



Matsunaga Elementary School

# The Arts Team Newsletter

Term 1 - 2009/2010

## ART NEWS



News from Mrs. Fair and Ms. Sunwoo:

This year Ms. Sunwoo will be teaching Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> grade art and 4 classes of 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Mrs. Fair will be teaching 3 classes of 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, along with 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade art. We are looking forward to a great year with your child/ren.

Please note when your child/ren have art and please do not send them in their best, new clothing. We do our best to encourage students to wear smocks.

Kindergarten students will start off the year by learning about elements of arts. Starting with line, students will see how the artist, Kandinsky, has used lines and shapes in his artwork. Inspired by Kandinsky's artwork, students will be creating figure drawings and painting using warm and cool colors.

First grade students are working on creating a sketch book, which will be used throughout the school year. Students will explore various drawing techniques to reinforce their knowledge of lines, patterns, and shapes found in nature. Furthermore, students will learn draw from observation and encourage them to perceive and describe their world in more detail. One technique, crayon resist, explores the effect of combining watercolor washes with crayon drawing.

Second grade students are working on creating a sketch book. Students will be encouraged to use their sketch books throughout the school year. Next students will begin a contour drawing based on observations of butterflies. They will use symmetry, shapes, lines, and warm and cool colors in their creations. They will also use a "magic marble" to help them concentrate while drawing the butterflies contour or edge.

Third grade students are working on accordion style sketch books. Students will use these sketch books for a variety of reasons all year. Next students will create a self- portrait. They will learn about the artist Frida Kahlo and be inspired by her many self-portraits. They will experiment with drawing laying down since Frida Kahlo spent a lot of her time in a hospital bed.

Fourth grade students created sketch books from a kit provided by our PTA. Students will learn an embossing process to create a unique name plate for their sketch book. Next students will learn drawing techniques such as gesture and contour to create a drawing then painting of Van Gogh's famous "sunflowers".

Fifth grade students are creating a sketch book learning the process of making a book from cover to cover. Students will learn how to create a hard back cover and back, sew pages together and bind their books. Next students will draw a Gothic Style Cathedral. Student will use principles of design- balance, unity, emphasis, and pattern and elements of art- line, shapes, texture, and value in their drawing.

## ART

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## MUSIC

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## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Ms. Cindy Lins  
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## Important Dates!

Halloween Young Run: October 18

Veterans Day Concert: November 10



# MUSIC NEWS



## Veterans Day

Please mark your calendars for this year's Veterans Day Concert which will take place on **Tuesday, November 10th** at Northwest High School. Please look for a letter which will be coming home soon to all Matsunaga/Longview families. This letter will tell about the opportunity to honor your military family members, friends, neighbors and community members in our concert.



Due to space limitations, only 4th and 5th graders will be performing in our concert this year. Our 3rd graders will be performing in a special concert of their own in March.

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## Grade Level Notes

(Grades K, 1 and 2 will be taught by Mr. Sinni, and Grades 3, 4 and 5 will be taught by Mrs. Potterton)

### Kindergarten

Early childhood music is experiential in nature. Listening, moving, and singing are the key elements. Children are taught focused listening as they move to the music. By engaging the imagination children learn to hear music, feel music, respond to music, and hopefully are set on the path to a lifelong love of music!!

### First Grade

First Grade music classes build on the foundation laid in Kindergarten. The children are taught the early steps of music reading, putting them on the path to complete music literacy. Music reading is taught from a "sound before symbol" approach, meaning that the children experience each new music concept through movement and singing BEFORE they are asked to decipher written musical notes and symbols. Rhythmic speech, singing, movement, and instrument playing are all employed as the "elements" of music learning.

### 2nd Grade

Second Grade expands the music vocabulary and literacy skills begun in first grade. The singing voice is given more attention at this grade level as the children's voices begin to mature. During the first quarter, we will also be focusing on the instruments of the orchestra culminating in a wonderful field trip to the beautiful Strathmore Music Hall in Bethesda, MD.



### **3rd Grade**

During the first term, 3rd graders will be learning to identify songs with two types of form: verse/refrain and cumulative. We will have fun singing examples of each type of song. We will also be learning to perform several traditional folk dances. Look for information soon about our upcoming recorder unit!

