

A “Special” Update



ART Education

We are proud to showcase the artwork of the entire student body at Samuel Mickle. You will finally get to see what their hard work looks like! Please enjoy a free gallery walk through the halls of Samuel Mickle May 23rd from 6-8pm. Students will exhibit 6 pieces of art and one sculpture. You will find the sculptures located around the perimeter of the library and outside the nurse's office. Please visit our Latin American “market” to see a collaborative group of art and Spanish class work. Third grade students will also have their “Young Author Books on display.

We will close out this year with cultural art projects in celebration of the United Nations World Day for Cultural Diversity.

I would like to encourage all parents to find a special place to save your child's art. Art, writing and journaling are special in the way they archive stages of life preserving moments in creativity that come from the heart!

Dannielle Benedetto benedettod@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us

SPANISH CLASS ¿Qué pasa? What's happening?

Hola Parents! Our last unit for this school year is *Home Sweet Home*. One way many Hispanic families greet visitors to our home is by saying, “*Mi Casa es su casa!*” or “*My house is your house.*” Students are learning the vocabulary for rooms, furniture, parts of the home, as well as members of the family! We will be using conversational Spanish to ask our classmates about our homes. We will also be comparing and contrasting homes in the US and homes in Spanish speaking neighborhoods. This marking period also focuses on cultural lessons. We learned about the history behind Cinco de Mayo and created Mexican inspired art projects. Third grade students have created Mexican Bark Paintings, fourth graders made rugs inspired by beautiful weaving in Mexico and other Hispanic countries. The fifth grade revisited their radial symmetry art lessons with Mrs. Benedetto to create Spanish tiles, and Sixth graders created “Ojos de Dios,” a traditional Mexican craft. As we wrap up the school year your children will learn fun facts about many summer time vacation destinations to Spanish speaking countries! Your child's homework is to review the material we covered in class. Please be sure to sign your child's Spanish Homework Log each week.

Thanks for your support and involvement!

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

What's Up with Technology?

The 4th marking period has begun with PARCC testing for the end of April and the first 2 weeks of May. Prior to the start of testing I reviewed online tools and testing procedures with each homeroom in grades 3-5. We spent 2 or 3 class periods reviewing and preparing for the state mandated online assessment. Our students in grades 3-6 were well prepared and handled their assessments like champs! We are proud to announce that **ALL** students in Samuel Mickle School are using their Google accounts and Chromebooks on a daily basis for a variety of reasons. Third grade students utilized Google Docs for parts of their Young Author books. Fourth grade have been using Google Classroom and Docs to construct their writing prompts. Our teachers have embraced 2 Google add-ons known as Flubaroo and Goobric to score writing assignments online as well. All classes in every grade level have had fun with problem solving and strategy by playing online, interactive "Escape Games" on the Hooda Math website. The fifth grade had several mini-lessons on how to do online research, narrow search results, determine which information online is true and reliable. Sixth grade will soon begin working on a very special and collaborative Farewell Project over the remaining weeks of the school year using Google Slides. Our students are technology rockstars and I couldn't be more proud of them! Please feel free to visit my website during the summer break for many fun and educational

websites: <http://mrsgraysms.weebly.com>

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

Physical Education

Happy Spring everyone, I hope everyone is enjoying the nicer weather. Our units in PE have been Volleyball, Tennis, and Baseball along with some of the student's favorite games of Line Bowling, Hula Hut Bowling, and Team Bowling. The students all got the chance to use a pedometer in PE class and we tracked everyone's steps and converted them to miles as a school we walked 620 miles. The students have done very well remembering their sneakers but as the weather gets nicer please no sandals on PE days. In Health we covered topics about Alcohol, Tobacco, Drugs, Sportsmanship and the Body Systems. Thank you for your support with JDRF our total was \$8511, our school received a check for \$851 of which will be used for field day on June 9th with a rain date of June 12th. This year our special activities because of our success with JDRF will be a DJ, Moon bounce and an inflatable slide. Field Day will have a new location this June. It will be back by the Mickle playground, more information will come home closer to the time.

Thank you,
Diane O'Malley and Kevin DeVillasanta.

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



General Music



The third graders have focused on the following topics: do pentatonic scale, differences between beat and rhythm, time signatures, and how to notice typical characters seen on a music staff. Vocabulary include: treble clef, bar line, double bar line, music staff, time signature, measures, meter, and repeat signs. From this, students have created a four measure composition in two beat meter. We are about to perform this composition on percussive instruments with a partner. For the remainder of the year we will continue adding the building blocks to learning how to read music on the staff in preparation for next year.

Fourth grade ended the third marking period with an AMAZING recorder performance. The students have been continuously working hard since the beginning of this year to this moment and I am so proud of them. Every student in fourth grade received (and played) at least three belt songs. This year we even had two rainbow belts- a big congratulations to Aidan Quach and Haley Brown! For the remainder of this year, students will learn the second level of music street. We will use this fun story as a tool to take their musicianship to the next level. Topics will include sixteenth notes, eighth notes followed by sixteenths, intermediate melodic patterns with sight singing, and internal/external upbeats. All lessons include movement, visuals, singing, notation, and more.

Fifth grade has been working on higher level notation and theory. With this, we have participated in composition projects, sight singing activities, movement activities, and audiation. For the fourth marking period, we will segue into listening exercises. Topics include: genre, tempo, dynamics, instrumentation, mood, song meanings, personal opinions and why, tonality, as well as a lesson about the Star Spangled Banner.

Sixth grade started off the year in the beginning of where music all began the medieval times. We continued through the years during the school year and made our way to fourth marking period which is all about 21st century music skills. We do this so we can learn to appreciate the music we have and how we got here. At the end of third marking period, we listened to the song, "Sandstorm" by Darude, which is a song entirely made from a computer. We ended third marking period with a rap project- and boy did the students have fun with this. They had to create a topic, write the lyrics, figure out the rhythm that went with their lyrics, and perform it. For the remainder of the year we have two projects to complete, which will all include using our chromebooks to make electronic music.

