

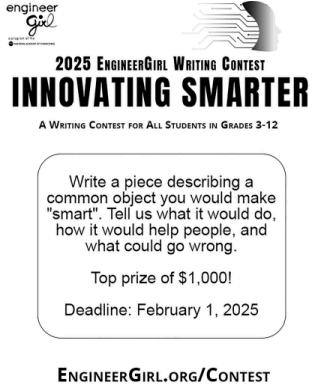
Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary School
Special Areas Quarterly Newsletter
January 10, 2025



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

<p style="text-align: center;">Art with Ms. Bergen</p>	<p>Happy New Year! 2025 is off to a creative stART! Materials request: unscented baby wipes (refill bags)</p> <p>Click here to see what he have been up to 🥰</p> <p>5th: Clay bobble heads, Landscape Paper Weaving 4th: Winter Cottage, Landforms 2nd: Portraits, Insects, Clay Landscapes CD/SN: Winter themed (snowflakes, mittens, trees) Community Art Club: Kindness Performance backdrop Art Guild: Clay animals, paper mache cake slices</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Art with Ms. O'Keefe</p>	<p>Kindergarten: Thankful Turkey, Winter Bear, Painted Paper Snowman, Arctic Walrus 1st Grade: Fall Fox, Toys for Tots Posters, Painted Paper/Snowflake Panel, Glow Ice Cream Cone 3rd Grade: Mixed Media Eye, Fall Raccoon, X-Ray Hand AUI/LI1: Thankful Turkey, Painted Paper Snowman, Ice Cream/Cake Mixed Media Community Art Club: Winter Performance Stage Backdrop & Kindness Performance backdrop Photography Club: Guess the Close-up vs Normal shot, Panoramic with movement, Keychain Mini photos Materials request: unscented baby wipes (refill bags) and KLEENEX!! Cold and Flu season is here!</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Cultural Arts with Sra. Baja</p>	<p>Cultural Arts is in need of Clorox wipes and Post-it Notes. Mil gracias!</p> <p>In quarter two, fifth grade did a country study on Spain. We took a virtual field trip there to explore the landmarks, geography, foods, people, and celebrations. They made a passport and learned about what a day of the life of a Spanish child is like. Feel free to ask them questions about what they have learned about Spain, such as the capital of Spain, the currency used, the color of the flag, time school starts and ends, what time they have dinner, and on what continent it is located.</p>

	<p>After traveling to Spain, they journeyed to Mexico and learned about its culture. After learning about the Huichol Indian who lived in the mountains and made God's eyes (or Ojos de Dios) to watch over them, they made their own Ojos de Dios. Click here to see their artwork.</p> <p>In quarter two, fourth grade created a selfie with the apps representing activities, hobbies, and foods they like. They also learned about the Mexican celebration The Day of the Dead and made marigold paper flowers to decorate our classroom. They also started a unit on Mexico, learning about landmarks, geography, foods, people, and celebrations.</p> <p>In quarter two, third grade learned about the Mexican holiday, The Day of the Dead and to celebrate the students made a <i>papel picado</i> (cut paper) banner. They also learned cardinal directions and the continents in Spanish. Ask them to do the continent chant.</p> <p>In quarter two, second grade continued to review and build upon what they learned last year. They learned about how they celebrate Christmas (Navidad) in Mexico and did a traditional Mexican hand clap, "Chocolate".</p> <p>This quarter they will learn how to express what they like, don't like, and love. We will end the unit by having a taste test of different foods from Mexico.</p> <p>In quarter two, first grade continued to learn and practice how to introduce themselves, basic commands, and to express how they are feeling. They reviewed previously learned material through songs, dance, games and crafts. They also learned to mix primary colors to form secondary colors. This quarter they will be learning about Mexico and how they live compared to us. We will also review our numbers and compare the U.S. dollar to the Mexican peso.</p> <p>In quarter two, kindergarten continued to learn basic introductions, greetings and farewells. They had a great time learning about the migration of the monarch butterfly to Mexico! They created a butterfly model with a compass attached to it to demonstrate the great migration to go south & north.</p> <p>They also learned about how they celebrate Christmas (Navidad) in Mexico and we compared the foods typically eaten in Mexico and the U.S. during the holidays.</p> <p>*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!</p> <p>In quarter two, CD continued to learn the basic commands and greetings in Spanish. They were also introduced to colors and shapes.</p>
<p>Media with Mr. Grayson</p>	<p>In the second quarter, CD learned about authors and illustrators. They've done a great job taking care of their books and learning the rules of the library! Kindergarten has advanced to finding books on the shelves instead of choosing from pre-selected books. First Grade continued to learn about the parts of a story and also completed an arts-integration project based on Community Needs and Services. Second Grade finished a writing project based on the chapter book <i>The Unlucky Lottery Winners of Classroom 13</i>. They were excited to type a paper in Google Docs for the first time. Third Grade worked hard on a research project on animals. Fourth Grade created interactive fiction (a.k.a. choose-your-own-adventure stories) in Google Slides. Fifth Grade completed a research project on the Great Depression.</p> <p>Coming up in the library in January, we'll be visited by the amazing Jennifer A. Nielsen, author of many middle-grade historical fiction and fantasy novels. ARCAE will serve as this year's launch site for a reading program for second graders led by the Charleston</p>

