

DMCS Specialist Newsletter

January 2020

Music Musings

Congratulations and thank you to the students that sang at our CSW Kickoff Mass on January 26th at Divine Mercy Catholic Church. We had over 40 students in the choir! They sounded fabulous!

♪ Kindergarten students have been working on playing instruments loud/soft, fast/slow and playing a rhythm pattern. We will start working on high & low sounds.

♪ 1st Graders have learned sol and mi, noted a song, and will begin writing their very own 2 pitch song that they will play on the xylophone!

♪ 2nd Graders are working on 3 pitch songs, learning to play them on the xylophone and add 2 accompaniment parts!

♪ 3rd Graders are working on how to read music as well as earning their black belt in Recorder Karate! Eleven of them already have their black belt!

♪ 4th Graders researched music genres and are now reviewing note reading so they can begin writing melodies!

♪ 5th Graders researched Native American Music and also reviewed note reading before creating a melodic variations.

Mrs. Kuklok



ART NEWS

Happy Catholic Schools Week from the art room! I am so happy that students at DMCS can create wonderful artwork and express their love for God in the classroom. It is truly a blessing to watch them grow into considerate and creative learners.

Kindergarten Readiness artists have been exploring primary colors and mixing those colors to create secondary colors. They printed several shapes on top of the paint to give the project their own personal touch.

Kindergarten artists were introduced to printmaking and created several mono prints. They completed their project by framing their artwork with yarn and paper mosaic tiles.

Artists in first grade are working to finish their 3D wood sculptures. They are adding base coats of paint and details to their creative creations.



A long-standing tradition for second graders is to create a clay chalice to commemorate their first communion in the spring. They are currently working on this project and have also been learning new watercolor techniques.

Our third-grade artists have been practicing their weaving skills. They are practicing patience and learning how to find mistakes and correct them.

Fourth graders were introduced to the artist Laurel Burch. They learned how she persevered through her debilitating disease to become a very successful artist. Students have created images inspired by her work and are using Batik (a method of producing colored designs on cloth by using wax to leave parts undyed) to complete the project.

Finally, our fifth-grade artists are learning how to design and create multiple prints. They are using linoleum cutting tools to carve their printing plate and will begin the printing process soon.

Mrs. DeShane



Physical Education ~

Mrs. Opsal

Students have been working on hand dribbling skills in PE this month. We began the unit by watching the amazing skills of the Harlem Globetrotters. Students were able to showcase their own “Harlem Globetrotters” ball handling and dribbling talents in front of the class if they chose to.

It has been fun to watch your child’s perseverance and grit shine through as they tried different dribbling and ball handling challenges. Different challenges included dribbling while catching a scarf/beanbag, dribbling while walking on a balance beam, dribbling while cup-stacking, dribbling while kicking and throwing, dribbling while rolling a tire, and trying to dribble more than one ball at once.

Kindergarten Readiness, Kindergarten, and first grade students have been trying to control the ball while dribbling more than once. Second grade students are perfecting the dribble by using a mature pattern (pads of fingers). Third through fifth graders worked on dribbling while engaging in other activities during “game play.” Their goal was to dribble while using other movement concepts, such as shooting, running, passing, and receiving. They also combined offensive and defensive skills.

Future winter lessons and skills include gymnastics, rhythm and dance, striking and volleying over a net, and striking with implements. Stay tuned!



Library News

This month we read about Martin Luther King, Jr.’s life. We talked about how much he did for our country and about the importance of what a person is like on the inside that matters.



We also read another Aesop’s Fable, “The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse”. We agreed that living a simpler life for the Country Mouse was better than living a life of trepidation in the city. Trepidation being our word of the week. Ask your child if they remember what this means.

Next week your student will be receiving a packet from Usborne Books representative Laura O’Connor regarding a Read-a-thon. This is an opportunity for your student to earn books by reading! Please take time to look over the information when it arrives and decide if your family would like to participate.

Mrs. Healy

MEDIA BUZZ

NEWS FROM MEDIA & ROBOTICS

Happy Catholic Schools Week! This year we are proud to have four of our robotics teams representing our school and Bethlehem Academy at the state tournament in St Cloud at the end of the week!

Alongside the bustle of Catholic School’s Week, we are also starting the second half of the year, gearing up into Quarter 3. Students are beginning to apply the lessons of the first half of the year as the focus shifts from “learning how”.

Third Grade has started their recipe flow charts, and their excitement is palpable. Fourth grade will be winding



up our presentations about computer parts in the next couple of weeks. Fifth grade is starting to dip into programming using a pair of VEX IQ robots in the classroom.

The lower grades continue to refine lessons in computer basics, keyboarding, and will soon be doing our digital safety unit.

Please pray for our Robotics teams traveling this Saturday and for a strong performance. The students who traveled to the world championship last year are hopeful about going back and we would love to take as much of our team as far as they can go.

Mr. Robinson

