

# *IHM Specials Classes Trimester Update*

## Music

It's Fall in the music room! Students in **PK and 4K** are busy learning the routines of the music room. Ask them to sing "The Birdies Fly Away" for you! The Kindergarten class is starting to explore the xylophones, and has learned a lot about the 4 voices - talking, whispering, shouting, and of course singing! **First graders** are hard at work learning the difference between beat and rhythm; using songs like "Apple Tree" and "I Climbed Up the Apple Tree" to begin part work. **Second graders** reviewed their skills from last year and put together a fabulous performance of "Peas Porridge Hot" including drums, xylophones, metallophones, and even some improvisation! **Third grade** continues to build their solfège skills by singing and playing "King's Land" - be sure to ask them about the special instrument sound used in the game. **Fourth and Fifth grades** are working on their ensemble skills with games and songs like "Alabama Gal" - the word of the year is improve! We are always asking how something can get better.

In **Middle School**, the **sixth grade** is learning about meter and time signatures. By playing, reading, singing, writing, listening, and moving they are differentiating between music with beats in groups of three or four or sometimes even more unusual groupings. **Seventh grade** is diving into the World Music curriculum with Jam of the Day assignments and a world music instrument research project. **Eighth grade** has begun the History of American Popular Music/Rock History curriculum, beginning with an investigation of the electric guitar. They have also learned some really great instrumental pieces; be sure to ask about 'Summer's Over' - I bet it'll get stuck in your head!

-Mrs. Binzak

## PHY. ED.

In PE, Middle School students are working flag football skills that include: running with the ball, throwing the ball and catching the ball.

Elementary school students are working on their broom ball skills including dribbling, passing and shooting. Broom ball is like floor hockey, but played with a broom and an old dodgeball. It can be played indoors or out!

All of these skills will serve them well for a lifetime of activity.

-Mr. Lange

## LIBRARY

Students are learning to love books in the library! The **4K** is being introduced to the concepts of book care, choosing a book, looking quietly, and returning books to their correct spot on the shelves. We have had fall and beginning of school-themed read alouds for **4K, K, and 1st Grade**. **2nd Graders** are listening to their favorite - Geronimo Stilton, and the **combined 3,4,5 classes** have really been enjoying "Clementine" by Sara Pennypacker. In the Middle School, I am reading "Coraline" by Neil Gaiman to the 6<sup>th</sup>, "A Series of Unfortunate Events" to the 7<sup>th</sup>, and "The One and Only Ivan" to the 8<sup>th</sup>. Ask them what they think! The Scholastic Book Fair is coming up soon and the students will start to hear about it in the coming weeks!

-Mrs. Winter

## COMPUTER

In the computer classes, students have been exploring a wide range of uses for technology. While all classes begin with 10 minutes of keyboarding, the lower grades are learning with games such as the gcompris activity where letters fall from the sky. As they progress through the grades, students develop their skills by focusing on specific finger pairs of the home row. Our eighth grade students are "testing out" of keyboarding when they reach a certain speed and accuracy.

This week, 6<sup>th</sup> graders have been creating their own flip-chart animations on the computer. 7<sup>th</sup> graders are finishing their electronic signatures for their business letters, and learning about the future beyond cell phones. 8<sup>th</sup> graders just started vector graphic self portraits, where they join the alumni of past students representing themselves electronically.

Outside of the regular classroom lessons and assignments, 12-15 students have been working on 3D object creation and printing. These students use geometric shapes to build objects on their netbooks, and when they are printed out the students take the objects home with them. The process is exciting because students are creating unique things that have never before existed - their own unique creative expressions!

-Dr. Maynard