



ARTS TEAM NEWS
2009-2010
Second Quarter



Art with Mrs. Romeo, Mrs. Kelly, & Mrs. Mabry



In the second quarter, students will learn about cultures and the socioeconomic impact of art throughout history. Students in all grades will study the importance of clay in societies and will create various clay projects. Kindergarten and Grade 1 will make clay objects using the pinch method. Grades 2 will learn how to create coils with clay. Grade 3 will incorporate slab building into their clay projects. Grades 4 & 5 will use all 3 clay building techniques in their artwork.

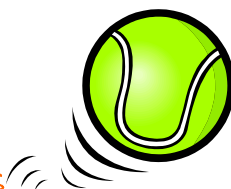
Kindergarten and Grade 1 will continue to focus on learning how to manipulate tools and materials in the art room. Grades 2-5 will learn observational drawing skills, and will further refine their painting techniques.

There are many volunteer opportunities in January and February, as we prepare for the annual McNair Youth Art Show. Please consider volunteering your time by cutting banners, mounting artwork on paper mats, or labeling artwork for your children's art show. Please contact Mrs. Romeo at Theresa.WinklerRomeo@mcpsmd.org if you are interested in helping with the art show. We appreciate any time you can give the McNair Art Department.

Donations of interesting yarn for weaving, and tiles or other notions usable for mosaic would be very welcome and put to good use! Pony beads and feathers would also be very useful for future projects. Cardboard paper towel rolls, and cardboard tissue paper rolls are needed for multicultural projects.

Please check your child's schedule for their art day, and have them wear old clothes or clothing that can get messy. We try very hard to keep the student's clothes from getting stained, but art materials sometimes get on students' clothing.

Thank you so much for all of your help and support.



Physical Education with Ms. Humphries
And Mrs. Ludwig

The students did a phenomenal job during the first quarter in physical education. We are very excited to continue to help your child engage in lifelong learning by developing habits to keep themselves healthy throughout their life. Please take the time with your child to help encourage them at home to exercise. It is important that exercise becomes a part of their daily routine.

During the second quarter, kindergarten, first, and second graders will begin to explore relationships to different objects. They will be able to execute movement of the body into different shapes (i.e., wide, narrow, round, twisted, symmetrical, nonsymmetrical), in a response to a signal. They will also be able to execute the skills of catching and underhand throwing.

Third, fourth, and fifth graders will be able to execute the skills of underhand and overhand throwing as well as catching. They will then move on to striking objects where they will explore and practice the basic skills in the game volleyball.

Please help your child remember their physical education day. It is very important to wear sneakers to class. Any student that does not have proper shoes on will not participate in class that day. There is a special event that will be taking place in the gym the two weeks before winter break. The students of Ronald McNair know it as Winter Wonderland. The gymnasium will be transformed into a winter scene where the students will travel on their sleighs (scooter) to participate in a variety of centers. It is a fun way for the students to show what they have learned

in physical education. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us. Thank you for supporting the physical education program at McNair!

Music with Mrs. Archer and Mrs. McPhee

The most exciting thing about this semester is our Chorus concert on December 3rd at 7:00 pm in the gym. Our 4th and 5th graders will be presenting a delightful night of music. We will be singing a variety of styles of music, and the children are learning to blend their voices in singing two and three parts at a time!

All grade levels will continue singing songs from diverse cultures and playing instruments to sharpen their music reading skills. Kindergarten will continue to learn about fast and slow, steady and unsteady beat, and what forte and piano mean. They will also learn about the voice. We can use our speaking, whispering, singing and shouting voices in different situations we find ourselves in everyday. First grade will emphasize hearing the difference between loud and soft and fast and slow in pieces of music they have never heard before. Second grade will be working to identify two characteristics at one time with the musical term that matches the music (forte, piano, allegro, lento) they will also learn to play a repeated pattern or bordun on the xylophones.

The third grade will be expanding their musical vocabulary by identifying components that we've been hearing in music, but didn't know the terms to call them. We'll learn about staccato (short) and legato (long) notes, which is called articulation. We'll also learn exaggerated dynamics, such as pianissimo (pp, or very soft) and fortissimo (ff, or very loud). Lastly, we'll be learning additional words to add to our tempo vocabulary—presto (really fast) and andante (quite slow). We'll also be learning how to conduct with meter in two counts.

4th grade will continue to read sixteenth note rhythms, sing their concert music, and have fun learning about music from many different cultures and styles. We will also be adding to the names of

notes we recognize on the staff by extending G A B to low D, low E, high D and high E.

Fifth grade will be working hard on the Chorus concert and we are learning about syncopated rhythms and finding them hidden in many pieces of music. We will begin to analyze how music is put together (form), and of course sharpen our music reading skills in both rhythm and melody.

The second quarter will bring some new challenges, and we are very pleased that your children come to music class ready to sing and learn!