

NEWS IN THE Arts

Ritchie Park Elementary
October 2011



Welcome to the arts at Ritchie Park! Read on to see what exciting things are going on in Art, Music, Physical Education, and Media. Check out the Arts showcase in the office foyer!

"I believe arts education in music, theater, dance, and the visual arts is one of the most creative ways we have to find the gold that is buried just beneath the surface. They (children) have an enthusiasm for life, a spark of creativity, and vivid imaginations that need training— training that prepares them to become confident young men and women."

-Richard W. Riley, Former U.S. Secretary of Education

Halloween Young Run

This year's fun run will be held on Sunday, October 23, 2011. The fun run is presented by the Montgomery County Road Runners Club and is for children ages 12 and under. Post cards about the run were sent home in early September. Students can register for the fun run at www.halloweenyoungrun.com. Hope to see you all there!



Sneaker Check Award

In P.E., classes are able to earn a "Sneaker Check Award" at the end of each marking period. This is how it works:

If every student comes to P.E. prepared by wearing sneakers, they earn a sticker for their class for that week. This is posted on a chart in the gym. At the end of each marking period, whichever class earns the most stickers will receive a certificate to hang up in their classroom. This helps to make moving easier and safer for everyone. Thanks for your help.

Here is the P.E. schedule to assist you:

Kindergarten— Colavito (*Monday*), Heald (*Tuesday*), Clements (*Thursday*), Ballen (*Friday*)

First Grade— Noh (*Monday*), Snedeker (*Tuesday*), Rix (*Wednesday*), Hope (*Thursday*)

Second Grade— Gray (*Monday*), Oliva (*Tuesday*), Friedland (*Wednesday*), Porter (*Thursday*)

Third Grade— McCoskey (*Monday*), Schuck (*Wednesday*), Dobridge (*Thursday*), Jeffcott (*Friday*)

Fourth Grade— Speaks (*Monday*), Carbonaro and Gramzinski (*Wednesday*)

Fifth Grade— Nelson and Petullo (*Tuesday*), Nusbaum (*Thursday*)

Currently in Physical Education all classes are learning about muscles and bones.

Kindergarten, First, and Second graders are working on a movement unit; focusing on personal space, locomotor skills, levels, pathways, directions, and speeds.

Third, Fourth, and Fifth graders are working on a basketball skills unit focusing on dribbling, passing, and shooting.

Ms. Svejda
Physical Education

Physical Education
News



MUSIC NOTES

Choral/General Music



Music Instruction

Kindergarten: Kindergartners are identifying the steady beat through singing games, song books, and listening examples. They are also learning proper instrument playing techniques.

First Grade: First graders are working on decoding rhythms and identifying same and different patterns aurally and on instruments.

Second Grade: Second graders are decoding and performing instruments with singing games. They are also composing class speech pieces.

Third Grade: Third graders are reading rests and improvising rhythms vocally and on instruments. They are preparing to begin recorder instruction next week. Please be sure your 3rd, 4th, or 5th grader brings their recorder, or \$5 to purchase a recorder, to school by their next music class.

Fourth Grade: Fourth graders are learning about syncopated rhythms and layering them over African-American spirituals.

Fifth Grade: Fifth graders are concluding a unit on the orchestra by attending a performance of the National Philharmonic on October 11th. They have also been studying sixteenth notes and chordal accompaniments.

Ritchie Park Chorus

The Ritchie Park chorus began two weeks ago and will continue to meet every Wednesday morning from 9:00 to 9:50am. It is open to all 4th and 5th grade students. We are expanding our musicianship by learning about tempo, rhythm, tonality, genre, pitch, and phrasing. The students sing in 2 and 3 part harmony which encourages creative thinking, problem solving, and brain development. Our first concert is Thursday, December 15th at 7:00pm in the Ritchie Park gym.

Looking Ahead:

Winter Concert 12/15 Ritchie Park

Cluster Concert 2/8 Richard

Montgomery High School

Spring Concert 5/24 Ritchie Park

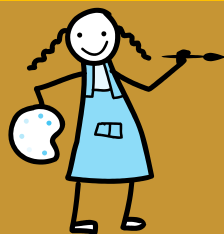
MYSTERY COMPOSER

Each quarter I select two composers to focus on in music class. The identity of the composer is a mystery, but students will get a new clue every week to help them figure out the answer. At the end of four weeks I send home a Mystery Composer paper listing the clues. Each student who figures out the name of the composer, writes it down, and returns it by the following music class will receive a small prize. We will also discuss the composer during music class and listen to her/his music. The composers are from a variety of musical genres and time periods. Our first mystery composer sheet is going home this week. Look for it and see if you can solve the mystery!

-Mrs. Davis



FROM THE ART ROOM!



"Creativity Takes Courage" Henri Matisse

Please send a smock to school with your child's name on it. The smocks will be kept in the homeroom classes. We are very careful but we do work with a wide range of materials, some of which are messy!

