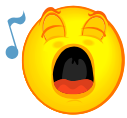


Broomfield Academy

Specialty Class Newsletter Fall 2009



Music News Miss Kleinsteiber (Miss K)

The Explorers, Junior Kindergartners and Kindergarteners have been off to a great start in music, always coming into music eager to participate and learn. We have been learning a lot of call-and-response songs covering a wide variety of topics including the alphabet, counting down from ten, parts of the body, farm animals and trains. We emphasize finding the "steady beat", and often we will either take turns playing the steady beat on different percussion instruments and/or demonstrating the steady beat, different tempos, and different styles by performing movements such as walking, hopping, running, crawling, and dancing. We listen to a lot of songs that tell a story and then students are asked questions to see if they understand the words being sung and comprehend the story.

The 1st and 2nd graders have started off the year with a lot of singing and listening comprehension. We have been learning how to follow along with written music, including identifying repeats, patterns, form and distinguishing between verse-and-refrain. We have also done some review of distinguishing between the steady beat and rhythm, and have begun identifying the melodic shapes of songs. Many times we use the mallet instruments to supplement learning these concepts, as well as exploring our creative sides by making up our own accompaniments to songs in an appropriate style. Recently we have started to learn more about the string family, including identifying string instruments from other countries by sight and sound.

The 3rd – 6th graders started off the year with reviewing some music theory basics, leading to writing our own simple compositions. We spent a few weeks on meter recognition and aural and written identification of songs in meter of 2 versus meter of 3. Next we learned about melodic shape and identifying melodies that move by step, skip, leaps or repeats. After briefly touching on phrases and cadences, students were given an assignment to write their own simple composition for xylophone or an instrument they play. The 5th and 6th graders have been using their additional music period each week to learn individual instruments, this year being guitar and oboe.

Art News Mrs. Dean



This trimester our young artists have been very busy!

Junior Kindergarten has enjoyed making beautiful creations based on the letter of the week. It is always fun coming up with projects that meet the criteria. Kindergarten has looked at the works of Eric Carle and made beautiful art projects based on his very colorful work. We have also had fun brushing up on our cutting and coloring skills.

First grade is exploring all things Van Gogh! We have looked at and interpreted our own version of *Sun Flowers*. Next, we will study *Starry Night* and try those beautiful swirls for ourselves. Second Grade has been studying the works of Grant Wood and his *American Gothic*. In creating our own “Gothic”, we used a multi-media approach using colored pencils, markers and construction paper. This has been a great project with a chance for us to discuss figure drawing.

Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth grade started the year off with the Name Game. We looked at font styles and created colorful nameplates on black and white patterned backgrounds. We have now entered the make believe jungle of Rousseau; each student is creating a big cat and plants for their very own jungle!

I would like to take a moment to mention that the Technology and Art Departments are working hard to produce a 2010 Calendar featuring the artwork of all Broomfield Academy students. More information will be forthcoming.



Technology News Mrs. Horn

Welcome to the first specialty newsletter of the 2009-2010 year! What a wonderful 10 weeks it has been. This year the students are doing a fantastic job in computer class. I have enjoyed seeing returning students and meeting the new students.

In **Jr. Kindergarten**, we are working on the letter of the week using technology tools. Each week we do a letter page. You may have seen it come home. We are also working with programs that more advanced phonics skills.

In **Kindergarten and 1st Grade**, we have been doing our Log On unit. In this unit we are “detectives” and learn all about our computers. In **2nd grade**, we are learning about the different parts of the computer and we have started learning Microsoft Word.

In **3rd - 6th grade**, we are working independently doing several research projects that cover topics such as: The History of Computers; Computers are Everywhere, and Computer Languages. The students are learning a lot and are enjoying these presentations

World Languages



Mandarin Chinese News Mrs. Li

Dear Broomfield Academy Families,

I am very happy to say that your children have been working very hard to learn Mandarin Chinese.

The students in first and second grade continued to learn more topics and some simple conversations that are taken from daily life. They now can ask and answer questions in Chinese such as: *What is your name? How old are you? Where are you from? What is the day today? What day is your birthday? Which color do you like? Which animal do you like? What do you love to eat? I love to eat hamburgers, sandwich, hotdog, cake, crackers, and so on.* They can also substitute *you* with family member titles in these questions. They are now also working on how to write simple Chinese characters.

