

# THE "SPECIAL" REPORT

NOVEMBER, 2011



Physical Education in November had the Slingerlands students slam dunking their way through our basketball unit. Our students worked on basketball skills including: dribbling, passing and shooting. All the skill work led up to our annual Turkey Shoot (basketball free-throw contest). We collected over \$1,000.00 that will be used to enhance our program with additional tumbling mats and scooters.

December will have us shifting gears. Mr. Burger will be teaching volleying and circus skills. Mrs. Young will be teaching KidNastics (a child based gymnastics program).

The Fifth Grade KidNastics show will be held on Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our fifth graders will create and perform KidNastics routines. The performance times are:

9:30 - 11:00 Mrs. Andres, Mr. Betor and Mrs. Clarkson

12:30 - 1:30 Ms. Conners and Mrs. Bush



Our November Composer of the Month was **Aaron Copland**. Grades K-5 all enjoyed listening to Hoedown from Rodeo. It brought out the inner cowboy in all of us!

**Grades 1-5** all learned the game Rhythm Roundup. Using cards with different rhythms, students worked together to write the rhythms they heard.

In **kindergarten** we learned a four-part circle dance where counting the beat was very important!

**Engine Engine Number Nine** was the focus of **first graders** in November. We read the rhythms, read the pitches and then added the words. What super music readers!

**Second Graders** continued learning American folk songs Lone Star Trail and Old Dan Tucker.

**Third Graders** travelled to Morocco and studied the song Ala Delona. We're now in the Philippines singing Bahay Kubo!

**Fourth & Fifth Grade** have been singin' solfege - do, re, mi fa, sol, la and ti. Combining our voices with the hand signals, we've been creating some beautiful harmony!



In Art, we have been reinforcing the **three main elements** (ingredients) of Art in all grade levels: Line, Shape, and Color. All artists consider these elements when they create their work. Throughout the year we will expand our focus to include the remaining elements of form, texture, value, and space.

**In Kindergarten**, we have created decorative African Masai collars. The Masai people are a tribe located in the East Central area of Africa known as Tanzania. The number of collars worn at one time indicated the status of a person. We used a paper plate base for our collars and painted patterns in red, blue, yellow, black and green-the colors used by the Masai people. The final adornment was the addition of gold metallic pasta, used to represent decorative metallic beads and embellishments. Our finale was to wear them and dance to African music!

**In First Grade** we created beautiful paper wall hangings! First, we made color patterns using either warm or cool colored paper strips and then applied decorative repeated pattern designs on top of the strips using black Sharpie markers. The finale was to add yarn fringe on the bottom!

**In Second Grade** we are creating "Bodacious Bugs!" Since they have just completed their science unit on ants in their classrooms, we referenced their knowledge of the main parts of an insects (three main body parts-head, thorax, and abdomen- as well as 6 legs, mandibles, compound eyes and antennae) to draw the basic parts of their created insects and then began to divide the space within these parts and apply dense pattern to each section using black Sharpie marker. Upon completion of all patterns, the children will paint them using watercolors, cut them out and add 3D wings!

**In Third Grade**, we used an assortment of real leaves as tracers to draw outlines of these organic shapes on white drawing paper. We then used brightly colored Color Changing markers to add a base color to the shapes and then added interesting patterns in contrasting colors on the top of the base colors. The results were beautifully patterned abstract leaf designs!

**In Fourth Grade** we have finished our multiple observational drawings of our sneakers and have arranged them in a radial design on a colorful background. Now we are working on creating an interesting balanced design emphasizing line, shape, and color. Using oil pastels on a dark paper background, we are learning to outline and blend contrasting colors which create shadows and transform 2D shapes into illusions of 3D forms!

**In Fifth Grade** we have begun a unit on printmaking and are exploring a variety of printmaking techniques! Using a modeling compound called Model Magic, each student made their own stamp which was then painted and printed on textured wallpaper backgrounds in a



One of the most anticipated events of the fall is the Scholastic Book Fair. This year, our students found a wonderful array of books for all ages to enjoy. The library now has added many new titles from the Book Fair to our library collection for students and teachers to check out.

**Kindergarten:** Holiday stories abound in November. Students have borrowed many holiday books on display in the library to share at home.

**First grade:** Students are being introduced to easy chapter books and books in a series. They are finding story characters that they enjoy and series that they like to read.

**Second grade:** We have been listening to fairy tales and folk tales in the library this month. Students are encouraged to borrow books from this particular collection to enjoy stories from around the world.

**Third grade:** Students are learning how to identify the difference between fiction and non-fiction books and how to find each kind of book in the library.

**Fourth grade:** We are working on enhancing location skills in the library. Students are finding the sections of the library which contain fiction, non-fiction, reference, and paperback books, as well as audiobooks. Students are also getting to know how these sections are arranged.

**Fifth grade:** Students are learning how to find magazine articles for research. We have looked at the print version of the magazines which our library subscribes to, and students are also using laptops to explore the online databases which index magazine articles.

**Contact us!**

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