

A “Special” Update October 2018



ART Education

We've had a wonderful start this school year. Students across grades 3-6 kicked off the year with radial symmetry designs, which form a class honeycomb when assembled together. These designs correlate with written passages by each student on our 6 character traits. After this we, “Rocked the school” with “Character Rocks”! This was a collaborative project with our school librarian, Stacy Ligimeri, and rocks donated by Rock Products. We used the 6 points of character to write secret messages on rocks that were uniquely painted by each student. This was truly an exciting project! Click below to see photos. The next part of the trimester will be packed with drawing. I encourage students to practice!

Our 6th Grade Mural club is in full swing with a visit to Jeffrey Clark to paint their “Bee your best” Mural. 4th and 5th grade art clubs are meeting during recess this year. Every Homeroom class comes for 2 one month sessions. So far we have a full house and many students anxious for their month to come!

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Physical Education

Physical Education classes have been going well. The students have done a lot of units so far, such as, recess activities, line bowling, hula hut bowling, soccer, and fitness testing. Our next units will be kickball, hockey, and basketball. Our health topics have been drug and alcohol awareness to coincide with Red Ribbon Week. Students will be learning about community health with the JDRF fundraiser and walk. The walk will take place on October 26, and we will send out an online sign up. If you would like to see your child walk that day, please volunteer. Our next health units will be wellness and nutrition. If you have Any questions please contact us.

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Library

- ★ The Library has had a very busy start to the school year! As you know, in September we held our Enchanted Fall Scholastic Book Fair and it was a huge success! Thanks to your support we made \$15,048 in sales. 55% of that amount comes back to our Library to purchase books and other resources!
- ★ Our year long theme is *Libraries ROCK!* to correlate with the exciting Learning/Rock Garden Project that is currently underway. I will expand the theme to include how everything *ROCKS*, including character, books, writing, the students and much more!
- ★ Students in grades 4-6 are currently sharing writing pieces during our Share & Scare in the Haunted Library and 3rd grade will enjoy a story around our campfire. It has been wonderful to watch the students work so well together!
- ★ 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 demonstrating great character!
- ★ Check out my new website at <http://mrsligamerislibrary.weebly.com>
- ★ Feel free to contact me anytime with any questions or concerns at 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 working on ear training and sight singing. They are currently able to sight sing and listen for melodies that include mi, so, and la solfege syllables. We will continue reviewing these melodies, but then adding “do” and “re” with a goal 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 been working hard on learning music notation in preparation to play the recorder! Please check my website for rules of the program called “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 are busy learning about the instrument families. They are learning the differences between each family and how unique each instrument is. We are spending time a good amount of time learning about the orchestra and how important it was to our music history as well. Currently fifth grade is participating in a pretty complex composition project utilizing pitched and non-pitched percussion instruments.

Sixth grade is learning all about music history. We began in the Medieval Period where the beginnings of music was discovered. We have since segued into the Renaissance and Baroque periods. The rest of the trimester will include the Classical and Romantic periods. We are on our way to really diving into how we got to where we are in today’s music.

For more information about how the grading policy 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! Our Spanish classes started the school year by celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month which begins on September 15 and lasts through October 15th. Students had the opportunity to celebrate our 21 Spanish speaking countries through music, mapping, and video clips. We have also been focusing on reviewing our Spanish classroom basics. Vocabulary in this unit includes classroom objects, questions and phrases often used in class, and asking and responding to weather related questions. Students enjoyed singing and acting the weather phrases with our, "*Que tiempo hace hoy?*" song. In the upcoming weeks we will complete our basics review of the colors, days of the week, months of the year, colors, counting and using numbers.

This week our students will learn about the holiday, ***Días de los Muertos***, which is a time to celebrate loved ones who have passed away. Your children are looking forward to our Spanish class movie day, with ***The Book of Life*** (5th and 6th grades) and ***Coco*** (3rd and 4th grades). Please have your child turn in their signed movie permission slip as soon as possible.

Each week the students will bring their HAB's to Spanish class to write down their homework (to review and study our vocabulary for the unit). Please visit my staff webpage to access detailed information on rubrics and grading. Your child(ren) should be able to access my webpage on their own in order to review what we are learning using the Quizlet online flashcards, and music and videos for practice and enrichment. The vocabulary guide is also in a plastic sleeve in their HAB/binder. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

Gracias for your support and involvement!

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

STRINGS MUSIC

The strings students are quickly developing their skills as ensemble performers and individual musicians.

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 use their bows, to read music.

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.

6th Grade - Students are modeling advanced skills and continue to play and build on past skills and continuing to work with the book, to read additional music and to develop advanced skills.

The 5th and 6th grade group rehearses once weekly altogether as a group as well as once weekly in a small group instrumental lesson.

Fifth & 6th Grade Strings Ensemble students will perform in the Winter Showcase on December 13th.

For more information about how grading breaks down and 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!: stewartj@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us