



OHES Related Arts News



Music Notes

Mrs. Sorenson

December, 2013

Our budding musicians have been off to great start this year as they sing, move and play. Preschool children have been busy moving and exploring shakers, sticks, and bells while singing and listening to music following some fall themes. Kindergarteners are becoming familiar with their singing voices, creating sounds, moving to music, developing their sense of beat through singing games, cumulative songs and stories appropriate for fall. First graders began by keeping the beat, experiencing long and short, loud and soft, fast and slow, and have been introduced to some classroom instruments. Second Graders began the year moving and playing to the beat, recognizing steps and skips in the melody and exploring rhythm and sound effects using classroom instruments. Through November, first grade students have been practicing high and low with the melodic motive "so, mi" and have recognized stories in songs including "Over the River and Through the Wood". Second graders have recognized a rhythm pattern while listening to "In the Hall of the Mountain King", have sung call and response songs and created their own calls for the song "Thanksgiving". Students will further develop music skills through December as students sing and listen to songs appropriate for the season.



Spanish

Sra. Medina and Sra. Stuart

First graders and second graders are already familiarized with Spanish greetings and classroom routines. Weather, calendar and classroom survival phrases are always reinforced at the beginning of the class. They have also done activities with Spanish colors, and been exposed to the Spanish alphabet. They are now starting to learn about family members and how to talk about them and their celebrations by following short Spanish stories. Soon they will be starting school life units in which they will learn about cultural practices in Colombia and in Spain.

In our lessons we have been using many methods to be able to maintain the lessons in the target language. Our classes are a hundred percent in Spanish to encourage the students to practice the language. These include the use of TPR (Total Physical Response), many gestures and body language. We also use many songs and rhymes that are full of culture and provide a lot of repetition. Students also enjoy role playing with puppets, and didactic activities. They practice conversation in pairs using materials which contain the necessary structures, vocabulary and pictures.

Students have Spanish class twice every six days for 40 minutes. In our program we emphasize listening comprehension and communication. The students start by imitating us and gradually start to produce the language. No homework is assigned for Spanish in first and second grade, and we do not have a particular textbook that we use in class. However, if you would like to take a look at the curriculum please go to this link: <http://www.mtsd.k12.nj.us/domain/25>

If you would like to practice Spanish at home please go to our staff webpages. You can find it at the OHES website. Please click on the link at the top for Staff Webpages, right next to Departments and Info. Then look for our names, Myrna Medina and Gloria Stuart, and click on them. There you will find a variety of games that are a fun way to practice and learn Spanish.





Art

Mrs. Evans—

Welcome to the art room with Ms. Evans, where creative learning takes place!

PreK and K classes have been busy creating line serapes based on the element of art called line, and the book "Ten Little Rabbits". The **PreK** classes continue to learn about the world around them through their art projects; we are currently learning about the seasons and the weather, using different art techniques and media. **Kindergartners** are learning about the color wheel and how colors are made, and they also learned about the directional lines, creating a Mondrian abstract picture based on the artist's work.

First Graders reviewed the element of art Line, and have been busy learning about landscape pictures and creating animal landscape pictures and secondary color landscapes, mixing their own secondary colors using the primary colors.

Second Graders completed a crazy haired or bearded portrait using different kinds of lines, and learned about organic and geometric shapes by creating an abstract picture in the warm/cool colors. They have

just finished mixing primary colors to make the secondary colors, creating a Secondary Landscape.

Mrs. Diatlo —

Time certainly has flown by! I hope that everyone had a very Happy Thanksgiving and wish you all a wonderful upcoming holiday season.

Pre K classes have been focusing on trees and the seasons. Using a variety of materials and techniques, their art has been inspired by the colors and textures of fall and by books such as the giant National Geographic book, "A Tree for All Seasons" and "Red Leaf, Green Leaf" by Lois Ehlert.

Kindergarten artists are spending the year being introduced to the Elements of Art. The element we started with was **line**. The little artists created blanket designs with lines, after being read "Ten Little Rabbits" by Virginia Grossman. From there we moved onto the element of **color**.

