

# DMCS Specialist Newsletter

February 2020

## Music Musings



February is the month of creating music!

Students in grades 1-5 did their music writing projects this month. First graders wrote a 2

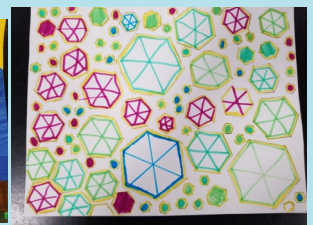
pitch song. Second graders wrote a 3 pitch song. Third & fourth Graders wrote songs that follow a given rhythm and pitch pattern. They also notated them on staff paper and drew a picture to describe their music. Fifth Graders wrote question and answer melodies, then learned how to use music writing computer software .

Kindergarten students worked on high/low sounds and learned a song about Jonah for their Mass on March 4. All students in Grades K-4 listened to the musical story "The Turtle" during book week. We talked about how the music helped tell the story.

Special dates to put on the calendar: **Sunday, May 3** All Students in Grades K-5 are invited to be the Choir at the DMCC 10:00 am Mass. **Wednesday, May 13** is Grandparent's Day and the Spring Concert!

Mrs. Kuklok

## ART NEWS



I really want to say Happy Spring, but we aren't quite there yet, so Happy February!

This month in the art room students have been creating pictures for our Original Works fundraiser. Students in grade K-5 were given free choice for their 2D artwork this year. Our Kindergarten Readiness students created heart art. Original Works packets will go home the end of March.

Students also created artwork for Scholarship night. Individual student work will be on display during Scholarship night on March 20<sup>th</sup>. We hope you can join us for this fun and important event.

I want to congratulate several DMCS students who were chosen to enter the Shine On Visual Art Competition. They are: Alina Mendoza-Garcia, Maxwell Wilson, Delaney Luckow, Olivia Erickson, Cecilia Azelton, Carter Brown, Claire Wisdo, Evelina Caldera, and Eleanor Hanson. If students are selected their work will appear at the Shine on Visual Art Show in March. Congratulations to our wonderful artists!

Mrs.DeShane

## Physical Education ~ Mrs. Opsal

We have been dancing and striking our way through February in PE!

Kindergarten Readiness and Kindergarten students have learned some basic dances, such as the Chicken Dance. They love dances that walk them through the motions, like the Goldfish Song by the Laurie Berkner Band, the Noble Duke of York by the Kiboomers, and A Very Simple Dance by Sesame Street. We have been working on maintaining our balance and following the simple rhythms of the dances.

First and Second grade students worked on more complex dances, such as the Mexican Hat Dance, the Bunny Hop, and the Cha Cha Slide. Third and Fourth grade students created their own dances in small groups and put on a dance routine for the class. It was so fun to watch their creativity and teamwork shine through! Fifth grade students continue to work on creating a whole-class dance. They have been working hard on perfecting their rhythm and time. We ended the unit with a fun "glow-in-the-dark" dance party, for all classes!

Along with dance this month, students have been working on striking. Kindergarten Readiness and Kindergarten are striking using body parts. First grade students are striking with short-handled implements. They have been creative, striking using bowling pins, frisbees, pool noodles, and pillow sticks. Second and third grade students are engaging in activities and games using hockey sticks. Fourth graders are in the midst of creating their own games using long-handled implements (hockey sticks, pool noodles, golf clubs, or baseball bats). It will be another opportunity for them to use their creativity. I have been working closely with the fourth grade teachers to have them write down the steps of their games and present them to the class so we can play them together. Fifth graders are having a blast playing mini games of floor hockey and pinball hockey.



## Library News

We had author Patrick Mader visit our school last week to celebrate Book Week. He has written a book about Minnesota Olympians called Minnesota Gold that he shared with 4th and 5th grade. He talked about his love for the Olympics and what amazing athletes we have in Minnesota. One of the highlights was hearing about the 1980 USA hockey team and his interview with Buzz Schneider. It was also fascinating to see how science has affected sports like ski jumping. Ask your 4th or 5th grader about the video we saw! Patrick has also written children's books about life in Minnesota. He shared Oma & Opa Together and Oma Finds a Miracle with preschool through 3rd grade. The students enjoyed hearing about growing up on a Minnesota farm. Students did a great job listening and seeing hidden meanings in the pictures in Patrick's books. If you didn't get a book and your child would still like one you can go to [www.patrickmader.com](http://www.patrickmader.com) to place an order.

We also had our Book Cover Contest for Book Week. Students were asked to draw a book cover of their own autobiography of an Olympic win. It was very difficult to choose a winner from each class. Students did a wonderful job!

Mrs. Healy

## MEDIA BUZZ

### NEWS FROM MEDIA & ROBOTICS

February is always a short month, but this one has been a busy one in the makerspace. With Open House this month, Book Week, and Valentine's Day, it's been a month filled with activity and events.

Instructionally, the 4th grade has started to present their Google Slides presentations--and so far there's a lot to praise. I've been impressed by the delivery of the presentations so far. The practice time put in really shows. Fifth grade has started to deliver their first working code for our coding unit. Third grade has put a lid on their flow charts, and will be pivoting soon to new material. First and 2nd grade have been putting time in on problem solving and logic between their typing lessons.

Both grades show a lot of growth this year on their keyboarding. Kindergarten has been trying their hand at some problem solving games. The ability to persevere and to keep trying when things get hard is an important life skill, and it's never too soon to build it.

Robotics ended their season with a strong showing at state. Two teams participated in the finals, and our teams occupied the top half of the qualifiers all day. Although their main season is over, we continue to meet, refine our skills, and we have appeared at both the DMCS and Bethlehem Academy Open Houses.

Mr. Robinson