The students in third and fourth grade are fluent in introducing themselves *“My name is __; I am __ years old; and I was born the year of __; I am not Chinese, I am American; I love America. I go to the Broomfield Academy; He or she also goes to Broomfield Academy, etc.”* They can also apply their family member titles into these sentences. They have already learned the Chinese Pinyin system. They are now working on how to write Chinese characters with radicals, strokes, and stroke order. They are able to write small paragraphs in Chinese now.

The fifth and sixth grade students are continuing to develop and solidify their listening, speaking, reading, writing, and grammar skills. Their skills are reaching an increasingly advanced level.

It is my pleasure to work with your child. Thank you very much for your support. I hope you all have a wonderful fall season!

Spanish News Miss Varani

Our Explorers, Junior Kindergarten, and Kindergarten students have had a very successful first semester for Spanish. We have learned to count past ten in all age groups. We know our colors. We have learned phrases such as: “*me gusta*” and “*no me gusta*”. We are continuing to work on commands and we spend everyday learning 3-5 new words, such as vegetables and fruits, family, and animals.

Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten groups have spent a lot of time learning to write the words we are studying. We do have a lot of fun songs and games. We also have a lot of fun doing different art projects.

For Hispanic Heritage Month, we discussed all the different places where Spanish is spoken as the primary language and we had fun looking at maps. We also made Milagros, which are little ornaments with student pictures on the front and some students made wishes for the world on the back. The wishes were discussed in all the classrooms as things that we wished for people around the world like: warm jackets for everyone, enough food, and no more fighting. We also have started to discuss the Day of the Dead, or Dia de los Muertos, Nov. 1st and 2nd. I have worked to make sure that children know it is not a sad or scary day but in fact a day to remember and celebrate people who have passed on. It is a day celebrated in many Latin cultures. We will continue to discuss and learn about Dia de los Muertos until Halloween. If students or parents have any questions about this day please feel free to email or call me.

Finally we will spend some time learning body parts, more animals, classroom objects and home objects, and more phrases. Gracias for all the support at home through practicing Spanish and asking and showing an interest in different languages and cultures. The students at Broomfield Academy are wonderful beginning second language learners!



Physical Education News Mrs. Shelley

We've had a busy and exciting start to the new school year! It's hard to believe that it's almost November already. As a reminder: the autumn days are upon us and the weather is cooling down so please remember to send your children with jackets and coats since most of our time is spent outside.

Each of the classes spent the first several weeks working on and talking about the importance of safety and appropriate ways to move while playing various movement and tag games. This will be consistently reviewed throughout the school year. JK Explorers are having a lot of fun simply learning the basics of the PE environment. This is my first year to have them as students so it is not only fun for them but for me as well!

Most of the curriculum at the Junior Kindergarten level is focused on movement so they have been learning how their bodies move in space at different levels, speeds, and so on. In September they worked hard on soccer and combined their excitement about kicking the ball with activities, which reinforce their letter of the week. Junior Kindergarten is focused on movement activities as well. They learned some new tag games, which teach them how to move in space carefully while dodging another person. In September they had fun with soccer, working individually, in groups, and as a whole class playing games to develop kicking skills. They have recently begun to work on tossing and throwing as they rotate through different stations to reinforce these skills.

Kindergarten worked on soccer skills by passing in groups, kicking hard, and playing different soccer games to help develop these skills. Then they worked on tossing and throwing, learning

the difference between each as well as when to release the ball so that it gets to their target. Working with partners and rotating through different stations, which focused on these skills, accomplished this.

First grade has a longer class period than they did in Kindergarten so we spent a lot of time working on learning some new exercises, and some basic routines so that they can get the most out of the longer time periods. They also worked on soccer skills by playing different games to help with accuracy and ball control. In October they started on tossing and throwing and have been getting a lot of practice, learning about follow-through and weight distribution.

Second grade also worked on soccer skills with the focus being on ball control and accuracy in kicking. They had fun working with partners and also as a whole group, playing different games to further develop these skills. As October started, they switched to tossing and throwing like the other classes. They worked on specific skills such as weight distribution, using proper form, follow through and accuracy.

Third – Sixth grades started on soccer skills playing many different games to teach or practice all of the basic skills. In October, they started on football skills, which focused on accurately passing, throwing, and catching as well as learning some of the basics of the game. Next month each of the classes will be working on jump roping and some fun Thanksgiving games.

Please contact me if you ever have any questions or concerns at jshelley@broomfieldacademy.com