

Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary School
Special Areas Quarterly Newsletter
October 25, 2024



Dear ARCAE families, please review the information below from our special area team. You will learn more about what was covered during the first quarter of 2024-2025 and what is coming up for the second quarter of the year!

Art	<p>Ms. O’Keefe - Click here for pictures of us working on some art!</p> <p>EC- Students are practicing their color identification knowledge and working hard on their fine motor skills. They are ripping and tearing color paper to make a rainbow. They are also using crayons and color paper to make a sun and rainbow collage.</p> <p>Kindergarten - We had a blast reading the book, “Never Let a Unicorn Scribble”, and created a mixed media masterpiece. We also learned about artist Piet Mondrian and created artwork that resembles his color and line pieces that have inspired art and fashion for decades. We also created our Sun and Rainbow collage that ties into their weather unit in class.</p> <p>1st - ARRR!!! We started off the year with their pirate and map unit and created an AWESOME pirate map! These are hanging in the 1st grade hallway. We also learned about famous artist Pablo Picasso for Spanish Heritage month and created a mixed media, monochromatic guitar. Ask your student what, “Mono and Chrome mean!”, and why we did a blues art piece to honor Mr. Picasso!</p> <p>3rd - We started off with one of my favorite art projects, our African Mask. This mask is made with cardboard and shipping scraps to create a sculpture relief mask that is inspired not only by African tribal masks but also Pablo Picasso (he was inspired by African masks when he visited Africa which transformed his realism artwork to his more well known Cubist Abstract Portraits.) Our masks are tribal and colorful and each one is unique like our students! Currently we are working on our mixed media EYE. This is an amazing project that starts with a marker print and then incorporates hand drawn eye elements that broaden your child’s knowledge of sketching, realism and pencil blending. This one is a show stopper!</p> <p>Mrs. Bergen Click here to see pictures from the past few weeks!</p> <p>CD/EC- Starting off the year with 3 of the elements of art: shape identification, color wheel, line variations. We are now moving into fall trees and warm colors.</p> <p>2nd- “Positive selfies”, Lourdes Villagomez inspired butterflies (foil/marker print), Wayne Thiebaud inspired ice cream cones to go with our school theme of “Celebrate the Arts”, mixed media landscapes, leaf printmaking</p> <p>4th- “Growth Mindset” selfie, “Mexican mirror” inspired (radial symmetry), Wayne Thiebaud inspired cupcakes, Irish Scott inspired animals</p>
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<p>Cultural Arts with Sra. Baja</p>	<p>Fifth grade started the year introducing themselves and recycling material from school year. They just finished learning about weaving traditions in Peru through a loom weaving activity. Students created their own “llama” looms using cardboard and yarn. Finally, students begin weaving their own patterns on the looms to experience the weaving process and further understand Peruvian culture. Click <u>here</u> to view their “<i>llamazing</i>” llamas!</p> <p>Fourth grade started the year introducing themselves and recycling material from last school year. They just finished up an amazing week of dancing with our artist in residence, Angela Gallo. They learned the basic history and steps of Salsa, Rhumba, Cha Cha and Merengue. Click <u>here</u> to view pictures and videos of them practicing and performing.</p> <p>They also created a selfie with the apps representing activities, hobbies, and foods they like.</p> <p>We are now learning about the Mexican celebration, The Day of the Dead and they will create a Hispanic inspired art piece.</p> <p>Third grade started the year introducing themselves and recycling material from last school year. They are doing a project inspired by the llamas and textiles of Peru. They used 9 types of lines to create a patterned line design with crayon and watercolors. Next, they drew, colored and cut out a llama, gluing it down to the painted background. Click <u>here</u> to see their “<i>llamazing</i>” llamas!</p> <p>Second grade started the year introducing themselves and recycling material from last school year. We are now learning about the Mexican holiday, The Day of the Dead and to celebrate the students will be creating an alebrije paper craft. Alebrijes are carved and painted animal figurines that have become a form of symbolic art from Mexico. The word Alebrije means “<i>imaginary</i>” or “<i>fantasy</i>”.</p> <p>First grade has been learning and practicing how to introduce themselves. They also learned their colors through songs, dance, games and art. We are currently learning about the Mexican holiday, The Day of the Dead and to celebrate they will create a mask.</p>

