



P.S. 9 The Sarah Anderson School

Communications from Specials

November 2009



Gym

with Ms. Warren

Welcome Back! We are off to a great start! All grades have been working on playing cooperative games. Second, third and fourth grades had their Field Day over the last few weeks. Our new location in Riverside Park was a great new spot, right by the water. Unfortunately, the second and third grades were rained out, but fun was had by all in the gym. Fifth Grade worked on building team work for Spirit Day in the park and continues this in gym. The rest of the school is working on soccer skills and will be playing soccer until the end of the month. We will be starting a football unit next month that will take us into the New Year. As always REMEMBER to wear sneakers on gym days.



Computers

with Ms. Rosen

During the first marking period, the fifth grade spent a number of weeks on sharpening map skills. They also showed off their graphic design talents creating portfolio covers for the upcoming middle school interviews. The fourth grade is learning how to use PowerPoint while investigating on New York State geography. Our third graders are now experts on 50 US states after several weeks doing research about the states as well as challenging each other on map games! They have also been doing creative writing while learning word processing skills. Grades 3-5 have been making steady progress on keyboarding, on which they practice about 10 minutes at the beginning of each computer class. Many students continue practicing typing at home. Just log on to the school's technology website and type away! (<http://technology.ps9.org>) Last but not least, our second graders have just begun their first Internet exploration on habitats. They also have been having a lot of fun painting, writing, as well as creating music and animation on their laptops.

UpperGrade Art



with Ms. Dando-Haenisch

I am excited to reconnect with students after the summer and am looking forward to meeting new 3rd graders and children I may not have taught in the past. We are off to a fun and energetic start this year with collage and painting experiences for everyone....

GRADE 3: We have been "exercising our fingers" by tearing construction paper shapes. Students were then challenged to take one shape and add to it by turning it into a drawing. Now they are embarking on Torn Paper Facial Expressions collage portraits - choosing an expression to communicate, colors which can communicate the expression.....they are working to complete an entire portrait with torn paper shapes!

GRADE 4: Students experimented with water colors and created small line paintings on special watercolor paper. They loved painting so much that we decided to make larger line paintings on colored construction paper. They also reviewed some color mixing techniques by exploring the many shades and tones that can be created by using just black and white tempera paints, and used small and large brushes to make their lines. Look for these paintings in the Main Hallway as we complete them.

GRADE 5: Our eldest art students helped to create the Art Word Wall on view on the 3rd floor - on a bulletin board right by their classrooms and the Art Studio (now in Room 336). They were challenged to choose an interesting art word and create an image that would help communicate what the word means, as well as its' correct spelling. They did a fantastic job! We have now begun working on a collage project using colored corrugated paper shapes and, eventually, tempera paints. We have been discussing the work of other collage artists - Matisse, Picasso, Gris - and making choices as to where shapes are placed on our artworks and how they relate to each other on the page. They are off to a phenomenal start!

Finally, a big THANK YOU for all donations of recyclables so far this year. We have enough newspaper for now (but will need more in a month or so) but still would LOVE paper tubes and, of course, wipes!



Art K-2 with Ms. Melissa Wilson

Wow! We have been so busy this fall in the art room. Kindergarten classes have just finished their painting unit and they learned all about using primary colors to make secondary colors and even made tints and shades by adding white or black. First grade students have just finished a collage unit and will be coming home with animal puppets really soon. Second grade students are finishing a drawing unit and have been using an all time favorite – oil pastels! I am looking forward to an exciting year of art. Keep in mind that art can get messy so you may want to find out what day your child has art so they are not wearing their best clothing on that day.



Music with Ms. Kramer

Congratulations to Ms. Stanger! –who was our part-time violin teacher for many years. She now has a full-time elementary music position in Brooklyn (with a violin specialty, of course!). She was very sad to leave PS 9, but happy to get a good full-time job.

K to 3 Music with Ms. Kramer:

Ms. Kramer is excited to have a music room again! Please make sure your children are ready to dance and move!!! **SNEAKERS** or soft-soled tie (or Velcro) shoes will help them skip and jump and spin as we learn about music rhythm and pitch through movement. We are singing songs and games from different countries and cultures and learning to play various percussion instruments. Music performance also needs cooperation and community. Ask your 1st through 3rd grade child what it means to be “Brave and true...”

Kindergarten and **First Grade** classes each have music once a week in the music room and once a week as a large grade-wide “choir” in the auditorium. **Second Grade** classes have music twice a week in the music room. **Third Grade** classes have music once a week in the music room and will also be learning to play the soprano recorder, which is a simple end-blown whistle-flute.



Upper Music with Ms. Beth, Mr. Watson, and Mr. Paris

Big news in the music department! Mr. Paris and Mr. Watson welcome a new violin teacher, Ms. Beth, who is excited to be working with our fifth graders. This week those students will be choosing their instruments for the year while the fourth grade begins a review of rhythm and melody in music. The upper grade music program is ready for another great year with our wonderful young musicians!

Spanish with Ms. Jaramillo



In kindergarten, we have been filling our time with games, crafts, and a lot of learning. We have become experts in common Spanish greetings like “Como estas?” and “Buenos Dias, Buenas Tardes, and Buenas Noches”. We also recently completed a unit on Los Cinco Sentidos (the five senses). We had so much fun playing seeing, hearing, smelling, and touching games. We learned to say “Oigo” (I hear), “Huelo” (I smell), “Veo” (I see), “Toco” (I touch), “Siento” (I feel), and “Saboreo” (I taste). Soon we will begin our next unit on colores, formas, and numeros (colors, shapes, and numbers).

The first graders have been dazzling me with how much Spanish know! We hardly spent any time reviewing common Spanish greetings (because we know them so well). We sped right into El tiempo (the weather) and Las Estaciones (the seasons). We learned to say “soleado” (sunny), “lluvioso” (rainy), “nublado” (cloudy), “ventoso” (windy) and “nevado” (snowy). We have incorporated this work into our daily work with el calendario (the calendar). We continue to play many games, sing songs, and enjoy freeze dances. Soon we will begin our next unit on Familia (family).

Spanish with Señora Whittaker

iBienvenidos a un nuevo año escolar! Welcome to a new school year! We are so excited that Ms. Jaramillo is back with us this year! The new 2nd graders are coming in with a great repertoire of Spanish vocabulary and phrases! *iMuy bien!* In 2nd grade, the students are reviewing their greetings, feelings, weather, numbers, and even learning a new Spanish song “Lunes Antes de Almorzar,” which will help with the days of the week and familiarize themselves with different verbs, as well as learning about *la comunidad*. The 3rd -5th graders, have been preparing their classroom for Spanish. Labeling rooms and using Spanish Target Language Posters to communicate basic needs. *Las culturas* is the main topic we are beginning with the 3rd graders. We learned a bit about where our families are from, and our different traditions. We even had a *El Dia de los Muertos* celebration! *Yo Amo Nueva York* is the current focus of the 4th grade curriculum. They have been working with sentence structures using phrases like *Yo amo*, and *Me gusta*, in order to describe their favorite things about this amazing state! 5th graders are entering their exploration of *Latino America*, beginning with *la geografia de Latino America!*