

A "Special" Update

Trimester 1, 2019



ART Education

We are having a fantastic beginning to the 2019-20 school year. Students have constructed portfolios and completed their first 3 projects. Each grade level has completed several drawing challenges. I am quite pleased with the level of self pride and effort students have put forth. Drawing involves critical thinking. We use high level math skills, analyze size, shape and space relationship. Art class can be fun but also challenging, even a bit frustrating. To counterbalance these tough assignments we explored the abstract art of Wassily Kandinsky, who turned to abstract painting to ease the tensions of his daily job and was forever changed by the experience. We viewed many of Kandinsky's paintings and produced our own too; what a mindful experience!

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

Physical Education

The students have been very busy for the start of the new school year. The activities we have participated in are: Recess Activities, Team Building, Soccer, Fitness Testing, Hockey, Kings Court, Line Bowling, and Hula Hut. Each month we have 2 Health classes in a classroom setting with our individual classes. In December, our unit is Kick Ball, and in January our unit is Basketball.

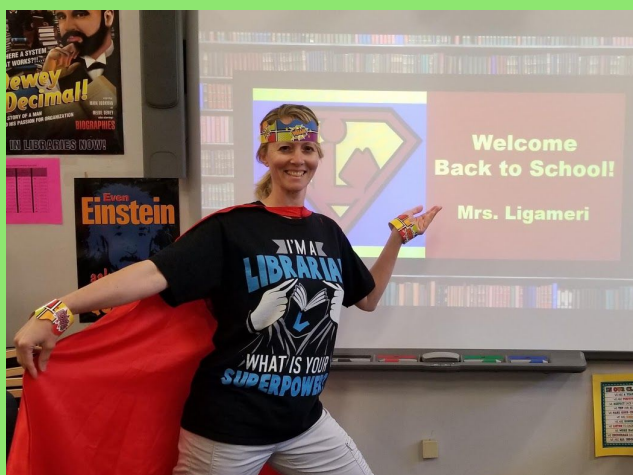
Thank you for sending in a donation to JDRF. We were able to raise \$4,000 for JDRF. As a thank you gift, JDRF will be sending us a \$400 check to be used towards something special for Field Day.

Happy Holidays,

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

Library

- ★ This year's theme is the SUPER LIBRARY where everyone can be a *superhero* by showing *super* character and unleashing their own *super* powers!
- ★ The Library has been very busy as usual! In September we held our Arctic Fall Scholastic Book Fair and it was a huge success! Thanks to your support we almost made \$16,000 in sales, of which 55% comes back to our Library to purchase books and other resources!
- ★ In October, students in grades 4-6 wrote and shared their creative writing pieces during our Annual *Share & Scare*, while the 3rd grade practiced various library skills and enjoyed stories around our campfire.
- ★ All students participated in an amazing lesson with true stories about military veterans and animals, and honored their own family members by sharing who has proudly served our country and other countries around the world.
- ★ Currently, grades 3 and 4 are learning about Tony Sarg and the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade from the book, *Balloons over Broadway* by Melissa Sweet. Fifth grade is learning about how Sarah Hale saved Thanksgiving from the book, *Thank You, Sarah Hale* by Laurie Halse Anderson. Sixth grade is working together to create online quizzes to help learn important facts in a fun way, here are two great resources they are utilizing: Kahoot: <https://kahoot.com/>; Quizizz: <https://quizizz.com/join>
- ★ It has been wonderful to watch the students work so well together and display great character each week. I anxiously await many more fun and educational lessons to come this year!
- ★ I will gladly accept any book donations throughout the year to grow our library and also help supply books for another *free book* giveaway event for all of our students later this year.
- ★ Check out my website at <http://mrsligamerislibrary.weebly.com>
- ★ Feel free to contact me anytime with any questions or concerns at ligameris@eastgreenwich.nj.us





General Music



Hi Parents! We began this year diving right into a jam-packed, yet meaningful curriculum. Here is what we have done and are about to do:

