

Specialist Newsletter

Redmond Elementary School
September 2021



Music News from Mrs. Schoenen

October was great fun in the music classroom. The students played a variety of instruments to create spooky tunes in minor keys. All of the students were able to play either rhythm instruments or boomwhackers along with Edvard Grieg's "In the Hall of the Mountain King". The students enjoyed watching the Seattle Symphony perform the piece as well as the "device orchestra". I urge you to check out both renditions on YouTube! The 4th and 5th graders learned about the Paris Catacombs and how they were the inspiration for Camille Saint-Saens' "Danse Macabre". The kindergarteners and first graders were able to add sound effects to the story, The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything and sing about the old woman all "Skin and Bones". I LOVE October in the music room!

VETERANS DAY is coming up next week! I am still taking pictures of Veterans who are connected to students at Redmond Elementary. I will include them in the assembly slide show. Please include; the name of the veteran, which student they are related to (and how), which branch he or she served in and for how long. When the students see Veterans that they have a connection to, it has a lot of impact. Thanks to those who have already sent in pictures. If you have sent me pictures in the past years, I will include them in this year's assembly as well.

Music News from Mr. Warren

Hello Redmond Elementary Families!

I hope you are all doing well during this blustery and slippery time of year. It has been great getting to know each student's strengths and needs over the past couple of months. In November we will be celebrating Veteran's Day, which will include some patriotic songs and activities. November is also a time of Thanksgiving and harvest, and we will be focusing on some traditional folk songs and activities that all grade levels can participate in. There are some new music games that I will be introducing to the kids this month, and I look forward to sharing those.

Grades 2-5 will begin a rhythm composition activity, where each grade level will be given different note values/lengths to use in combinations they choose. Then, the entire class will perform each student's rhythm composition. It is a fun opportunity to show how to count different note groupings/beats, keeping a steady pulse, and then involve the entire class in performing individual rhythm compositions.

Grades K-1 will begin using the rhythm kits that the district has provided---each kit contains an egg shaker, sand blocks (scrapers), rhythm sticks, and cards showing a 5-line staff, beat/rhythm squares for creating simple rhythms using Ta, Ti-Ti, Rest, etc., and other cards showing different note values and a Xylophone card. These kits will remain in the classroom, and will be given to students periodically to provide useful activities to help them understand pitches, beat, and rhythm. Composition and performance will be introduced at very basic levels, and I think these kits will be a great asset for helping students visualize, comprehend and perform short rhythms and pitch groupings.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns to share with me, please do not hesitate to email me! I look forward to seeing each student and grade level increase their knowledge, understanding, and confidence this month!



Physical Education News from Miss Alvarez and Miss Prall

Primary students will begin learning the basics of throwing and catching with partners and in groups. Students will learn to use these skills during game-like activities and stations. Intermediate students will review throwing and catching skills they have learned and use them during games and activities.

All students will continue to work on teamwork and cooperation during our learning activities.

Reminder! Please make sure your student is coming to school with proper PE shoes. Many students come to the gym wearing rain boots and these are not appropriate for activities or safe to wear in the gym. Please send back up shoes for your students for their PE days. Check with their teacher to see what days they have PE. Thanks so much!



Library News from Mrs. Jones

Thank you to all the families who attended the Virtual Scholastic Book Fair. We earned \$100 for new books for the library! During Library class K-1 classes have been reading picture books eligible for the Washington Children's Choice Picture Book Awards for 2020. There are twenty titles with corresponding activities, and children will vote for their favorite title in April. Grades 2-3 have been reading transitional chapter books eligible for the OTTER Award. After we finish a title, students rate and review the book and we send out reviews to the OTTER committee as they consider a winner this Spring. In grades 4-5 students have been working on refining their research skills as it pertains to their Informational Writing topics in the classroom. We have set up accounts in Destiny and SORA, searched for books, used the research databases and accessed resources available through King County Library. Finally, a big thank you to all the families who have donated new books to the library from the Redmond Elementary Library Wish List. If you are interested in donating a book, you can find the link on our library website <https://redmond.lwsd.org/academics/library>