Music News

Kindergarten is finishing up their unit on high/low, steady beat, and loud/soft. Their next unit will focus on tempo, steady beat, rhythm, pitch direction, and timbre.

1st grade is finishing up their unit on long/short and high/low. They will start their next unit soon on tone color of instruments, and recognizing rhythms of quarter notes and eighth notes.

2nd grade is finishing up their unit on so/mi, quarter notes, eighth notes, quarter rests, melody, pitch, and staff. They are beginning a group project that will allow them to work together to create a 4 measure piece of music. They will also be using the donated tubes to make maracas as well.

3rd grade is working on their final song in preparation for their upcoming performance on April 25. The students have really enjoyed learning the songs and they are doing a very good job. Please make sure you have your child at their classroom on April 25 @ 5:30 p.m. The concert will begin at 6:00 p.m.

4th grade continues to work with their recorders. They are starting to learn new notes and rhythms on the recorder. They will continue Recorder Karate through the end of the year. They will bring their recorders home on the last day of music class.

5th grade has completed their unit on recorders. They will begin working on a project in April. The project will include making maracas and creating their own musical piece using quarter notes, eighth notes, half notes, quarter rests, and half rests. They will add melody to their created rhythms, and if time allows, will perform for the class.

PBL News

Kindergarten students are continuing their study of weather and seasons. They have written a piece about each season, and they are using that writing to create a PowerPoint. Students are learning to insert slides and clip art.

First Grade students are continuing their unit on kindness. They are currently planning a service project that will benefit our school or our community.

Second Grade students are continuing their animal project. They have been busy researching their animals as they work to become an expert. They will share their expertise by creating the first Barnette Elementary School Zoo.

Third Grade students are finishing their Amazing Americans product. We are now learning about presentation skills as they prepare to present their Amazing American to their classmates.

Fourth Grade is still busy with Econ Day. They will be finishing up their products to sell on our official Econ Sales Day.

Fifth Grade has completed their research about various Civil Rights leaders. They are now busy creating a multi-media presentation

Media Center News

It is hard to believe the end of the school year is almost here. The last day students will be able to check out books from the Barnette Media Center is May 23rd. At that time, I will begin trying to collect all library books checked out this year. As a reminder, all students must return their library book or pay for any lost books before they can receive their report cards. With that in mind, this is a great time to begin looking for any missing library books. Great places to look include bookshelves at home, under the bed, and in book bags. Please contact Mrs. Purtill if you have any questions about library books.

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Science Lab News

Kindergarten students are learning how to make careful observations by observing different insects. They are learning what makes an insect an insect and how structures of insects are alike and different. Try having your child sit quietly outside in the yard and observe the different structures and behaviors of the insects they observe.

First grade students are learning about the characteristics of various environments and how those characteristics affect the ability of plants and animals to grow and reproduce.

Second grade students are learning about insect life cycles by observing how mealworms grow and change. Students are also comparing the life cycle of insects to other living organisms. Students should know that plants and animals resemble their parents in appearance, needs, life processes, and interactions with their environment.

Third grade students are learning about forces and motion. Students are learning how forces affect the motion of an object (changes in speed and/or direction). Students will also explore how Earth’s gravity affects objects as they move.

Fourth Grade students are learning about how organisms adapt in appearance and/or behavior to survive in their habitat. We will also look at the difference between adaptations and variations. We will also explore how humans can adapt in order to preserve our environment.

Fifth grade students will be learning about genetics. Students will prove how organisms are similar and different than their parents. Students will classify traits as inherited or not inherited. Students will analyze variations within a population.

PE News

As your child’s Physical Education teacher, I have the opportunity to teach him/her many of the physical, cognitive, and social skills necessary for a healthy lifestyle. I take my responsibility for the physical development of your child very seriously because an active lifestyle, a balanced diet, and an understanding of safe, skillful movement are important to the overall health of your child.

You can also discuss competition and cooperation with your child, particularly before and after play. When your child comes home after practice or play, try using the following open questions to stimulate a discussion on positive competition.

Encourage him/her to take the emphasis off winning and put it on participation and cooperation.

How did you play today?
How did your play help your team?

PE News Continued

Were you able to help a teammate be successful?
Did you give encouragement to a teammate who did not perform well?
If you sense that your child is having difficulty with competition, we can work together.

As the school year winds down, many things will be happening Physical Education classes. We will continue to work on the Fitness Gram, cooperative games, and activities. We will continue working on hitting and striking unit as it pertains to hitting and racket sports.

Also, Field Day is approaching. You will be receiving information soon on what we have planned and how you can be involved. I am looking forward to great things the PTA and I are planning to make this the BEST FIELD DAY ever at Barnette Elementary School.

Art News

Kindergarteners will be finishing up fourth quarter projects on Mosaic collages, sponge printing and basic weaving and stitching skills. Students will learn how to thread a plastic needle, tie a basic knot and learn a basic stitch.

First Graders will be working on a project using hand prints and finger prints to create a picture of a bird or underwater creature. We will be discussing printmaking techniques, vocabulary terms and how to use specific art tools. We will then begin working on basic weaving techniques using paper strips and a paper loom to create spring inspired placemats.

Second graders are finishing up a project using glue as a drawing tool to create a textural, landscape and will work with construction paper crayons, once the glue dries to fill in the empty/negative spaces. We are also working on printmaking using bubble wrap and leaves to make a print design and will be working with multi-media, collage materials. Students have been discussing vocabulary terms such as a brayer and we have been reviewing principle of art terms repetition, balance, unity and patterns seen in art works.

Third Graders are finishing up a chalk drawing referencing artist Claude Monet and his Impressionistic style of art. Our focus for this project was his pristine, water lily paintings. Students watched a power point presentation on Claude Monet and his spectacular works of art. Next, students will begin a printmaking project using Styrofoam sheets and ball point pens to create a drawing of their favorite animal. We will also use a ruler to create a border and design a unique pattern to frame around our picture. We will use visual references, pictures and hand outs to guide us as we draw realistically. We will also discuss the animal habitats and characteristics for amphibians, reptiles, birds, fish and mammals. Students will review how to use a brayer tool and will write down the steps behind the printmaking process.

Fourth graders are working on world passports and cultural artwork from around the globe including North Carolina artists. We have travelled to Egypt and Australia so far looking at the Hieroglyphic inspired drawings and artwork, as well as the native Australian, Aboriginal pointillism artworks. We will be using our imagination to travel to a few more countries by the end of the school year and will learn about Japan next.

Fifth Graders are finishing up a project on optical illusion art referencing artists Bridgette Riley and Victor Vassarley. Students will then begin a slab construction clay project on masks from around the world. Students watched a video on masks and designed an initial first draft. They will then begin a 3-dimensional, clay version referencing the drawings they created. After the clay is fired, students will glaze their masks with the colors they had envisioned in their initial sketch. If time is left in the quarter, students will work on a paper weaving project using paper strips.