### **4th Grade**

First term will find our 4th graders expanding their knowledge of meter in music. We will be learning to conduct in 3 and 4, and will learn to identify repeating and contrasting sections in music. This year's 4th graders will be performing in the part of our concert where we honor the military members of our Matsunaga families and friends. We will be singing our traditional "Military Medley" as well as a special song to accompany a slide show honoring these important members of our community.

### **5th Grade**

This term, 5th graders will be learning about our national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner". We will be exploring the history of the song, as well as learning to sing it. We will be learning to perform chordal accompaniments with a song, and will practice singing partner songs. We will be learning several songs that we will perform in our upcoming Veterans Day Concert. Fifth graders will also have the opportunity to participate in our school chorus, which will also be performing at our Veterans Day concert. In chorus, we will be refining the vocal and performance techniques that we have been learning throughout our elementary school years.

## **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NEWS**



Mrs. Staub is beginning the school year by doing Instrument Demonstrations on Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone, Violin, Viola and Cello for all 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Permissions slips to participate in Instrumental Music were sent home during the first week of school. Instrumental Music is a voluntary program that is an integral part of the 4th and 5th grade curriculum. Students receive lessons during one 30-minute period each week, and per-

form as a large ensemble at the Spring Concert each year. They receive comprehensive music education that includes music theory, music history, and music performance. The skills gained through sequential music instruction, including discipline and the ability to analyze, solve problems, communicate and work cooperatively, are vital for success in the 21st century workplace. Do you have any questions or want to sign up your 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grader to play an instrument? Contact Mrs. Staub at [Carolyn\\_A\\_Staub@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Carolyn_A_Staub@mcpsmd.org)

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS



Our physical education instructional program at Matsunaga Elementary School incorporates both national and state standards for physical education. Brian Palmer is our part-time PE teacher, responsible for teaching all students in Kindergarten, first grade, and four second grade classes. Cindy Lins is the full-time PE teacher, responsible for teaching three second grade classes (Kearney, D’Agnese, Bennett) and all students in third, fourth and fifth grade.

Instruction is guided by developmental benchmarks and assessments in three distinct areas: movement concepts and skill applications, health-related fitness, and responsibility in a movement setting. Through the application of movement concepts, motor skills, fitness abilities and health-related choices, students build the foundation necessary to lead active lifestyles and become life-long movers.

The focus of instruction for all students during the first two weeks of school will be the establishment of a safe and productive learning environment. This includes learning a variety of signals for starting and stopping movement; strategies to combine students into partnerships and small groups for concept and skill applications; all the while reflecting our school-wide expectations to “stop and think” when making choices for participation. Please help your child be prepared for class by ensuring that tennis shoes and loose fitting clothing for comfortable movement is the attire on PE day.

Our Kindergarten first and second graders are learning use a variety of locomotor skills (run, jump, hop, gallop, slide, skip) to move through space in different levels (high, medium, low), directions (forward, backward, sideways), and pathways (curved, straight, zigzag). Second graders who can move their bodies and equipment through space, changing locomotor skills, directions and pathways in response to people and signals, without losing control of the equipment, demonstrate mastery of this concept.

Third, fourth, and fifth graders will be working on manipulative skills. Third graders are expected to dribble a ball through space using their feet or their hands. Fourth graders use dribbling and passing combinations to move a ball past others as they advance across a space. Fifth graders combine dribbling, passing, and shooting in a variety of games.

Third, fourth, and fifth graders will also become more aware of their level of personal fitness, how to calculate heart rate, and the effects of different types of exercise on heart rate zones. Students will utilize technology such as pedometers and insta-pulse monitors to get direct feedback related to activity choices and healthy benefits.

## NASA Federal Credit Union Halloween Young Run Sign-Up is Under Way

The Halloween Young Run will be held on Sunday, October 18 in Rockville, MD. Last year we had more than 300 students represent our school at this unique “kids only” running festival. **The race registration links and school information letter with the Young Run Club After-School Permission Form can be found on-line at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/matsunagaes](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/matsunagaes) or call school to request that a packet be sent home with your child.**

## Active Ways Display

Students in Grades 3-5 are invited to bring in a picture of their “active” ways to be healthy (soccer game, pictures of the family bike ride, dance recital pictures, etc.) We are making a data display in the gym about our favorite activities.



