

A "Special" Update

Trimester 2, 2019-2020



ART Education

The school year is half way through and we have accomplished so much!

Students across the grade levels have used a variety of materials, watercolor paint, scratch art etching, and foil relief while learning about 8 point symmetry modeled after Moroccan tiles and African quilt patterns.

We are continuously increasing our drawing skills with drawing challenges. Sixth grade has finished their annual dragon drawings and now move on to the mask unit. Students across grade levels will all begin work on a variety of clay projects.

The third grade students are hard at work on the Young Authors Project, this year they will join the 6th grade students to buddy up and work on the illustrations for the front cover.

Mural club has been super busy in multiple locations including our latest mural for kindness week.

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Physical Education

The students have been working hard this school year, and have gotten a lot done. This trimester, in phys. ed., students played basketball, different kickball games, Battleship 2.0, and volleyball. Some activities that we have coming up in the second half of the trimester are tennis, Battleship, and a foul shot contest for the Hoops for Hornets Basketball Game Assembly at the end of March. Each month we have 2 health classes in the science lab. Some topics students learned about in health are social and emotional health, wellness, drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, safety, conflict management, and goal setting.

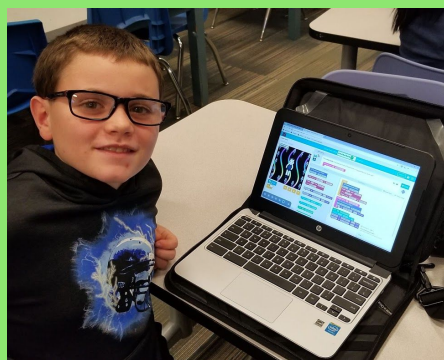
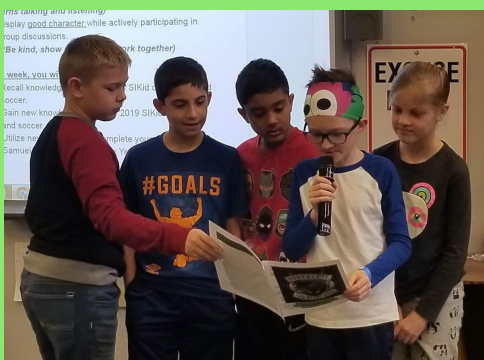
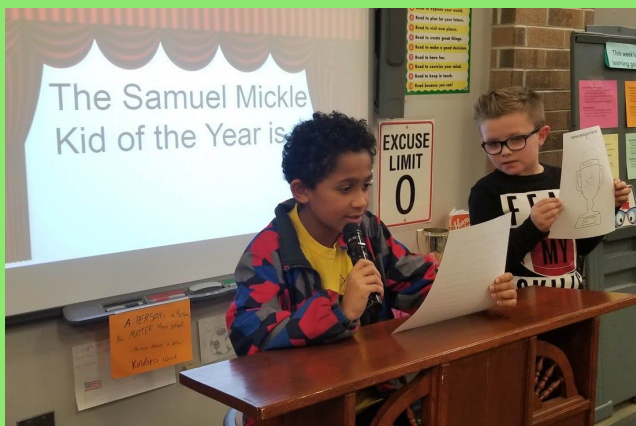
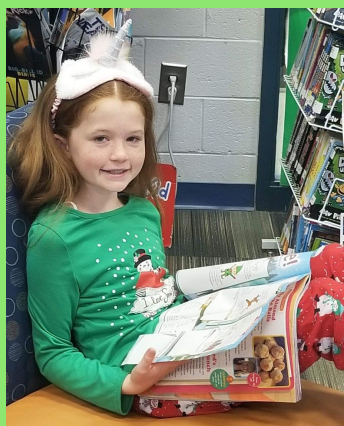
Thank you for sending in a donation to JDRF. We were able to raise \$4,000 for JDRF. As a thank you gift, JDRF will be sending us a \$400 check to be used towards something special for Field Day.

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

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

Library

- ★ The Library continues to be very busy! In December, we had many lessons including coding, the Chocolate Pilot (Gail Halvorsen), the history of winter holidays and the sixth grade tested their classmates' knowledge of each other through fun quizzes.
- ★ In January, students participated in book tastings and excitedly checked out hundreds of new books we have purchased this school year. We also learned about the *Sports Illustrated Kid of the Year* (Ally Senter) and worked on various grade level projects with each student presenting themselves as the *Samuel Mickle Kid of the Year*. It has been wonderful to see the positivity and encouragement they display as they learned fun facts about their classmates. In preparation for Kindness Week, we shared the book, *Horton Hears a Who* and performed various acts of kindness.
- ★ I look forward to our upcoming President and Black History Month lessons.
- ★ Read Across America will be celebrated Monday, March 2nd- Friday, March 6th. You will be receiving a flyer with additional information and a permission slip to have a special someone join your student during their library class that week. We will enjoy reading time and several Dr. Seuss inspired activities.
- ★ Periodically, I also include additional free reading and writing time, as well as maker activities. I am currently creating a Young Author's section, where students can display books they have written. 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> and feel free to contact me anytime with any questions or concerns at ligameris@eastgreenwich.nj.us





General Music



Hi Parents! Look at what your children have accomplished, and are preparing to do in music class!!

