

IHM Specials Classes: 2nd Trimester Update

Music

4K and K are working hard on musical opposites: high and low, and loud and soft. Ask them to sing you "Grizzly Bear" or "I Can't Pay the Rent!" 1st grade is preparing for quarter and eighth note with songs like "Bee Bee" and "2, 4, 6, 8". 2nd grade has learned half note and half rest with songs and dances such as "Are You Sleeping?" and "Boots of Shining Leather". 3rd grade is absolutely rocking the recorder! So far We have learned the notes E, G, and A (So, Mi, and La). Soon each student will have two belts earned!

4th/5th are also reviewing recorder notes, and all have earned a Red belt by playing "2, 4, 6, 8". Keep practicing at home! 6th grade had lots of fun with a Careers in Music Unit - they took personality quizzes to see what type of job would best suit them, and did a project and presentation for one career. Guess who would be a cruise ship musician, DJ, or music store manager! 7th grade continues studying World Music by discovering the musical regions of Europe. Next month we will study Japan and have an exciting assembly with a presentation of Taiko drumming from Japan! 8th grade spent 3 lessons analyzing the history behind "The Day the Music Died" and analyzing the lyrics to 'American Pie' as they relate to the events of the 60s-70s. Ask them about some of the more interesting details!

-Mrs. Binzak

PHY. ED.

In PE class, students are finishing up on floor hockey and about to begin fitness. Bowling and dance will also start soon. I am excited about students combining team work and floor hockey skills into a game. They have really been enjoying floor hockey. In fitness, I am excited to see who got stronger from last year and who can challenge themselves to get better in the exercises. Let's see who can break the 200 score in bowling and which student can win a dance-off!

-Mr. Lange

COMPUTER

The students in 6th and 7th grade computer classes have begun their work on spreadsheets. Spreadsheets allow the students to construct their projected personal financial future based on an estimated paycheck, a detailed budget for all expenses, and an investment portfolio. This project is a challenge, but is one of the more useful learning experiences they have related to technology.

The eighth-grade students are in "full swing" on their final projects. This involves the complete design of their art portfolio which will serve as the basis of their visual presence at graduation. The students create a prospectus where they outline the process they will take, and it includes a scan of their proposed central image. This image becomes the initial sketch for an oil painting. Several of the students have already mitered and glued their stretcher bars, and are ready to glue their canvases. The entire project takes a great deal of forethought and planning, but in the end it is worth the effort!

-Dr. Maynord

WORLD LANGUAGES

This trimester, middle schoolers continue posting in German on our classroom blogs and learning new vocabulary related to recreational activities, food culture and hobbies. The 8th graders will prepare to compete at UW-Madison's German Day which is attended by over 600 6-12th grade students learning German from Wisconsin. The 7th graders are learning food/drink vocabulary and the differences between American and European eating styles. The 6th graders will focus on vocabulary related to extracurricular activities and European educational systems.

All students will continue to develop their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills using vocabulary and grammar. They will also have opportunities to gain a more nuanced understanding of European perspectives, culture, geography and history.

-Mrs. Linsenmeyer

LIBRARY

Students are learning to love books in the library! The **4K** has started checking out books to keep in their classroom while we learn how to be responsible for them and return them to take out another book next week. They will be able to bring home their checked out books in the next few weeks! We are reading a lot of Winter-themed titles for **4K, K, and 1st Grade**. **2nd Graders** are still listening to their favorite - Geronimo Stilton, and the **combined 3,4,5 classes** are finishing up listening to "Clementine" and about to start on Roald Daul's "Fantastic Mr. Fox." In the Middle School, we are continuing with "Coraline" by Neil Gaiman in the 6th and "A Series of Unfortunate Events" in the 7th. The 8th grade has finished listening to "The One & Only Ivan," and we are reading short chapters while I pick another book for them! The Scholastic Book Fair was a huge success, thanks to our supportive parents, and there will be another one in April!

-Mrs. Winter