*Kindergarten: "Stella Lines"...The Kindergarten students are learning about line. They are learning that line can be curved, zigzag, thick, thin, etc. The students have also discovered that when you close a line it becomes a shape! We are studying the work of Frank Stella and how he used line in his paintings.

*First Grade: "Organic Matisse"...The First grade students are learning about shape. They are studying the work of Henri Matisse. They have been creating compositions using organic shapes as Matisse did. They are using their fine motor skills to cut the fanciful shapes.

*Second Grade: "Van Gogh's Cat"...The Second grade students are learning how to draw from observation. They are focusing on the character of line and how it defines a shape. They are observing cat silhouettes and drawing what they see. They are studying a number of artists and utilizing a chosen Master's painting to fill in the cat drawing.....to become.....Van Gogh's Cat, or Mondrian's Cat, etc.

*Third Grade: "Expressive Portraits"...The Third grade students are currently working on a portrait! They are observing a face of a classmate and drawing the face to show a feeling. They are using exaggeration, proportion and uncommon colors, (colors you would not normally find on a face) to express that feeling.

*Fourth Grade: "Self Portrait Collages"...The Fourth grade students are learning about Miriam Shapiro a collage artist. The portraits are of the whole figure in movement! The students are using collage methods to create the setting and the figure. They will be using fabric, wall paper, tissue paper etc. to finish the collages.

*Fifth Grade: "Capturing Light"... The Fifth grade students are drawing a still life from observation. They are studying the work of two masters; Leonardo Da Vinci and Rembrandt. They are learning how to capture light and create the illusion of space by using Chiaroscuro (the technique of adding values to an object to create the illusion of form, volume, depth, shade, and light).





FROM THE MEDIA CENTER

ROUTINES is the word of the month in the Media Center in September and October, as everyone gets back into the practice of being responsible Library Patrons. Parents can help with this by reminding students that every Media Center book checked out by students has a due date stamped on the sticker on the back of the book. Students have book exchange every week; and books are due two weeks from the day they are checked out. They can be returned or renewed at any time, and there is a two book maximum for students in grades 1-5. Kindergarten students check out one book for a period of one week.

Here is the Book Exchange schedule for your convenience:

Kindergarten– Clements (*Tuesday*), Ballen, Heald, and Colavito (*Wednesday*)

First Grade– Hope (*Tuesday*), Noh (*Wednesday*), Snedeker (*Thursday*) and Rix (*Friday*)

Second Grade– Oliva (*Monday*), Gray (*Tuesday*), Porter (*Wednesday*), Friedland (*Friday*)

Third Grade– Dobridge (*Monday*), Jeffcott (*Tuesday*), McCoskey (*Wednesday*), Schuck (*Friday*)

Fourth Grade– Gramzinski and Speaks (*Tuesday*), Carbonaro (*Friday*)

Fifth Grade– Petullo, Nusbaum, and Nelson (*Monday*)

Kindergarten students have learned how to take care of books and are practicing Media Center skills and routines. They have also been studying the different parts of a story and how signs help them to learn.

First Graders reviewed Media Center Skills and routines, and are currently learning about animals using an excellent electronic resource, PebbleGo. They have learned about the parts of a book and discussed different types of non-fiction books.

Second Graders reviewed Media Center skills and routines, discussed the Caldecott award, and how to choose Award-Winning books. They have talked about non-fiction books, and how they are organized in the Media Center. We've read some different levels of biographies and are currently talking about healthy eating.

Third Graders have reviewed Library Citizenship, reviewed the main sections of the Media Center, and practiced finding books using call numbers from all sections. They have studied several stories by author Cynthia Rylant. They are currently practicing using the Patron's Catalog and will soon be honing math skills using the Dewey Decimal System.

Fourth Graders discussed expectations, reviewed the Newbery Challenge, completed an author study of Patricia Polacco, and are currently practicing Dewey Decimal order.

Fifth Graders discussed expectations using "Your Job, My Job, Our Job." They also reviewed the Newbery Challenge, and are currently reviewing and discussing genres of fiction.

Excitement is building as we kickoff of our annual reading incentive program on Monday, October 10th. This year's theme is Greek mythology and our motto is "**READING IS ENLIGHTENING!**" Information is being sent home this week and can also be found on the Media Center webpage. As always, students will keep track of the minutes they spend reading outside of class and earn incentives along the way. Parents are asked to monitor student progress and make sure the recording sheets are returned in a timely manner-keep in mind, students will not be permitted to turn in sheets more than one month old. **Many thanks to Art teacher Maureen McKay-Stultz for designing another wonderful recording sheet and bookmark.** So-get ready to READ, READ, READ! The program will end April 27th. Students who read the suggested twenty minutes per day will be able to complete all levels of the program successfully!

Please keep those **used computer ink cartridges** coming! We earn \$1 for each cartridge we recycle. What a great way to help the Earth and Ritchie Park at the same time. Cartridges should be put in a zip lock bag and can be dropped off in the Media Center.

"When you read, you hear good writing in your head."
Fred Bowen

