

## **S-Science**

Chevy Chase is Going Green!

During the month of September, students learned about our Green School Program. They identified the four criteria that we'll be focusing on this year (water conservation and prevention pollution, energy conservation, habitat restoration, and solid waste reduction) and brainstormed ways that they can support these efforts in our school. Each class also contributed toward the development of our Green School Mission Statement:

As caretakers and protectors of the environment, the tree-hugging students of Chevy Chase Elementary are committed to making the earth a "greener" place. We will learn to value and care for the earth and its resource and will work cooperatively as a team to conserve water, prevent pollution, save energy, reduce solid waste, and restore natural habitats.

During the month of October, our school will be a Seed Drop-Off Site for Potomac Conservancy's Growing Native program. Students, along with their families, are encouraged to collect native hardwood, tree seeds, such as walnuts and acorns, and drop them off at CCES. Potomac Conservancy will donate these seeds to state nurseries, which grow them into seedlings to be planted along the banks of rivers and streams. These plantings are critical to maintaining and improving water quality and providing wildlife habitat. In the science lab, students are learning to identify native trees by their leaves and seeds to assist them in their collection efforts. For Seed Collection Guidelines and other information, click on the Growing Native link on the CCES website.

## **T-Technology [Media Center]**

News from the media center

All classes have had an orientation and the opportunity to check out books. Each class in grades 3-5 has a weekly or biweekly scheduled time to exchange books. The sixth grade comes in once a month for book exchange. Students can come down with a pass to exchange books between the scheduled book exchange times.

All students have had an introduction on how to use the "Spectrum" library catalog system. Third grade has learned about guide words in encyclopedias and also compared World Book print versus online.

**CCNN** is in full swing. There are four crews that rotate weekly to write, tape, edit and produce two shows per week. The sixth grade moviemaking class is learning the five step process of: 1- script development, 2- screenwriting and storyboarding, 3- production and filming, 4- Editing and 5- exhibit, review and reflecting.

## **T-Technology [Computer Lab]**

Sixth Graders are creating newsletters that focus on various notable multi-cultural people.

They are using prior skills to access different applications and are also learning how to use the online bibliography resource, NoodleBib. In addition, they are safely accessing and using the Internet to do their research

The next project will have the students using the multi-media presentation MovieMaker.

Fifth graders are using Power Point to make the story Ten in the Bed come to life. Students will have the opportunity to insert and edit graphics as well as apply custom animation to their presentation

Fourth Graders will use the scanner and scan a picture of themselves. Once the photo is scanned, students will insert it into a calendar created in Publisher.

Third Graders will learn the basics of Microsoft Word while creating autobiographical acrostics. In addition to experimenting with different fonts, students will have a chance to insert a picture of themselves into their work.

## **A-Art**

This has been an exciting beginning of the new ART school year! All grade levels have been challenged by either Miro stichery or cultural weaving. I meet with the sixth graders each day for 13 weeks which has been a consistently wonderful experience. They will be moving on to printmaking as they have completed their stitichery using Joan Miro as inspiration.

All grades will be participating in making our school a Green School. Using their artistic talent, they have designed covers for the switch plates throughout the school as a reminder that we must conserve our energy.

## **M-Music**

Third Grade: enjoys singing together. We are learning to recognize and follow songs with 2 sections: verse and refrain. We are also learning to identify two categories of songs: folk songs and spirituals. We are reading rhythms (quarter, eighth notes and quarter rests) and learning the names of the lines and spaces of the treble clef staff.

Fourth and Fifth Grade: began the year with team building rhythm games and activities that required focus, skill and cooperation. We learned things about each other as each played open and bass tones on small, medium and large Remo drums with partners using echoes and question and answer form. They are now playing on the alto and soprano xylophones and glockenspiels in partners. The fourth grade learned an accompaniment pattern while singing "I Love the Mountains." They are singing rounds, partner songs and cumulative songs. Each fifth grader improvised a melody in the open spaces of the verses in the song "Your Life is Now" by John Mellencamp using a pentatonic scale.

Sixth Grade: came together as they learned all the parts to Drum Ensemble 1, including the shekere and cowbell. We were ready to take it on the road! They improvised melodic patterns on their recorders during Pachelbel's Canon in D, arranged and directed "Tick Tock Shock" with xylophones, glockenspiels and Chinese temple blocks and shared camp songs before Outdoor Ed. They continually practice rhythm reading and sight singing.

## **P-Physical Education**

PE at CCES!

The beginning of the year is always a time of great excitement for our students in our physical education program!

For those who were at Back to School Night, you heard about the importance of establishing Physical Education as an exciting place of learning at Chevy Chase. The tone that is set during the first month of school is critical.

The focus of the curriculum has been on Team Building, Cooperation, Effective Communication, Sharing, Playing Honestly and displaying good Sportsmanship. These skills are the building blocks to the positive tone and atmosphere that is critical to a positive learning environment in class.

The 3rd grades have worked hard on following directions quickly so that learning/play time is maximized. They are learning how to have fun and work hard at the same time!! That is hard for 3rd graders to master.

The 4th and 5th grades have done a great deal of work on coming together as groups, getting to know each other and team building. These grades do not come to their special classes by homeroom. They are grouped across the grade level. The METS class is mainstreamed into the 4th grade. This time getting to know each has been well spent.

The 6th grade is acclimating to everyday Health/Physical Education.

Our first P.E. Unit was on Team Building, Cooperation and Communication. Emphasis was placed on effective communication skills.

This unit was followed by a Health Unit on Nutrition and Fitness. Many thanks to Harper Gensler's Mom Tracey, a Nutritionist who was kind enough to give a wonderful presentation to our students.

Next, the 6th grades will begin a Unit on Fitness Testing and Personal Goal Setting.