

# DMCS Specialist Newsletter

November 2019

## Music Musings



In November, students began working on their Christmas Concert Music. Preschool through 5th Grade as well as the 5th grade Band will perform a variety of Advent & Christmas music at the DMCS Christmas Concert on **Tuesday, December 17 at 1:00 pm & 6:30 pm in the BA Van Orsow Auditorium**. For the evening performance, students will meet their teacher in the designated location at BA by 6:15 pm. Students will wear dress code for the day performance and dress up for the evening concert.



~ Mrs. Kuklok

## ART NEWS

Time is flying by in the DMCS art room! The seasons are changing quickly, and we are excited about the upcoming holidays. Angels are always a part of our art curriculum in November, along with winter themed projects.

Kindergarten Readiness artists painted some awesome snow people. This project was inspired by my own experience as child. KR students are currently working on collage angels inspired by Tomie dePaola's book *Angels, Angels, Everywhere*.

First graders practiced still-life drawing and water colored their creations. Learning to draw helps build self-confidence in a student's artistic abilities and the children really enjoyed the assignment. They are also working on creating some watercolor angels.

Our second-grade artists created two rainbow art projects, one 3D piece out of construction paper and the other with markers, paper and imagination. These assignments help students to remember the primary and secondary colors while encouraging originality.

Third graders were introduced to Still-life drawing with a presentation that included several famous artists and their paintings. They recently completed their own still-life drawing and finished it with watercolors. Third grade is presently working on their angel watercolor art project.

This month 4<sup>th</sup> graders created a photo shoot background for their poseable self-portraits. They took turns presenting their art work to the class and it was a great way to find out more about these

young artists and their interests. Part of being an artist is expressing yourself and this was a great assignment for encouraging individuality and originality. They will start their 3D angels created out of model magic this week.

Fifth grade artists practiced a contour line exercise by drawing their hands. They also completed a still-life drawing and used water colors to finish the work. Students are completing a 2D angel project using information on the Catholic teaching of angels to guide their work.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Mrs.DeShane



# Physical Education ~ Mrs. Opsal

You should see the amazing catchers and throwers that are showing up every day in PE! Ask your child to demonstrate their throwing cues for you at home, and you will understand what I'm saying!

Kindergarten Readiness and Kindergarten students have been engaging in station work, bouncing and catching, and throwing underhand and overhand while maintaining balance. First and second graders have been working on hitting targets, along with catching self-tossed balls, and throwing and catching a variety of balls from a partner. Third graders are working on throwing for distance. Fourth and fifth graders are playing small-sided games involving throwing to a moving target, finding open space, closing open space, and working on offensive and defensive tactics.

All grade levels continuously work on chasing and fleeing skills each day during our instant warm-ups. Students are currently excited about "Gobble Gobble," a Thanksgiving favorite. They have been using their character strength of creativity to add different "levels" to the activities to make them more challenging. In the few weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas, we will be focusing on kicking and dribbling with the feet.



## Library News

Thank you to all the students and families for making the Fall Book Fair a success! Because of your support I was able to purchase many books from the Book Fair for our library and they are already in circulation. I will be using the remaining proceeds to purchase more books in the coming months. It was our biggest Fall Book Fair ever! I love watching the students pick out books and get excited about reading!

I love hearing suggestions from students when ordering new books for the library. If your child is looking for a specific book or series please have them ask me about it! I will try to add it to our library if possible.

Don't forget that we have a Little Free Library in front of our school. Please consider using it, especially with the upcoming holidays. If you have books to add to it, great! If you don't have books to add that's alright, too. Please feel free stop by and get books for your family. My

desire is for kids to have books to read! You may find some books for adults there too!

Mrs. Healy



## MEDIA BUZZ

### NEWS FROM MEDIA & ROBOTICS

November has been a month of preparation in the Technology Classroom. Early elementary students have been focusing on IXL diagnostics, gathering valuable data about their math and reading strengths to help their classroom teachers better serve their individual needs. Third grade has recently started a project in design looking at how cities are planned and managed. Fourth grade has been learning about note taking and research skills in advance of a research project in the coming weeks. Fifth grade continues to march forward in our 3D printing unit, and we are approaching the halfway point on their projects.



In robotics, we are preparing for our events this year, with the first on the 23rd of November and the second on the 7th of December. Event #1 is in Adams, MN at Southland High School, and event #2 will be held at the Loyola Catholic school campus in Mankato. Both are open to the public with no admission cost. This year our program has nearly 40 students participating between grades 4 and 12.

Mr. Robinson