Chorus Club is just about ready for their performances coming up. All selections are diverse in different styles, languages, divisi, and difficulty. We are particularly lucky to have the percussion members of 6th grade band join the 6th chorus in an African spiritual that they will be singing in swahili. Their hard work will be shown on May 16th in our spring season concert. I am very proud of them and I can't wait for everyone to see how talented they all are.

Thank you for a great year!

Alexa Zimmerman, General Music

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For more information on anything General Music or Chorus Ensembles, please check out EGMusic.Weebly.com

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC FIFTH GRADE

The Fifth Grade Band, who began learning their instruments in September, are coming together as an ensemble and are looking forward to demonstrating their skills at the upcoming Spring Concert which will be held at the Eitel Theater in Kingsway Regional High School at 7:00 on June 2nd.

After the students have mastered the skills needed to properly assemble, care for, and

produce tones on their instrument, they have from there progressed to acquiring the skills necessary for conquering ever more challenging tasks in the form of endurance, in-tune tone production, music notation, rhythms, dynamics and articulation.

Playing a wind instrument not only requires the use of the fingers and arms to operate, but also requires breath control and manipulation of the tongue, mouth muscles forming the embouchure in order to articulate and re-create music accurately and faithfully.

After learning these skills, a music student will have the ability to make their own music. This is a skill that will last a lifetime and be with you long after other activities have been forgotten.

The Fifth Grade Band is looking forward to returning in September to form the Sixth Grade Band. Besides our Winter and Spring Performances, a trip to perform at an adjudicated music festival is scheduled for the Sixth Grade Band next year, which is followed by an afternoon at Six Flags Great Adventure. To learn more, read on...

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC SIXTH GRADE

We have been hard at work preparing our band music literature for concert performance and look forward to performing at our Spring Concert parent performance scheduled for June 1st. We will also perform twice for Mickle Staff & Students.

Following the concert, the Sixth Grade Band has scheduled an all-day field trip to attend and perform at The High-Note Band Festival on June 2nd where schools in attendance perform selections for adjudicators who record audio critiques of the band's performance while following the conductor's scores for each piece performed.

The Bands are Rated on categories such as Tone, Intonation, Technique, Interpretation, Balance, Musical repertoire.

Following the performance, a trophy is presented, and the day continues with an afternoon at Six Flags Great Adventure!

I am confident the Band will score well during the Festival performance. They have regularly exceeded my expectations and risen to the challenge of mastering the difficult music assigned.

Besides our usual array of percussion instruments such as drums, tambourine, triangle, and cymbals; some special instruments are used in the percussion section for some numbers. For

instance, we employ a new set of professional castanets for an authentic effect during *España Cañi (gypsy dance)*. Our percussionists will also use a new “slapstick” which simulates the crack of a whip heard in the performance of *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

Our Percussion section has been invited as guest artists to accompany the Choir in their spectacular rendition of the African Spiritual *O Sifuni Mungu*. You will hear the African Drum, Bongos, Cabasa, Claves, and Agogo Bells. Look for them at the Choir Performance on May 16th!

I am very proud of the accomplishments of the band and hope to see many band members continuing their music education through Kingsway.

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

Library-

The library has been very busy and filled with lots of fun learning activities! Your children enthusiastically celebrated *Poetry Month* in April by learning about various forms of poetry, creating their own unique poem and sharing it with their classmates in our *Open Mic Poetry Slam* at the end of the month. Mrs. Wordelmann and I ended the month of festivities by coordinating our first annual *Poem in Your Pocket Day* event in which students took their poem to various businesses to share for a treat or prize. The overwhelmingly positive feedback proved it was a fantastic idea and great success!



On Wednesday, May 17th, our **BUY 1 GET 1 FREE Book Fair** will begin and run through Wednesday, May 24th. Family night for the book fair will be Tuesday, May 23rd from 4:00-7:30 pm, coinciding with many other wonderful activities our school has planned for that evening. (*Last chance book purchases must be made before 11:00 am on Thursday, May 25th because the book fair has to be packed up immediately after that time.*)

The last week of school, I plan to celebrate my first *amazing year* with my students! I will show a year-in-review slideshow presentation, provide fun activities and hopefully have enough donated books to allow every student to select one to take home for summer reading!

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

Strings

Over the past few months, we have spent a large amount of time preparing for the Spring Concert! Students are reflecting on all they have learned throughout the year such as technique, notation reading, ensemble balance and also their own individual goals that were met. Even though the year is coming to an end, Ms Wyatt is constantly helping students evaluate themselves and measure their growth from lesson to lesson. Ms Wyatt has been working hard all year on developing a strings program with different elements of music present. This will be shown in the spring concert. Students will performing “Majestic March” and “Spring” by Vivaldi. This style of music displays more neat, shorter sounding notes with upbeat melodies. Students have been trained on how to achieve this sound quality with their bow. - A challenging technical achievement! There will also be other songs that are more modern, such as “Rain Dance” which shows fiddle techniques; Faster tempos and intense string crossings. Ms Wyatt also arranged another piece that features rock music from the 60’s-80’s. This piece is a collection of musicians who inspired Ms Wyatt when she was a child. Students have taken a liking to the rock and roll style of music and have recreated some old popular songs through the use of orchestral instruments! In lessons, students have compared and contrasted these styles of music in brief discussions. Ms Wyatt is going to spend the remainder of the year developing goals for next year with students while continuing to practice notation reading, bow skills as an ensemble/individually, sound quality and more!

- Ms Wyatt, Strings Teacher,
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