

Veterans Park Elementary SPECIAL AREA NEWSLETTER

September 2022

ART

with Ms. Masterson

So far, this year we have jumped into pattern popsicle sticks to form a school wide wooden quilt. We have begun our art to remember projects, expect order forms to come home in October. Products usually arrive in November. Up next, we will be working with art elements to create some amazing ocean creatures and scenes. Using sand textures, oil pastels, stamping, watercolors, and much more we will explore a variety of new media to mix with the old.

CHINESE

with Ms. Li

The first two weeks of school, all students are introduced/reintroduced to Chinese classrooms daily routine, daily expressions; students also learn to introduce themselves and friends in a situational dialogue. In September, each grade will start a new learning unit. K: Me and my classroom -- school materials; 1st: Weather around me -- days of the week; 2nd: My food choice-healthy foods; 3rd: My family is unique --extended family members; 4th: My back-to-school shopping -- clothing. 5th: Let's make a plan -- Leisure activities. The Chinese Moon Festival falls in the month of September. Apart from our unit learning, we are going to listen to the moon festival stories, create artwork to celebrate.

LIBRARY

With Ms. Ault

What a great start to the 2023-2024 school year! I've loved getting to see all the smiling faces and hear how awesome everyone's summer was. In library class, students read books based on the theme in library this year which is Star Wars! We've discussed taking care of books and library procedures/expectations. Lower primary students have learned to use the five-finger rule to pick out a just right book. Upper primary and intermediate students have used our online catalog, Destiny Discover, to navigate and locate books in the library. We have also discussed Battle of the Books for students in grades 3-5 and the morning show team in fifth grade. Can't wait to see what wonderful things are in store for us at VPE this year!

MUSIC

with Ms. Peters

Greetings from the Music Room! It is a very exciting beginning to Music at VPE. All students have been engaged in a variety of activities of creating and performing music by singing and playing instruments. The month of September will be a great adventure for all grades as we begin to explore music around the world.

We have exciting news to share. We were awarded a Bright Ideas Grant for the music room. Our big idea is called "Uke Can Do It. Strumming to Literacy Success". Our funds

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will be used to buy VPE a classroom set of soprano ukuleles! We will use arts integration to play songs and poems and create our own songs! We are so grateful for this opportunity.

It's almost time for Chorus!

The chorus program at VPE consists of 3 choirs grouped BY GRADE LEVELS. Starting the week of Sept. 11th ,each Chorus will rehearse **1 day per week** on the following schedule:

- **Lower Primary (K-1st) Chorus** will rehearse in the gym with Mrs. Peters on these days:
 - Tuesdays - Kindergarten 7:20 -7:50 a.m.
 - Wednesdays- 1st Grade 7:20 -7:50 a.m
- **Upper Primary (2nd-3rd)** will rehearse in the gym with Mrs. Peters on these days:
 - Thursdays -2nd Grade 7:20 -7:50 a.m
 - Fridays-3rd Grade 7:20 -7:50 a.m
- **Intermediate (4th-5th) Chorus** will rehearse on **Thursdays** after school from 2:35-3:30. **First rehearsal is after school 2:35-4:00 September 14th.** **Please be sure to fill-out a chorus transportation form and return it to your child's teacher before our first rehearsal on September 14th.**

VPE Spring Musical Reveal

This year's musical will be Disney's The Little Mermaid Jr. Information about 4th and 5th grade auditions for Moana will be distributed soon. Here is a video of our musical reveal: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1V4ffSLoAupjH7KxJoNe4zpVLt1QQ3tLm/view?usp=sharing>

PE

with Mr. Penrod

Hey VPE families, I hope everyone is having a great start to the school year. So far, we have been reviewing what it means to be responsible, respectful, and safe in PE. In the next few weeks K-2 students will be working on the manipulative skills when using a variety of equipment.

Our focus this month will be throwing skills and identifying different exercises. The 3-5 students will also work on their throwing accuracy skills, as well as, demonstrating the qualities of a good teammate.

STEM

with Ms. Sproles

We are off to a great start! We began the year learning what STEM means and some teamwork challenges. We are officially jumping into our first units. Kindergarteners will be learning about what it means to be a scientist and engineer. First grade students are learning the engineering design process. In second grade, we are practicing teamwork and perseverance when looking for a solution to a problem. Third graders are beginning to learn about fossils and how they tell us about the past. Fourth grade students are starting their unit on energy and fifth graders are learning about food chains as transfers of energy. I look forward to a great year together!