	<p>Riverdogs– Read Around the Bases. Speaking of sports teams, readers from the Charleston Stingrays will visit Kindergarten classes. Thank you for all you do at home to encourage your young readers!</p>
<p>Physical Education with Mr. May and Ms. Beech</p>	<p>During the second quarter, PE really started to focus on family engagement games, or activities that they can create and play from their homes using household equipment. We want to make sure PE can travel home with our students and provide an option that isn't just a screen. After a fun filled month of holiday themed activities we are getting back to the grind in January where we will focus again on Cooperative activities, Tinikling and revisiting Throwing and Catching.</p> <p>As always, please send sneakers with your child rather than boots or crocs as the floor in the gym becomes a little slippery during the winter months due to the colder air.</p> <p>A big thank you to all the families and friends who included us in their holiday gifting plans, we are so lucky to have kids and families at ARCAE like all of you, from the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU! -Mrs. Beech and Mr. May</p>
<p>STEAM with Ms. Miles</p>	<p>STEAM is need of tissues and Clorox wipes! Thank you in advance 😊</p> <p>In quarter two, CD students continued to learn about foundations of STEAM focusing more on math toward the end of the quarter. Kindergarten had their Puppetry Residency with Mrs. Becky. Thank you to those families who were able to attend! 1st grade began coding on Kodable. Students in grades 2-5 began their typing unit. This is helpful for test prep as students will need to type their writing responses.</p> <p>Looking ahead, students in grades 3-5 are beginning a writing piece. They are asked to write about a common object they would make "smart." This is a prompt from the 2025 EngineerGirl Contest.</p> <p>All students will write a piece for a STEAM grade. If you would like your student to submit their writing to the contest please fill out and return the permission slip in your students Friday Folder sent home on 1/10.</p> <div data-bbox="1198 888 1507 1272" data-label="Complex-Block">  <p>2025 ENGINEERGIRL WRITING CONTEST INNOVATING SMARTER <small>A WRITING CONTEST FOR ALL STUDENTS IN GRADES 3-12</small></p> <p>Write a piece describing a common object you would make "smart". Tell us what it would do, how it would help people, and what could go wrong.</p> <p>Top prize of \$1,000! Deadline: February 1, 2025</p> <p>ENGINEERGIRL.ORG/CONTEST</p> </div>
<p>Music with Ms. Spaulding</p>	<p>Happy New Year from the primary music room!</p> <p>Throughout the second quarter, our younger students in Kindergarten, 1st grade, 3rd, and EC learned seasonal songs and engaged in many musical activities from Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Hanukkah.</p> <p>Additionally, Kindergarten wrapped up their unit on rhythm and is beginning their study on melodic direction and contour.</p> <p>First graders reviewed the 4 voices and learned about the treble clef. Knowing the names of the pitches on the lines and spaces will pave the way for our composition unit coming up this winter!</p> <p>3A and 3C did a deep dive into the musical alphabet to prepare for their upcoming recorder unit. We are excited to join our secondary music friends for the Orchestra Moves program this spring!</p>

	<p>So proud of our Unichorus and Unicussion and Keys students who showcased their talents at the Winter performance! 🎵</p>
<p>Music with Ms. Rittle</p>	<p>5th - played melodies on Xylophones. 4th - learned and practiced the names of the pitches of the treble clef lines & spaces. 3rd - learned about and identified woodwind and brass instruments. 2nd - listened to and learned about American music. CD - sang and played seasonal songs and musical games as well as played pitched & non-pitched percussion instruments. SN - Winter and seasonal songs and played on non-pitched percussion instruments. Unicussion- played 3 layered patterns on African drums. Unichorus - performed holiday songs at 3 winter performances!</p>
<p>Movement and Ballet with Ms. McMurray</p>	<p>During the last quarter in K Movement, we learned how to work with nonverbal communication and explored ways to listen, respond, and problem-solve utilizing movement. We worked on nonlocomotor skills, and completed an animal unit and intro to juggling unit.</p> <p>During the previous quarter in CD and EC, we worked on creative movement skills, and listening for direction and responding with movement. We have utilized props and lots of silly songs to move in our own ways during class.</p> <p>During the second quarter in ballet, we reviewed previous vocabulary, practiced working collaboratively, and tested our choreography skills in small groups. We will soon begin incorporating new vocabulary into our routine and starting to work on our spring performance pieces!</p>
<p>Strings with Mr. Jones</p>	<p>Congratulations to all ARCA string players on a very successful and fun winter performance. I was very pleased with the student efforts in learning music to a high standard within a short time frame. I was especially pleased with the exemplary behavior during our dress rehearsals. These special rehearsals can be new and exciting in a way that invites too much conversation and overly-enthusiastic participation, but instead the students listened and carefully followed instructions which helped us prepare fine performances.</p> <p>We have several challenges going on and the results of these challenges are being posted on a wall in the classroom. All K-3 students were invited to participate in Listening Challenges as appropriate to their grade and level of advancement. Our strings room is starting to be decorated with paper chains representing the Suzuki repertoire listening that K - 3 Suzuki students have completed.</p> <p>Also, many student certificates in K-3 are posted on the wall of achievement. There are many twinkle performance certificates up as well as Etude performance and some Suzuki violin book 1 certificates.</p> <p>4th and 5th grade students completed several successful playing tests. Their names are posted on the Championship Corner wall.</p>

All students have the opportunity to have their picture taken and put on the "We Are on Fire Wall." Students that show excellent left hand playing position and bow hand will have their picture taken and posted on the wall in the classroom.

3rd grade students will be preparing for a solo recital that is happening in March. All 3rd graders will participate in preparation for the performance opportunity. I was very pleased that many 4th and 5th grade students volunteered to play in it as well.

While K- 3 Suzuki students are moving steadily through the Suzuki repertoire, advanced 4th and 5th grade strings are encountering challenges of new key signatures and rhythms in their ensemble music. Beginning 4th and 5th grade strings continue moving steadily through the Essential Elements method. Students are learning to read new notes and rhythms and play them on their instruments.