- 3rd Grade: Students have continued the year learning about the Do Pentatonic scale! This is a five-note scale, and we have mastered all five of those notes. We have worked on sight singing, aural skills, notation, as well as composition on xylophone.
- 4th Grade: Students are learning about the recorder. They have learned proper care, how to hold the recorder, and have learned several notes in order to play songs. They are continuing to learn about proper air control. Students earn "belts" in Recorder Karate by playing songs for the teacher. Students will be playing a concert coming up on April 1. All are invited to attend!!
- 5th Grade: Students are learning how to become better musicians by way of Bucket Drumming. Students receive a bucket drum, learn proper stick techniques, and drum to various genres of music. Students dissect a piece of music, and tell the teacher what is to be played, what beats they are played on, and how to play correctly.
- 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 Medieval through the Romantic periods. Students are now preparing to compose their own rhythms to perform.

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!

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Matthew Jordan, Substitute General Music teacher jordanm@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us

SPANISH CLASS ¿Qué pasa? What's happening?

Feliz Año Nuevo! Happy New Year! We started the 2nd trimester by incorporating the *Zones of Regulation*, a district approved, cognitive-behavioral approach that has the students asking themselves, *¿Cómo estás?* (How are you?). They're practicing answering with *Estoy feliz*, *Estoy mal*, *Estoy cansado* and more, and then regulating their feelings through self-selected mindfulness activities (like stretching, mindful breathing, doodling, quiet time, and more). ¡Muy bien, clase!

En diciembre, we learned about Christmas holiday traditions throughout the Spanish speaking world. As we turned the page to 2020 we have started our *World Travelers Unit* focusing on basic conversational topics. Our boys and girls are enjoying creating a *pasaporte*, that they will get to stamp as they memorize useful conversational questions and responses.

Highlighting Black History Month, our students will learn about the life and music of Afro-Cuban super-star and *Queen of Salsa*, Celia Cruz. Her inspirational journey reminds us to follow our dreams, no matter the challenges and setbacks we face. *"Raised in a humble home, the queen of Salsa was nothing but rich with charisma! Celia Cruz was one of those artists you stumble upon once in a blue moon, full of joy. Through the good and the bad, she was always displaying a good attitude and "La Vida Es Un Carnaval" is a perfect song that depicts her attitude towards life. "La Vida Es Un Carnaval" literally translates to "Life is a Carnival" and along with her backup singers, she sends us a message of positivity towards living a happy one"* ([Jasmine Calderon](#))

Along with Celia's positive message I send you my best wishes for a joy-filled 2020!

Thanks for your support and involvement!

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

STRINGS MUSIC

During strings lessons, we are increasing the students' ability to play longer pieces of music together as duets. The strings students are quickly developing their skills as ensemble performers and individual musicians as they work toward caroling and/or the String Performance during Arts night.

3rd Grade - Students at this grade level are working on reading new music more frequently and they are working on sound projection and parts of the string that will help them produce louder and quieter sounds.

4th Grade - Students are making a lot of progress with reading, as well as with new bow techniques that will allow for us to have a variety of different sounds we can produce with the instrument. They are also becoming more familiar with the other strings and when to use the 4th finger vs the open string.

5th Grade - Students are learning a great deal of music theory and notes on the G string, which features lots of ledger lines.

6th Grade - Students are modeling advanced skills and techniques, proficiency in reading on all strings, understanding accidentals and key signatures.

The 5th and 6th grade groups rehearse once per cycle and we are focusing on maintaining independence as musicians while we engage in tougher, more challenging music.

All strings students will perform during "Arts Night" on Tuesday, May 19th, 2020.

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 continuing their hard work and progress this year! We kicked off 2020 with the start of our practice competition. Each lesson group will compete to see which has the best home practice habits. Every week, we will have one or more winners. The group that wins the most weeks by the end of the school year will be earning a prize! Hopefully this friendly competition will be fun and help all of the students improve their practice habits.

Please remind your son/daughter to bring their instrument and music to school for their weekly lesson and after school rehearsals (Mondays/Thursdays). The lessons help to hone specific individual instrumental skills, while the rehearsals help the band learn to perform as an ensemble.

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

Following a successful Winter Concert in December, the **6th Grade Band** has begun 2020 by starting to learn a great deal of new music. The students have also been practicing hard in preparation for their auditions in February. These auditions help to establish part and seating assignments for the new band music, while providing an important opportunity for individual assessment.

It is very important that all 6th grade band members practice consistently at home (minimum 100 minutes per week) throughout the winter and spring, working on both the new band music and weekly lesson book assignments.

Exciting things are on the horizon for the 6th grade band, with the Spring Concert on May 28 and the High Note Festival performance (Six Flags) on June 5!

For more information, feel free to email me at gillespiem@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us or visit my website at <https://samuelmickleband.weebly.com/>