

# A "Special" Update February 2018



## ART Education

Art Classes at Mickle has been quite challenging this marking period! Third Grade students completed sunset silhouette paintings. Students also had a visit from the KRHS art students to assist them in drawing the front covers to their Young Author books. This is a tradition in East Greenwich that has been enjoyed by third grades for 30 years now! Grade 4 students did beautiful work drawing trees and birds in a winter landscape and have just completed a snowflake cutting kaleidoscope design! Grade 5 Student explored monochromatic color painting to render a mountain range and trees in a snowstorm. Grade 5 is now creating a radial symmetry on aluminum foil repousse'. Grade 6 did the most incredible job making masks; their hard work is commendable! Grade 6 is now hard at work exploring animal figures to design and draw a dragons. These dragons appear in the yearbook, and a few select dragons are printed on their field day T-shirts- this is a another tradition that we have done in grade 6 for 25 years!

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## Physical Education

The students hit the ground running for the 2nd trimester. Ms. O'Malley returned November 15th. The units we have done in the gym are hockey, kick ball, basketball and throwing games such as line bowling, tee bowling and team bowling. Our health topics have been nutrition and alcohol awareness. Our next units will be volleyball, tennis and a school favorite battleship. Any questions please contact us.

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## Library

- ★ It is hard to believe the year is half over already, but we have been very busy in the Library! We completed our *Wonder*-ful Acts of Kindness Contest in October and sent 4 lucky winners to see the movie *Wonder* in November. Many other students shared that they also went to the movie and have continued to perform acts of kindness, such as writing kind notes in our library and leaving them inside books for other students to find!
- ★ After our very successful Fall Scholastic Book Fair, I was able to purchase MANY new books, including 36 additional copies of *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio just for teachers to use in their classrooms.
- ★ Five lucky winners were able to provide two hermit crabs each a great home before the winter holidays.
- ★ I hope your children are coming home each week and sharing what they are learning in the Library! We have enjoyed a wide variety of lessons, stories about veterans (Gail Halvorsen and military animals, Sergeant Reckless and Layka); an interdisciplinary lesson on *T'was the Night Before Christmas* which was utilized in the Spanish version the following week during Spanish classes; the extraordinary life of P. T. Barnum in which students created and presented their own circus flyers; Winter Olympic Trivia and this week all Library classes were introduced to the book, *The Potato Chip Champ* by Maria Dismondy. It is a great book about good character, promoting kindness and acceptance, in preparation for next week's *Great Kindness Challenge*. Thanks to Mrs. Wordelmann, students in our school and Jeffrey Clark were able to participate in an author Skype with Maria Dismondy, which was an amazing experience! I can't wait to share some upcoming lessons to promote Black History, women and our presidents throughout the rest of this month.
- ★ I am also currently running the *Six Flags Reading Challenge*, in which students must document 6 hours of reading and return the form by Monday, February 26th. After that reading challenge is complete, I will be running the Blue Rocks and Philadelphia Soul reading challenges.
- ★ *Read Across America Week* is coming soon from Monday, February 26- Friday, March 2. We will have three dress-up days and students may invite one special someone to join them during their Library class that week! Flyers with additional information will be distributed next week.
- ★ 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.
- ★ We will continue to learn something new each week, all while having fun and being kind! Feel free to contact me anytime with any questions or concerns at [ligameris@eastgreenwich.nj.us](mailto:ligameris@eastgreenwich.nj.us)
- ★ -Stacey Ligameri, Librarian

## 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** is continuing to work on ear training and sight singing. They are currently able to sight sing and listen for melodies that include do, mi, so, and la solfege syllables. We will continue reviewing these melodies, but then adding "re" to complete the "Do Pentatonic Scale." There will be a composition project using these intervals as well as an introduction into learning sixteenth notes.

**Fourth grade** has received their recorders and they have begun Recorder Karate! We already have a lot of white belts, yellow belts, and a few orange belts already! Please check my website for rules of Recorder Karate and how students can progress through the program. Our concert is coming up in April for parents! Look out for a letter with more information.

**Fifth grade** The students have completed learning about the instrument families. They understand the differences and how unique each instrument family is. We are now moving on to world music. Our first stop is Africa where we will learn the culture as well as take part in our very own drum/percussion circle!

The **sixth grade** has finished learning about music history! We have gone from the Medieval period to our Modern period, and the students understand how we got to where we are today. We will now begin participating in musical projects that reflect the music of today. Our first project is called "STOMP," which is a composition project that uses "non-traditional" instruments (trash cans, basketballs, etc.). Please check my website for more details.

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](http://EGMusic.Weebly.com) We already started the year off on a great "note!" For any questions please don't hesitate to contact me!

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## **SPANISH CLASS** ¿Qué pasa? What's happening?

Hola Parents! Your children have been reviewing and practicing our high frequency words as part of our Basics Review Unit this second trimester. Vocabulary in this unit include the colors, days of the week, months of the year, counting and using numbers, and questions and phrases often used in class. Students especially enjoy the games centers like Bingo and Memory, and practicing their classroom skit while at the puppet theatre center. In class we have been using our vocabulary in centers. Students have been learning how to write a friendly letter in Spanish. Also, as part of our Great Kindness Challenge we are busy writing conversation hearts in Spanish to spread kindness throughout our school!

Instead of a unit test, I will be assessing what your child "Can Do" in class and at centers, using online quizzes, and rating scales. Please be sure to check out my Spanish class website to view the rubric for this unit, **Can Do** scales, along with Quizlet and other sites, and videos and music that your child can access to practice the unit vocabulary.

Homework logs and vocabulary reference sheets were handed out the first week of 2018. Students are encouraged to practice our unit vocabulary, referring to their Spanish homework log. Students can select from the unit vocabulary what they need to practice each week. For example, they may select to review vocabulary we practiced in class, or at their center; or they may select vocabulary that they will see at a center in the following lesson(s). In español we have a saying, "La practica hace al maestro," meaning, "Practice makes a master" ...keep practicing boys and girls!

Thanks for your support and involvement!

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## **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC FIFTH GRADE**

The Fifth Grade band are quickly developing their skills as ensemble performers and individual musicians.

The group rehearses twice weekly altogether as a group as well as once weekly in a small group instrumental lesson.

Fifth Grade band students will perform in the Spring Concert on May 31st including the 6th Grade Band and 4th Grade Choir Chimes. The 5th Grade Band members are anxious to develop their repertoire in preparation for their first public performance at the Spring Concert Thursday May 31, 2018 which will take place on the stage in the Kingsway High School Auditorium. The fifth Grade Band then looks forward to their chance to put on a Winter Performance next year as experienced 6th Grade Band Members.

## **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC SIXTH GRADE**

Congratulation to the 6th grade band on their Winter Concert performance. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are on a roll preparing for their Spring Concert performance May 31st. We have introduced/progressed on new music every week in small group lessons and are working on putting it all together in band class.

Skills at this level are introduced rapidly, and the talents of this band continue to develop rapidly. Each section of the band was be highlighted at the Winter concert.

Currently we are working on developing an entirely new repertoire of songs in preparation for our next public performance: The Spring Concert Thursday May 31, 2018 which will take place on the stage in the Kingsway High School Auditorium.

Our efforts moving forward include working to prepare to perform at the adjudicated High Notes Band Festival on June 1st. This field trip includes the opportunity to compete in performance, followed by an afternoon at Great Adventure. More info to come!

To increase our chances for success: students are encouraged to practice every day, referring to their homework assignment sheets which lists exactly what should be learned and practiced at home during the week, until the next instrumental lesson.

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