After learning about the Primary Colors, kindergarteners were introduced to the Dutch artist Piet Mondrian and his art. The kindergarteners created Mondrian-like pictures, using primary color rectangles with black lines and white backgrounds.

First Grade artists started out the school year reviewing **line**, one of the Elements of Art. Some of the resulting "Wacky Sun Rays" pictures are on

display near the art room. These were the first in a series of landscape pictures created. The young artists continued their review of the elements with **texture**. They seemed so elated to create "Textured Fall Trees" in one session and to get to bring them home that same day! Following this we painted beautiful Fall Tree Landscapes, using the elements of **color** and **texture**. Next we created Warm and Cool color booklets that went home and were followed by a review of the Color Wheel.

Second graders started the year by reviewing **line**, one of the Elements of Art. The young artists made some outrageous "Crazy Hair Pictures." As a follow-up they listened to the book "Crazy Hair Day" by Barney Saltzberg. Many of their creations are on display in a school entranceway cabinet and also on a bulletin board near the art room. **Shape, texture** and **color** were reviewed in a one day project on the Warm and Cool Colors that went home with the children. Recently, the young artists learned about the Swiss-German artist Paul Klee and made pictures inspired by his painting "Senecio- Head of a Man." Using a special sponge and brush technique, they created unique textured backgrounds.



Technology

Mrs. Magalio and Mrs. Young

First and second graders were off to a great start this year learning and reviewing the parts of a computer. They are taking turns as "Student Navigator" to help guide the class to the correct programs. We introduced proper keyboarding technique and have dedicated some class time to practice. At this age, students are not expected to be able to touch type. Rather, we encourage them to keep two open hands on the keyboard to become more proficient typists.



Technology (continued)

Mrs. Magalio and Mrs. Young

Students have also have been busy using our online learning tools found in the Student Portal on the OHES web site. We reviewed the difference between fiction and nonfiction as students selected and read book pairs in BookFlix. Students were also given a Raz-Kids account to support their reading in a fun way. In addition, second graders used Spelling City to practice their spelling words. In December, students will begin to learn about digital citizenship which includes Internet safety and making good choices while using a digital device.



Health & Physical Education

Mr. Rooney and Mr. Jacoutot

Mr. Jacoutot's and Mr. Rooney's classes are just finishing up a unit on bowling. In December, All classes will be doing activities involving basketball skills and stick play; these activities are designed to increase visual tracking and right and left dexterity, hand eye coordination and agility. The children will participate in some great activities to develop their skills and confidence in these specific areas. In health class the children will learn about Allergy awareness as well as reviewing the ways to be safe on the bus.

Ms. Sinclair

Ms. Sinclair's students started the year playing several different tagging games to learn how to choose a safe speed while changing directions, pathways and levels while being chased. The students have been developing their jump roping skills during our warm-up centers. I also spend time early in the year modeling how to find a partner or a group to work with and how each student can be a teammate when working with others. During the cooperative lessons we discuss taking turns, sharing and how to work out conflicts peacefully as they occur. Also, early in the year the students will be introduced to equipment they will use throughout the year and how to use that equipment (bowling pins, scooters, mats, jump ropes, hula hoops etc.) safely and appropriately. The students are finishing up the throwing and catching unit. They played many games to improve their throwing form and ability to catch a ball that is thrown to them. After Thanksgiving break the students will begin basketball skills focusing on dribbling, passing and shooting a ball. The students have also had several mini-health lessons on playground safety, school bus safety, food allergies, the skeletal system, and head lice.



Media Center

Mrs. Baller and Ms. Share

Thanks to our PTA we have 3 wonderful authors visiting Orchard Hill School in December. We are also thankful for the books and materials donated via the Scholastic Bookfair.

During library classes second graders are becoming familiar with James Howe's Pinky and Rex series. First graders have been delighted with beginning chapter books such as *Henry and Mudge* by Cynthia Rylant and the *Piggie and Elephant* series by Mo Willems. We hope that parents will enjoy finding these books in the public library too. Kindergartener's have been exposed interactive stories including *I Spy with My Little Eye* by Edward Gibbs. Kindergarteners are now listening and writing with Amy Hest's *Guess Who, Baby Duck!* in preparation for the author's visit.