



Samuel Mickle School “Special” Update



ART Education

Amazing work is happening in the art room! You will be so impressed with the quality of work and effort from our students. They have finished up intense drawings of birds, rodents, pets, and 6th grade dragons. Drawing may seem like something you do for fun, but the truth is that drawing exercises higher level thinking skills associated with math. There is a great deal of planning: size, shape and spatial relationships. Speaking of math, we are now finishing a unit on radial symmetry. Students at each grade level are experimenting using a variety of media, Grade 3 and 6 are using scratch art etching paper, fourth graders are doing incredible paper cuttings and fifth graders are learning how to tool sheets of metal. In the weeks to come, we will be using wood mannequins to create figure drawing in grades 3 and 4. 5th grade will start making paper mache hand puppets. Please note that each 5th grade student will need to bring in a long knee sock (check your local dollar store) and a water bottle with lid to use as a stand. (We can fill empty bottles). Sixth grade students will begin their sculpture unit with paper mache masks!

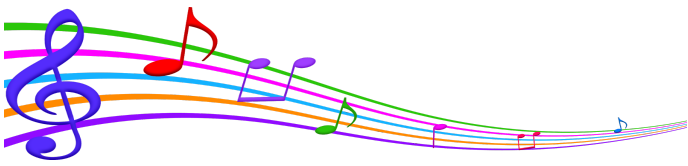


SPANISH CLASS ¿Qué pasa? What’s happening?

Hola Parents! Our new unit for this 2nd marking period is, “**All About Me.**” We are reviewing and learning basic conversational Spanish questions and responses. Examples include asking and answering questions related to your child’s name, age, birthday, where they live, and some of their favorites. We are creating an “**All About Me**” poster that is completely “*en español!*”

Your child’s oral participation in class is a significant factor in this unit. We made a wallet for our Spanish class “**\$\$ Participation Pesos \$\$**”, and many students have been earning big bucks in “clase” by answering various questions aloud! For homework, your child should be practicing the phrases from each week’s lesson. A fun and interactive way is to use the flashcards on **Quizlet**, found on the **Games and Sites** tab of my staff webpage. Another strategy is to practice listening to the songs and videos I linked to the **Music and Videos** tab of my webpage. All students have a vocabulary guide with the unit phrases in their Homework Assignment Book. You can also access the unit **Rubric and Study Guide** on my staff webpage.

Would you like a reminder about upcoming tests or new units of study? I am using the Remind App to keep parents informed. 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



FIFTH GRADE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

The Fifth Grade band had their very first full band rehearsal with over 70 band members present on December 1st!

It is an experience to hear all the musicians come together at the same time! The band did great and demonstrated their musicianship and ability to follow a conductor and begin learning how to play in an ensemble.

In Band Class and in Instrumental Lessons, we are currently working on three band pieces and soon will be beginning a fourth piece. We will continue to develop our repertoire until we have developed a fine program to perform in our Spring Concert June 1st.

After two performances at Mickle for the students, faculty and staff, our Spring Concert Parent Performance will take place in the beautiful Eitel Theatre Auditorium at Kingsway High School 7:00 PM June 1st, allowing for all in attendance to enjoy the performance in comfort.

SIXTH GRADE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

The 6th Grade band performed spectacularly in their Winter Concert performance shared with the 4th Grade Choir Chimes and the Chorus during the daytime performances. Wednesday December 14th the Band and Chimes performed for a packed house at Mickle and sounded great!

Selections such as "The Nutcracker", "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch", and other seasonal favorites were rehearsed and performed.

With the new year begins a whole new set of music to prepare for our Spring Concert performance. We will continue to develop our musicianship and repertoire until we have developed a fine program to perform in our Spring Concert June 1st.

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General Music

3rd Grade: Students just finished learning about their fifth neighbor on music street! They are very confident in sight singing, reading basic rhythm patterns, and singing by themselves. We have sung songs titled, "Pizza, Pizza," "Lucy Locket," "Apple Tree," and "Bounce High." By the end of this marking period we will have learned the pentatonic scale.

4th Grade: Recorder Karate has started and students are VERY excited to be playing an instrument in class. We discussed tips and tricks on how to make a good sound, playing notes with proper rhythms and fingering techniques. Many students are receiving belts because they are taking the time to rehearse in class and are staying focused.

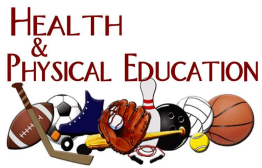
5th Grade: We are beginning to add our last and final instrument family- strings. We finished our review with brass, woodwinds, and percussion, and the students did great! Instrument families will be done by the end of second marking period.

