

A "Special" Update



ART Education

We are having a fantastic beginning to the 2016-17 school year. Students have constructed portfolios and completed their first projects. Each grade level created optical Illusion art with different levels of difficulty. All students practiced using a ruler effectively to create amazing designs. We explored color theory and applied marker in techniques. I am quite pleased with the level of self pride and effort students have put forth. Students are starting to explore the 18 independent "Creativity Centers" around the Art Room where they may work alone or with a partner at a center of their choice. These centers include a variety of Drawing activities, including Architecture, Fashion, and Vehicle Design. Other centers are geared around building activities that engage high level thinking skills and problem solving. This has proven to be a highlight for students of all interests. As we move forward students will be starting figure drawing. We will cover a variety of animal drawings and the human figure.

Looking forward to a great school year! Dannielle Benedetto benedettod@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us

Library

We have had many interactive library lessons filled with fun facts, teamwork, and great books. Students are getting excited about reading and learning, all while promoting library and book care rules. Our first book fair was a huge success, making over \$13,700! I have already purchased 16 boxes of new books and more are coming soon!

Recently we had an adventurous lesson about *Lego Man in Space* that included a team Lego building challenge and pictures will be posted soon! This week students will camp out in a huge tent by an electric campfire to discuss Halloween and share ghost stories. Many more exciting lessons are being planned, as well as an author visit by a fellow East Greenwich parent who wrote the book, "The Magic Owl" with her son who also attends Samuel Mickle! Order forms will be coming home soon to pre-order autographed books prior to her visit on Monday, November 28th.

-Stacey Ligameri, Librarian ligameris@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us

Physical Education

The students are off and running to start this school year. In September, we played a lot of the students favorite games such as Kick Ball, Wall Ball, and Basketball. We tie those activities in with our Recess Activities unit, this way all students know and understand how to play each activity being offered during recess. We also just completed 2 lessons of cooperative games and discussed how to play as a team as well as speak to one another. In October, we will be starting Health, Soccer, and Fitness Testing. Thank you all who volunteered to help us at the JDRF walk. The walk is Friday, October 28th. JDRF gives the school 10% back of our school's total, which we use to fund field day.

We hope you have a wonderful Fall. Any questions please contact us.

Diane O'Malley, PE Teacher omalleyd@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us

 **General Music** 

In music we jumped right into learning at the start of September! I was very excited to see all of the returning students and welcome new third graders into my classroom.

Third grade began by reviewing the basics! By doing so, we start learning the story of “Music Street,” created by Lorna Zemke that takes the entire year to complete. The story helps students learn solfege pitches and melodic terminology in a sequential manner. The kids love it! With this, we have already learned a few melodic solfege syllables, basic rhythm values, completed a rhythmic composition and performed them on body percussion!

Fourth grade is all about learning the recorder! The beginning of the year is all about music notation preparation. We started off with reviewing basic rhythm values from last year. The students created an eight measure rhythmic composition that was performed in small groups using body percussion. Now we have moved on to learning music symbols and notation that they will see when they receive music for the recorder in late November.

Fifth grade started off the year learning about instrument families! Since we ended last year with the recorder, I thought it would be nice to begin this year learning about different instruments in the world. We have completed brass and are currently in percussion. Students are participating in a composition project where they compose a melodic and rhythms, transpose it to music notation, and will perform their creations with a partner.

The **sixth grade** year is completely focused on learning how we have the music we have today. In September we start off in the medieval times and by the end of the year we land in the music of today’s generation. Every time we hit a new time period, we start with a lesson and then add an activity that reflects that lesson the following week. Students also write a listening journal, a 5 sentence reflection about a piece that reflects current time period.

For more information about how grading breaks down and a more detailed description of lessons and projects, please visit my teacher page: EGMusic.Weebly.com We already started the year off on a great “note!” For any questions please don’t hesitate to contact me!

Alexa Zimmerman, General Music

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INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC FIFTH GRADE

By now all 5th graders enrolled in band class should have their method book and instrument. After only one or two instrumental lessons so far, we have learned how to assemble and care for our instruments, produce our first tones, learn our first three notes and how to read and play them, we learned how to play along with the required accompaniment CD and we are up to song number 9 in our method books.

Students are encouraged to practice every day, referring to their homework assignment sheets which list exactly what should be learned and practiced at home during the week until the next instrumental lesson.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC SIXTH GRADE

6th grade students are on a roll preparing for their Winter Concert performance in December! We have introduced/progressed on new music every week in small group lessons and are working on putting it all together in band class. So far, we are playing the National Anthem, The Parade of the Wooden Soldiers, Christmas Chimes, and Do You Hear What I Hear, among others...and more and more will be coming!

Skills at this level are introduced rapidly, and the talents of this band know no bounds!!

Students are encouraged to practice every day, referring to their homework assignment sheets which list exactly what should be learned and practiced at home during the week, until the next instrumental lesson.

Gary Stocker, Band Director, Stockerg@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us

SPANISH CLASS ¿Qué pasa? What's happening?

Hola Parents! We started our September immersed in Hispanic culture! Your child(ren) have been celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. We have watched videos, listened to music, and even learned the basic dance steps of the Bachata! We have also been practicing and reviewing vocabulary associated with our **School Days** unit. Please be sure to check out my Spanish class website to view the rubric for this unit, along with Sites, Videos and Music that your child can access to practice the unit vocabulary.

I am using the Remind App to keep parents informed. Many parents have already signed up for Spanish class Remind, *¡Excelente!* Would you like a reminder about upcoming tests or new units of study? The Remind App information is located in the Vocab Guides and Rubrics tab of my staff webpage.

Thanks for your support and involvement!

Señora Morales, moralesc@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us

What's Up with Technology?

Third graders have been busy getting to know GAFE! GAFE stands for Google Apps for Education. Since all of our third grade students have Chromebooks this year, technology class takes place weekly in their homeroom. Over the past several weeks the students have learned how to log into their Chromebooks, access the internet via the "beachball" (Chrome browser), access their "waffle" (Google apps launcher) and locate Docs. They have created a Doc including 3 sentences, each with a customized font style and color. They have also learned how to insert an image and share their Doc with a teacher. We are well on our way to becoming 3rd grade GAFE experts! Next up is collaborating with classmates in Docs, creating folders in Drive and learning to use Slides. I'm so proud of our 3rd graders.

~Stacy Gray Technology Teacher, grays@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us