

# Winter Special Area Teachers' Newsletter

## Physical Education

Hello Riverfield Community,

It has been cold outside, but we are keeping active and warm in the gym at Riverfield. Students finished up a six class unit of soccer skills and concepts. Students learned and practiced soccer concepts such as kicking for distance, kicking at a target, dribbling, passing and what part of the foot they should use while performing different types of kicks. Students got to play in modified soccer games and had an opportunity to play different positions such as goalie, defense, and offense. Students were asked which position they liked best and why.

Students then participated in a basketball themed unit. Students learned and tried out different basketball skills and concepts. Students learned and practiced dribbling, shooting at the basketball hoop, types of basketball shots, passing (bounce and chest), rebounding, guarding, offense and defense. Students then played modified games such as dribble tag, knock out, around the world, relays and small sided basketball games. After six classes of basketball we moved into a floor hockey unit. Students learned hockey vocabulary and skills while playing various modified hockey games.

Next up is the cargo net and ropes which will be the start of our gymnastic and parkour unit. Students will climb, balance, jump and spring into the air while learning how to control their bodies using different muscles and to perform gymnastic themed tricks.

Thank you for your support, and always ask your child what they did in PE today.

Mr. Gelsi

## Music

Greetings everyone!

We ended 2019 with our Holiday Sing-A-Long and began 2020 with our American Folk Song and Spiritual Unit. We "*Sang about Martin*" and enjoyed revisiting the songs of American Composer Tom Chapin. Our third grade All-School Meeting featured his very popular tune, "*Family Tree*".

K-5 classes are on the move as we continue to explore Music through rhythmic games and activities.

Third grade is anxiously waiting for the arrival of their Recorders and we have been diligently preparing through our Cool Tunes Curriculum. Our focus will be on note reading and beautiful tone production on the instrument.

Fourth grade will be performing "*Ode to Joy*" on the recorder during next week's assembly with the American Classical Orchestra. Grades 2-5 have learned a vocal arrangement of *Ode to Joy* and will sing as a community during the program. Ask your child to share the song with you!

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade Orchestra and Chorus performed their first Concert in January and we now look ahead to the Spring Concert when the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Band under the direction of Mr. Borelli will join us.

-Mrs. Beatty

## Spanish

Hello Riverfield Community,

We are busy learning in our Spanish classes! Our Grade 3's current unit's essential question is "Where do I go and what do I like to do?". We are imagining a trip to Mexico and talking about where we would like to go and what we would like to do. "¿Adónde vas? ¿Qué te gusta hacer?" We are looking at lots of pictures and videos and practicing some basic words to describe these (such as size and color words).

4<sup>th</sup> grade: This unit is all about "What do you do to be healthy?". It's all about being "saludable". We're talking about the different foods that we eat in the different food groups, as well as what we do to stay active.

5<sup>th</sup> grade: This unit focuses on the animals of the Galapagos Islands to answer the essential question, "What makes an environment unique?". We have been practicing identifying some of these animals, talking about where they live, how they move, what they eat, and describing some basic characteristics (size, speed, color).

-Señora Mwambulukutu



# Art

Hi Riverfield friends and families!

Our young artists have been working hard to keep our school colorful throughout these gray winter days.

Our kindergarteners are focusing on drawing with simple shapes and exploring different materials, such as paint, while also reinforcing Classroom routines. The first and second graders have been working with Clay.

First grade is starting simply with the basic pinch pot form.

The second graders are learning the ins and outs of more complicated sculpture projects. Second grade has also been experimenting with tessellations by inspecting the art of M.C. Escher and trying some repeated patterns of our own.

Third grade has been studying colored pencil techniques as we learn about the importance, as well as tips and tricks, behind shading.

Fourth grade is wrapping up a printmaking unit where we got to have hands on experience with the different materials print maker utilize.

Lastly, the fifth graders have finished their first project in value drawing. They got to experience balancing shadows, highlights, and mid-tones just like professional artists. We are now getting into perspective drawing and the students seem very excited.

We have many more things in store as we see spring on the horizon.

-Mr. Matarazzo

# S.T.E.A.M

Kindergarten students are working on engineering challenges that involve forces such as pushes and pulls. Gravity and friction are also hot topics as we discover how far cars can zip down ramps and just how fun it is to push a ball through a complicated maze.

In first grade we have been experimenting with sounds and vibrations through musical instruments. We've plucked and tapped on just about every material we can find and we are designing and building our own musical instruments. Technology has played a role as we've discovered various musical elements on Chrome Music Lab. Check it out sometime!

Second grade students have begun a coding and are learning how to write algorithms, debug, use conditionals and so much more. Once we've got the hang of programming we will apply these skills to age appropriate robotic activities.

In third grade we are building upon our coding skills by programming Bee Bots, Ozobots, and Lego Wedo creations.

Fourth grade students will continue to use Code.org to expand their programming knowledge. They will even learn how to train an Artificial Intelligent machine to clean-up our oceans! Robotics and other purposeful coding activities are on the horizon.

And the first annual Riverfield Invention Convention is underway! We will be celebrating all of our creative and innovative ideas on February 26<sup>th</sup>! 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents are invited to visit at 2:45.

-Mrs. Ferrara

# LLT

The LLC is always a busy place! Students pop in to check out books and use technology all day. We had a wonderful author visit with Dan Santat on January 31<sup>st</sup>. A BIG thank you to our PTA Author Visit Committee for their hard work making this experience extra special!

Our K students are beginning learning how to use our e-publishing program, Wixie. They are also using PebbleGo to research non-fiction topics like animals and biographies.

In Grade 1 we are continuing to build on our technology skills, often using Wixie and other Classlink applications independently. We are also learning how to type using both hands with the help of our typing program, Typing Agent. We also just completed a Social Studies and makercare unit focusing on communities. Now we are moving on to learn about non-fiction print and digital texts.

In Grade 2 we are using Wixie to create I Spy pages. We are learning how to search for appropriate images, effectively use keywords, and write challenging clues. We are also using Typing Agent to practice our typing skills.

In Grade 3 we are continuing to build and expand our digital citizenship skills. We have created our own unique passwords and are growing our knowledge of Google Apps for Education by learning how to use Google Classroom, Google Slides, and Google Docs. Grade 3 students are also using discussion boards to communicate their ideas and practice their digital citizenship skills in real time.

Grade 4 students are learning how to navigate the internet to locate credible sources of information. We are currently researching important historical people and turning our research into persona poems. Next, we will use WeVideo to turn our poems into videos and celebrate our work with class film festivals.

Grade 5 students are digging into the nuances of source evaluation. We are learning how to cite our sources, and we are navigating a variety of applications to locate the best information for our assignments. The goal of Grade 5 is to prepare students to be independent, responsible, and ethical as they move on to middle school.

As always, thank you for your support!

-Mrs. Kilcourse