6th Grade: Our Baroque activity involved a presentation. Students could work in groups and choose between singing a fugue, creating their own opera, designing a quilt with pictures, or arrange a Baroque style game show. Students definitely had too much fun coming up with their ideas. We are almost ready to move on to the Classical, Romantic, and Impressionist periods.

Strings

Students have just completed their winter performance! We learned how to perform as an ensemble which is our responsibility as musicians. From the start of this new school year, the students have been trying very hard to learn how to read music with little aid and the results have been very impressive! Students are playing fluently on the D and A strings. Cellos are beginning to play on G string, while Violins are learning E string. Viola's are being challenging by playing harmony and melody lines in multiple pieces. Students have been advancing each month! In October we learned how to play warm up sheets and their importance to technique. Students played these exercises with different rhythms, speeds and sound quality. October was a very technical month. In November students began preparing for their Winter performance that took place in early December. 3rd & 4th grade students performed at the Lights of Love festival with the 5th & 6th grade students. It was a wonderful experience for students to play with other students in the program who they would typically not play with. We are now beginning to work toward the Spring concert and learn new technical skills, performance skills and musical knowledge.

Ms. Wyatt, Strings Teacher



The students have been doing a fantastic job so far in health and physical education. We just completed fitness testing and our hockey unit, in which the students did outstanding. Students were very excited to be playing hockey games. In health, we did a wellness unit in November, and just completed our nutrition unit in December. The health schedule is posted on our websites. In the upcoming weeks in physical education, students will be starting a kickball unit, with four different kickball games, and then get into basketball after that. In health, students will be doing a unit on drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. Have a terrific winter, and if you have any questions feel free to contact us.

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

Kevin DeVillasanta, PE Teacher devillasantak@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us

From Mrs. Ligameri's Library

Throughout the second marking period lessons in the library continue to be fun, interactive and full of great facts to share! I hope your child comes home each week and tells you what they are doing and learning. We have explored many interesting topics, including the true stories about the real Winnie-the-Pooh and the Shopping Mall Gorilla. We also enjoyed sharing and learning about various holiday traditions, as well as playing reindeer games before our Winter Break. I am excited for the New Year which will be filled with many new lessons and adventures, as we explore and share information in a variety of fun ways!

We are currently learning about the importance of helping others by collecting new or gently used books for the Rush Academy that is in need of a library. Then we will gladly continue to accept gently used books for our library thereafter. Please remind your child to return any overdue books. Also any books that may have been lost last year can be paid for (*preferably*) by check, so their account may be cleared. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement!

Happy 2017 from, Mrs. Ligameri :)

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Technology

~Stacy Gray Technology Teacher

The first week in December is recognized as Computer Science Education Week. To celebrate and recognize the importance of Computer Science, all Samuel Mickle students participated in our 4th annual Hour of Code during the month of December. So.... *WHAT IS* The Hour of Code? The Hour of Code started as a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify "code", to show that anybody can learn the basics, and to broaden participation in the field of computer science. It has since become a worldwide effort to celebrate computer science, starting with 1-hour coding activities but expanding to all sorts of community efforts. This grassroots campaign is supported by over 400 partners and 200,000 educators worldwide. *WHY* Computer Science? Every student should have the opportunity to learn computer science. It helps nurture problem-solving skills, logic and creativity. By starting early, students will have a foundation for success in any 21st-century career path.

As part of NJ's Core Curriculum Content Standards for Technology, students must be able to identify and explain the impact of technology on society. Computer programming or coding is a rapidly growing field. We learned that there are currently 512,340 open computing jobs nationwide. Last year, only 42,969 computer science students graduated into the workforce. We all agreed that in the future, every student will need to be able to read and write code. After our discussion on the field of Computer Science, the students began using the tutorials and within minutes you could have heard a pin drop! Silence intermittently interrupted by "YES!!!" "I DID IT!!!" They helped and encouraged one another and every single child was successful!

Most students used "Blockly", a drag and drop method of coding also used by Computer Science students at MIT. Using Minecraft and Star Wars platforms, the students wrote lines of code and created video games. We also worked on the website Tynker where our older students experimented with Python and Java Script. To date, 350,638,594 students have been served through Hour of Code. The Hour of Code has become the fastest-spreading technology in history! I am so truly proud of all of our SMS "coders"Today a hornet, tomorrow a leader....~perhaps a programmer! To learn more please visit: <https://hourofcode.com/us>

~Stacy Gray

