

Broomfield Academy

Specialty Class Newsletter Spring 2010



Music News - Miss. K (Miss Kleinsteiber)

Explorers, Junior Kindergarten, Kindergarten

After the Winter Program, we finished 2009 by singing, dancing, and playing along with a variety of winter holiday songs. We also spent a day learning about the ballet "The Nutcracker." In January, we learned a number of freedom songs in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

We've started 2010 with a unit on learning about the different instrument families. Students are learning to identify instruments by sight and sound and determine whether it is a member of the strings, woodwinds, brass, or percussion families. We are currently spending time specifically on the percussion family and the students are getting to hear, see and play various drums, triangles, xylophones, tambourines, sand blocks, rhythm sticks, maracas and bells. We've also used these percussion instruments to accompany songs like, "The Wheels on the Bus," "Pop Goes the Weasel," and "Hickory Dickory Dock."

1st and 2nd Grade

The 1st and 2nd grade students finished off 2009 watching a DVD of the Winter Program and critiquing and reflecting on their performance. We also spent a few weeks in December singing and playing instruments along to some winter holiday songs, as well as, learning some freedom songs in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day in January.

Currently, we are learning about terms that describe music such as: style, form, meter, melody and harmony. We are spending a day or two on each of these topics, learning songs and doing exercises that help students to become more familiar with the terms and how to use them appropriately.

3rd - 6th Grade

The 3rd - 6th grade students finished of 2009 critiquing their Winter Program performance and singing winter holiday songs. We also sang some African American Spiritual freedom songs and learned a rhythm rap in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day in January.

We've begun 2010 with a Music History unit in which we are learning about characteristics and composers of each of the major music history eras: Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Modern. We will spend one week on each era and, at the end of our unit, each student will be asked to complete an individual creative project on a composer of their choice.

Art News- Mrs. Dean



I have been impressed this year with our many talented artists. We have really been producing some very creative pieces!

Junior Kindergarten completed wax paintings using candles for W week and painted UFO's for U week. All our projects for this class relate to the Letter of the Week they are studying with their core teacher.

Kindergarten has started a unit on the Northwest Indians and totem poles. We are looking at the culture and why this type of art was created. This spring we will be looking at different artists and their specific art techniques.

First grade has worked on completing a space watercolor with a rocket of their own design. We also had an in-depth unit on prehistoric art and its meaning.

Our second grade artists have been busy learning about Paul Klee and Jasper Johns. Each of these artists has inspired us to produce some very creative pieces!

The combination class of third thru sixth studied Henry Rousseau and created some very unique jungle cats and plants. Last week, we began our unit on impressionism and its founder Claude Monet. I look forward to more outstanding work from our older students this spring.



Technology News- Mrs. Horn

The students are learning a lot this year in computer class. **Jr. Kindergarten students** are still working with the Letter of the Week while in class. This helps them develop basic computer skills and reinforces the phonics lessons they are learning in class. We have been working with internet programs: Millie's Math House, Bailey's Book House, and Starfall.

The **Kindergartners and 1st graders** have finished learning about parts of computers and have started learning about the world that we live in. They will soon be starting our wildlife unit. In this unit, they will build a zoo and learn what it takes to be a zoo keeper.

The **2nd graders** are researching the War of 1812 and in computer class they have learned how the Star Spangle Banner came to be our National Anthem. They will also be doing a powerpoint presentation of famous people from the 19th century.

The **3rd and 4th graders** are working on a powerpoint presentation related to energy sources in the United States. Since, they are studying the olympics in Mrs. Rajala's class, they will be doing a report on the subject using Microsoft Word in class with me.

The 5th and 6th graders built and programmed a Lego robot. After some hard work, they achieved success! We are now working with Ms Essig on a powerpoint presentation..

World Languages- Miss. Varani (Spanish) and Mrs. Li (Mandarin)



Mandarin

The **Explorers, Junior Kindergartners and Kindergarteners** have had a great start in Mandarin Chinese. They are trying very hard in class. We started this semester talking about China and Chinese Culture. In the first two weeks, students watched Chinese video programs. They were exposed to Chinese tea culture and calligraphy as well.

This year's Chinese New Year begins on Feb 14th. It is the year of the Tiger. We are going to talk about Chinese New Year traditions (zodiac, foods, colors and customs) and have a lot of fun.

Explorers and Junior Kindergarteners learned words for family members in Chinese. They now can count using the Chinese numbers 1 – 10. They began to use days of the week, months, and weather in Chinese. They are going to learn numbers up to 50, colors, and animals (cat, dog, chicken, duck, rabbit, and bird) this year.

Kindergarteners learned family member names in Chinese. They now can count the Chinese numbers 1 – 10. They began to use the days of the week, months, and weather in Chinese. They are going to learn numbers up to 100, animals (cat, dog, chicken, duck, rabbit, and bird), and colors. By the Kindergarten year, conversation will be a larger emphasis of our class also.

Spanish

Hola familias! The first few weeks of Español in grades 1st - 6th have been fabuloso! I really enjoy teaching everyone Español.

The **first and second grades** have begun with a small review of things such as: how to say hello, goodbye, how are you, and answering these questions. We also covered a quick review of numbers and colors. We are utilizing a workbook and packet with CD's in class. We are beginning to do more differentiation of content based on student readiness in class work as well. Within our differentiated groups, students will be working with me to learn vocabulary and pronunciation. Both classes will also be given a homework assignment every week that needs to be checked by parents and turned in on Tuesdays.

3 - 6th grade students have been learning a lot of vocabulary and grammar. We start class with a question in espanol that is to be answered by each student. We also have been reviewing basic vocabulary, adding them into sentences (for example while reviewing clothing and colors students may make statements such as "I am wearing a blue shirt"). I am also pleased to announce that many of the vocabulary, grammar and homework books are currently using are from the middle or high school level. Great job!

Everyone has begun Spanish classes with enthusiasm and a lot of effort. We are having a great start to our spring classes together. Gracias.