

Jr. Kindergarten is working on their ABC projects with their class, as well as doing some computer programs such as: I-spy, PBS Kids, and Thinking Things.

In Kindergarten, we have put our animals into the Broomfield Academy Zoo and have started working on our keyboarding lessons with Mavis Beacon and BBC typing <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/>. Many of the children have moved past the home row keys and are learning other letters. Over the summer, they can practice their typing skills. There are several online programs they can use to keep their skills strong.

The first graders are researching their animals for the zoo and writing a one paragraph report about that animal. As part of this project, students worked with Publisher and Table Top Junior.

Second graders have been working with edheads.org and Magic Pen. Both internet programs taught them about simple machines. They have also been learning about internet literacy along with the third and fourth graders. They have learned how to identify parts of a website, and are looking at the schools website to identify all of the layers.

The fifth & sixth graders are working on an end of year Powerpoint presentation for Award night. Students took photos of Spring around the school, edited, and used a variety of techniques to create a captivating presentation.

Thank you for another great year. I hope you all have a fantastic summer. I look forward to seeing you next year.

Mrs. Horn



Second Grade