	<p>Kindergarten and CD have been learning how to say their name, ask and tell their friends how they are. After they learned to say their name, they did a self-portrait. They also learned their colors. The daily classroom routine starts with the “Hola Amigo” song by Dr. Jean. Next, they do the calendar routine, where the students count out the date with a counting chant, followed by the months of the year song while dancing the Macarena. Please ask your child to sing and dance these songs for you. They are amazing! We are going to be learning about the Mexican holiday, The Day of the Dead and to celebrate the students will create a Day of the Dead inspired craft.</p>
<p>Media with Mr. Grayson</p>	<p>Thank you for a great start in the library! Please continue to encourage your students to return their books on time.</p> <p>CD has learned how to care for books and check out from the library.</p> <p>Kindergarten has learned about authors and illustrators, fiction vs. nonfiction. We’ve been working on dramatic (theater-based) retellings of stories.</p> <p>First grade has been learning the parts of a story and working on activities based on their classroom learning goals.</p> <p>Second grade has been reading a chapter book, <i>The Unlucky Lottery Winners of Classroom 13</i>. We are almost finished and will soon begin a writing assignment based on the book.</p> <p>Third grade has been conducting research on African culture and learning about fiction genres.</p> <p>Fourth grade has been reviewing how to use libraries independently. We’ve been talking about the Dewey Decimal system and library catalogs. We’ve also been learning about internet safety.</p> <p>Fifth grade has been learning how to gather information. We’ve studied closed vs. open databases, keywords, search strategies, website evaluation, and avoiding plagiarism.</p>
<p>Physical Education with Mr. May and Ms. Beech</p>	<p>K-5 Please always remember to wear the appropriate shoes, SNEAKERS, to PE. Boots, crocs, and sandals are not safe choices on PE days!</p> <p>As we start this next quarter we will be practicing the fitnessgram test. This consists of the PACER, sit and reach, sit-ups, push-ups, and the trunk lift. K-4 are practicing while 5th graders are performing the test to be reported back to state. Results will also be sent home with students for parents to look over.</p> <p>We will then be moving into invasion activities where students will learn how to move in a safe manner around other students. Jump rope ninja will be continued. Students have improved their jump rope skills tremendously over the last few years even if they do not see it! We will also be working on family engagement activities, these will be a variety of games and activities that can be done with household items to get the whole family involved in fun movement!</p>
<p>Theater with Ms. Gamble</p>	<p>CD- We are working to recognize our rules by learning the terms of Actor’s Toolbox. We also have begun to learn about trees in class and learning how to pretend we are a tree using High, Medium, and Low movements.</p> <p>Kindergarten- We have been learning about following rules and using our bodies respectfully as we</p>