- 3rd Grade: Students have started off the year learning the beginnings of the Do Pentatonic scale! This is a five-note scale, and we have already mastered two of those notes and just began to learn the third. We have worked on sight singing, aural skills, notation, as well as composition on xylophones!
- 4th Grade: We began this year jumping right into learning the notes on the staff in preparation for the recorder. Students will begin learning how to play the recorder soon. Stay tuned for information regarding our recorder concert in April!
- 5th Grade: Instrument families have been the focus since the beginning of the year. We have learned instrument timbres, construction, orchestra facts, and the physics of their sounds. Right now the fifth graders are working on a composition project utilizing pitched and non-pitched percussion instruments. This project is very complex but fun! Students are working in groups to compose duet pieces and will play them on percussion instruments for the class.
- 6th Grade: Sixth grade has started this year learning about the origins of music! We started off in the Medieval period and learned the beginnings of music notation, how we came up with a “scale” and the first original instruments to ever exist. Since then, we have learned about the Renaissance, Baroque, and Classical periods. We will continue into the Romantic and Impressionist periods before continuing into the Modern era. Our goal is to find out how we got to where we are today.

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, Zimmermana@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us

SPANISH CLASS ¿Qué pasa? What’s happening?

Hola Parents! This school year we kicked off by celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15 through October 15. Students in all grades learned the names of the countries where Spanish is spoken, through music. We also learned about the life of César Chávez, a Mexican American civil rights leader. Third and fourth grades enjoyed an art class during Spanish and had the opportunity to paint the flag of a Spanish speaking country.

In October, I had the opportunity to see many of our *familias* and *estudiantes* during our Multicultural Night. This event was a wonderful way to meet many members of our school family and celebrate our diverse community. It was my pleasure to prepare one of my family's favorite foods, Spanish rice. I loved seeing so many students and families enjoying a new food adventure! Thank you to all who participated!

Currently students are working on their conversational Spanish. We are focusing on asking others how they feel (¿Cómo estás?) and expressing our emotions. We love learning through play. In class we often use vocabulary games to help us review. Most recently the students have been using puppets to practice their mini-conversations! My teacher page has links to the vocabulary we practice in class, along with music and video resources that we use to help us practice our español. I encourage your child to practice their Spanish using Quizlet, by following the links on my page.

Thanks for your support and involvement!

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

STRINGS MUSIC

Strings lessons have been going well; we are learning about reading musical notation and being able to do this in larger sections.

The strings students are quickly developing their skills as ensemble performers and individual musicians as they work toward caroling and/or the Give a Gift performance.

3rd Grade - Students at this grade level are learning how to be part of their future ensemble - the string orchestra.

Students are being challenged to count out loud and play with the bow together in small and large groups.

4th Grade - Students have started demonstrating accurate playing and building on past skills and continuing to work with the book and to read additional music.

5th Grade - Students have started demonstrating accurate playing and building on past skills and continuing to work with the book, to read additional music and to build advanced skills requiring them to play quickly on all.

6th Grade - Students are modeling advanced skills and continue to play and build on past skills including low 2nd finger vs. high 2nd finger and music theory. We are also continuing to work with the book, to read additional music and to develop these advanced skills.

The 5th and 6th grade groups rehearse once per cycle and we are focusing on learning newer and more advanced material.

5th & 6th Grade Strings Ensemble students will perform during "Give a Gift Night" on December 5th.

For a more detailed description of lessons and concerts/performance opportunities, please visit my teacher page:

<https://sites.google.com/eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us/eastgreenwichstrings/home>

For any questions please don't hesitate to contact me at: stewartj@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC (Band)

The **5th Grade Band** is off to a great start this year! After two months of lessons and our first(!) rehearsals, the students are beginning to master the fundamentals of sound production and note reading, along with learning how to play as an ensemble. For the rest of the school year, the 5th graders will have one lesson and two rehearsals (Mon/Thu after school) per week.

Students are encouraged to practice every day (minimum 100 minutes per week), referring to their practice charts in the back of the lesson book. Parents should sign the practice chart before each lesson.

I look forward to a great first year with the 5th Grade Band, culminating in the Spring Concert on May 28!

The **6th Grade Band** has been on a roll so far this year. They are working hard in their lessons and at rehearsals (Wed/Fri after school) in preparation for the Winter Concert on December 19th. They will also be performing two concerts for the school during the morning of December 12th.

It is very important that all 6th grade band members practice consistently at home (minimum 100 minutes per week) in these final weeks leading up to the concerts.

Spring 2020 will be an exciting time for the 6th grade band, with the Spring Concert in May and the Six Flags Performance Festival in June!

For more information, feel free to email me at gillespiem@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us or visit my website at

<https://samuelmickleband.weebly.com/>