	<p>pretend and move around our fellow actors. We also have started learning about different types of puppets, and we will be working to create a Bat Marionette puppet as part of the final unit!</p> <p>First- We are having so much fun learning to use our bodies to represent different animals in the wild. We've studied High, Medium, and Low movements to choose a tableau, or frozen picture, to represent how an animal would move. Then we are working to find the setting, or habitat, that would be best as a final Green Screen product!</p> <p>Second- We've been working to learn the definitions of "Stage Directions" while starting to direct our fellow actors and listen to a director! We're moving into our next unit connecting to their Science Unit on Plants. We're going to pretend we are their own choice of plant, and they'll work to describe how they would protect themselves or send out their seeds as if we are secret agents! It will be a ton of fun!</p> <p>Third- We have been focusing on Collaboration with our fellow actors during our first unit with games and activities that encourage cooperation. We're working now to design an Amusement Park with a large group, which requires a lot of positive communication and discussion to allow everyone's ideas to be shared. Then we'll work on our persuasive voice to advertise our final product!</p> <p>Fourth- We are hard at work learning about scaling down a set design and creating a diorama to represent a specific scene. Thank you for the shoeboxes! We'll be working to learn to fold miniature paper furniture and use other materials to represent their choice for set design!</p> <p>Fifth- We finished our first unit on writing a monologue and connecting it to the plot elements they recognize from their classroom! They turned out really well, and we hopefully will be able to record some who worked incredibly hard! Next, we're going to learn about Foley ARTists and creating sound effects using novel items!</p> <p>Exceptional Children- We recently learned about some beloved characters, Frog and Toad, before a few classes were able to go see a play! We are working on puppet play and using our imagination to represent different characters!</p>
<p>STEAM with Ms. Miles</p>	<p>Join us for Family STEAM Night at ARCA on Thursday, November 7th from 6-7pm in honor of National STEAM Day! **Student work will be displayed**</p> <p>EC- Students are learning to build and manipulate materials. Exceptional Children have learned the routine and expectation on where to find and put away materials as well as familiarize themselves with the options. Materials include: Magnetic Tiles, wooden train set, color pom pom sort, Magic Tracks (a fan favorite!)</p> <p>CD - CD Students have been learning about design and how to build with different materials. They are now working on an art and science project. They are painting a frame and then collecting leaves to fill in their</p> <p>K-</p> <p>1st - I am working with the first grade teachers on a collaborative art project for this grade. Students are learning about different types of birds and are designing bird's nests out of recycled materials and natural items they collected.</p> <p>2nd - Students are completing their Fall STEAM Builder booklets. Once finished these will go home in Friday folders. Building challenges include challenges such as "Silly Scarecrow," where students build a scarecrow out of hundreds, tens, and ones blocks.</p> <p>3rd - Third Grade students are working as partners to build a zoo. Students are using their math skills to budget, measure, and create a schedule for their zoo. They are also building a 3D model of their design using coordinates.</p> <p>4th - 4th Grade students are finishing up their unit on the human brain. Students have learned the parts of the brain as well as ways we can protect it.</p> <p>5th - Students are beginning a project to create a roller coaster strictly out of paper. They will design, build, and advertise their ride.</p>
<p>Music with Ms. Spaulding</p>	<p>Kindergarten - Welcome to Music! Students in the primary music room have now become familiar with classroom rules and procedures. They have already mastered the concept of steady beat and how it is different from rhythm. There have been many favorite songs and</p>

activities with these units. Please ask your child to sing you a few (if they haven't already!) Speaking of singing, Kinders can properly identify the 4 voices and when they should be used. We are now combining these newly-learned skills and having fun with Fall songs and musical activities!

First Grade - Students in first grade ready to jump back into another year of fun musical adventures! After a quick review of pulse, 1st graders began a closer look at how beats were organized in meters of 2, 3, or 4. They love the meter song so I have attached this here so you can sing along at home with your child: [▶ Meter Explained! - Song and Music Lesson for Kids](#) First graders are currently reading simple rhythms with quarter notes, eighth notes and quarter rests on non-pitched percussion instruments.

Third Grade - Ms. Sires and Ms. Gilston's class were immersed in African songs and rhythms in preparation for their African Drumming residency with James Cannon. *Kye, Kye Kule, A Ram-Sam-Sam, and Obwisana* were some favorite melodies that accompanied games and dances. This reinforced our study of ostinato as students explored the concepts of repeated rhythm patterns. They have now practiced these skills on pitched percussion instruments (xylophones, metallophones, and boomwhackers!)

LI 1 and AU 1 - This energetic bunch of new (and a few familiar friends) started the year off with a flourish of musical activities and getting accustomed to the music room. Students are exposed to the concepts of steady beat, fast and slow, and high and low. We sing simple melodies and play non-pitched percussion instruments to reinforce these skills. Students are finishing up their habitat song unit and currently enjoying some 'friendly' Halloween tunes.

Unikeys - Club students are practicing proper posture and finger technique. We are also reviewing the musical alphabet to become accustomed to playing some simple melodies. The next step will be the introduction of chords. Look for them when they make their debut at the Winter Performance in December! 🎹

Music with Ms. Rittle

CD - has been having a blast singing and playing instruments in the music classroom. We've integrated music with their content area by singing and playing games with the classroom rules, numbers, and letters. Pre-K will continue exploring and making music for the next few marking periods in my classroom.

2nd Grade - started out the school year playing with music technology while using the www.incredibox.com website. We've reviewed the classroom rules and made music with the book "All Are Welcome." We've played on xylophones and discussed music genres. When we studied note values the children had the opportunity to be whole, half, quarter, and eighth notes. This next marking period we will begin to explore music around the world. However, we will begin our pretend travel not too far from home.

3rd Grade - began the school year with learning about music from Africa. The African Drumming residency was amazing. Your children did such a good job. We've moved into music technology the last few weeks. We will continue to have fun making music with holiday music in the next marking period.

4th Grade - began the year with a return to PTA performances. They did an amazing job on stage. The last few weeks we've been studying reading rhythms and pitch identification. They will continue to improve on naming their notes as we prepare to play recorder.

5th Grade - started out their last year in elementary music by pondering deep musical

	<p>thoughts. What is music? How does it make us feel? Then we moved on to reviewing and reading rhythms. We are currently preparing songs for their PTA performance in November. And then will be playing melody lines on pitched percussion instruments.</p> <p>Exceptional Children - Clair's class, AU2 - has been working on classroom rules and expectations. We incorporated days of the week and color identification while listening to music. Next we moved onto ocean music and played along to songs about ocean animals. The unit we're working on now with arts integration is about animals and their habitats particularly animals from the jungle.</p> <p>Unichorus - has been working on developing a good vocal tone and choral practices. We had an incredibly fun field trip to see "The Sound of Music" at SOA. And lastly we've been preparing our "Boo Review" songs which we'll perform on Thursday, October 31st @ 1:30. Also, our first fundraiser for our Spring Carowinds trip will begin on November 1st. More information will follow.</p> <p>Unicussion - has been working on rhythms. Their first performance will be at the Winter concert. More information will follow.</p>
<p>Movement and Ballet with Ms. McMurray</p>	<p>CD is off to a great start in movement class. We are working on moving our bodies and staying in self-space. Our movement time together incorporates movement skills, listening for instruction and music cues, and learning different ways to move in our room. They are doing great!</p> <p>Kindergarten is in the midst of our first movement unit - Animals! They are working hard on using their movement skills to communicate size/space with their bodies (non locomotor), as well as different ways to travel (locomotor). K has learned an entire body warm-up, and has a great time using silly songs to create/design our own movement ideas.</p> <p>Ballet, Contemporary, and Jazz classes are in full swing! We are reviewing previously learned vocabulary, adding some new vocabulary, and will soon start to dive into some composition/choreography work. They are doing great!</p> <p>EC students are off to a great start in Movement Class! We continue to work on moving our bodies and staying in self-space while working. Our movement time together incorporates a warm-up, standing work, circle work, and listening for instruction and music cues. They are having fun!</p>
<p>Strings with Mr. Jones</p>	<p>Strings with Mr. Jones</p> <p>K-3 Suzuki students have been focusing on good positions. Some beginners have already earned their Twinkle Performance Certificates while displaying the correct posture and bow holds we emphasize. The certificates will go up on the Wall of Achievement soon. We started our listening challenge in the first week of October. Regular listening to the repertoire results in faster and more accurate learning of the Suzuki pieces. In addition to listening, 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade students have been focusing on note reading using a website called Sight Reading Factory and they've been doing fun note reading worksheets in their group classes.</p> <p>The 4th and 5th grade advanced orchestra is preparing for the Boo Review performance. We had a successful playing test for their performance piece (The Addams Family theme Song) during the first week of October. Names of students with excellent playing demonstrations are on the Championship Corner wall. Additionally, we've been focusing on technical skills like scales, shifting, sight reading, rhythm drills, and ensemble skills. For sight reading and rhythm drills, we are using a website called Sight Reading Factory.</p>

	<p>The 4th and 5th grade beginning orchestra students are working on good posture, instrument and bow holds, learning basic note reading, and how to play in an ensemble. We are progressing through the Essential Elements method book as well as doing other repertoire that reinforces what the method book introduces. All students can play basic pieces using the bow and can read basic rhythms. All students passed their Twinkle Performance test and their names are on the Championship Corner wall. We've started practicing Jingle Bells and Dreidel for the performance pieces in December.</p>
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