



Specialist Highlights **NEW GYM SPACE**

In October, the 8th floor gym was renovated to support our P.E. classes. The carpeting was removed and colorful vinyl tiles were put down. Padding was installed to keep the space safe and our custodial staff (Mike, Mike and Danny) finished waxing the floor. Ms. Nixon and Mr. Newman are so thrilled with the new space and have started teaching some P.E. classes in their room!

Welcome Back!

This is the first issue of **Devo Specialist News**, a monthly newsletter designed to help keep you up to date with what is happening in our K-4 art, library, music, physical education and Spanish classes.

We are getting adjusted to our new building and are excited to have a lot of our specialist cases on the same floor this year! It allows us to see each other more often and build a sense of community as a team. We have also been getting together as a team during some of our staff meetings this year.

It's been fun seeing students back at school and we look forward to a great year of singing, speaking, reading, moving and making!

Best,
The Specialist Team

Specialists Info

Art | Emily Manning-Mingle
Teaches: Kindergarten-4th Grade

Library | Julie Seifert
Teaches: Kindergarten-4th Grade

Music | Anat Hochberg
Teaches: Kindergarten, 1B, 1DJ, 2P, 4G, 4O

Music | Colin Stack
Teaches: 1G, 1J, 1Z, 2F, 2H, 2K, 2L, 3rd Grade, 4CD, 4H, 4S

Physical Education | Jen Nixon Mathis
Teaches: 1B, 1DJ, 2nd Grade, 3A, 3B, 3F, 3P, 4S, 4O, 4G, 4H

Physical Education | Scott Newman
Teaches: Kindergarten, 1G, 1J, 1Z, 3D, 4CD

Spanish | Isabella Delatorre
Teaches: Kindergarten, 1G, 1Z, 4th Grade

Spanish | Ana Elkhessasi
Teaches: 1B, 1DJ, 1J, 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade

Art



Kindergarten

Kindergarteners began the year with sketchbooks. Their first assignment was to draw a summer memory. I loved learning about some of the things that students did over the summer! Next, we started a collage unit. Students learned about the primary (red, yellow and blue) and secondary colors (orange, green and purple) and practiced ripping and gluing paper to make a collage. We are currently in the process of exploring textures and practicing using scissors. In the next few weeks, students will combine their experiments into a book!

First Grade:

First Graders also began the year with sketchbooks. In Kindergarten we used sketchbooks, so this is a review for many students. For their first assignment, students chose a toy animal or car to draw from observation. They looked carefully for details and tried to make their drawing as accurate as possible. Next, students imagined a warm or cool place and sketched it in their sketchbook. Then we talked about how artists sometimes use their sketchbook to plan their ideas and students used different types of papers to turn their sketch into a collage. We are currently learning about the proportions of the face and drawing self-portraits.

Second Grade

Second graders started the year by making a few artist trading cards. Students created Oops!

Hello from the art room! It has been great to see familiar faces and meet new students over the past few weeks. This fall, Ms. G (my student teacher from SMFA) is joining us on Mondays and Thursdays to observe classes. She has been helping me set up the new space and students are getting used to finding and returning supplies independently.

Second Grade

cards by transforming an ink blot into something new and practiced cutting by making a positive/negative shape reflection card. Next students created an Underwater Story collage using different types of paper (plain, painted, metallic, etc.) and different techniques (layering, edger scissors, and hole punchers). We are currently making observational drawings of pumpkins.

Third Grade

Third graders also started the year by making trading cards. After reading *Sky Color*, by Peter Reynolds, students created their own watercolor ATC of a time of day or type of weather. Next, students learned about Joseph Albers and experimented with contrast using different colored squares. Next, I read the book *Not a Stick*, by Antoinette Portis and students turned a real stick into something new (boats, magic wands, and more...). We are currently making observational drawings of fall gourds.

Fourth Grade

Fourth graders also started the year by making trading cards. Fourth graders made an abstract composition using different types of dots and then learned how to weave paper together. Next, students created a symbolic quilt square of something important to them. After painting a color wheel, students are learning about painter Georgia O'Keeffe and painting autumn leaves.



Library



Welcome to the library! Students have done a great job about our new library space. I have decorated the new library with hot air balloons, clouds, airplanes, and the words "What Will You Discover Today?" It is my hope that the library will be a place of exploration and discovery for our students.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten recently took a big step in library: They started taking books back to their classroom. They choose books from special bins that Ms. Seifert makes for them, choosing books about cities, school, animals, and more. They have also learned about check-out, what it means to "borrow" a book, and how we all share the books in the library.

First Grade:

First grade has also taken a big step in library: They are picking books off the shelf. We have been exploring different parts of library, like the picture book room. We have also learned about a special tool—a shelf marker—that helps us explore the library, choose books, and put books back in the right place.

Second Grade

Second grade has learned about some tools and "library words" that will help them use the library better. For example, we learned about "renewing" books and "putting a book on hold." We also read an old favorite, *Wild About Books*, and talked about how all the different animals in the book liked to read different books and needed different books—just like us!

Third Grade

In third grade, we are working on finding fiction books on our own and becoming more independent library users. We talked about how fiction books are organized by the author's last name. Students took turns telling the class their last name, and then we talked about where that student's book would go if they wrote a book! Third graders also listened to a brand-new book, *They All Saw A Cat*, about how everyone sees things differently, and we talked about respecting other people's book choices.

Fourth Grade

In fourth grade, we reviewed how to find fiction books and remembered that they are organized by the author's last name. We have also started exploring, and will continue exploring, the non-fiction section and how it's organized. Fourth graders also heard some "book talks" from Ms. Seifert about a few great books in the library. They also listened to a new book, *They All Saw A Cat*, about how everyone sees things differently, and we talked about respecting other people's book choices in the library.

Music



Kindergarten

In Kindergarten music this year, we will be developing our singing voices, our rhythmic movement, and expressive movement. In every lesson, we sing songs, practice keeping a steady beat, and move expressively to music—everything from Brahms to hand drums. Students sing alone and with others, and sometimes make up their own new songs! Some of our favorite songs this fall have been “Froggie in the Meadow,” “Oh, My,” “My Aunt Came Back,” and “My Little Rooster.” Ask your kindergartener to sing one of these songs at home!

First Grade:

In first grade, one of our goals is to develop our singing voices and our rhythmic and expressive movement. September began with rhythm games and songs that helped us get to know each other, build confidence, and learn rules and routines. In Mr. Stack's classes, first graders were introduced to the infectious sound of New Orleans music, followed by a handful of traditional songs that have been passed on by generations of children throughout the U.S. and British Isles. These include “Lavender’s Blue” and “Erie Canal.” In Ms. Hochberg's classes, students practice keeping a steady beat and moving expressively to music—learning everything from Brahms to hand drums. Some of our favorite songs this fall have been “Pitter Patter,” “Bill Grogen’s Goat,” “Jennie Jenkins,” and “All the World’s Critters.” Ask your first grader to sing one of these songs at home!

Second Grade

Second graders focus more on singing but still continue to work on musical activities that involve movement. We are currently adding choreography to Harry Belafonte’s “Jump in the Line” and “Banana Boat Song (Day-O),” perfecting two partner songs

Greetings from the music classes of Mr. Stack and Ms. Hochberg! Our goal in music is to develop musical skills while finding community and enjoyment through making music together. All classes have started the year with an eclectic mix of songs and musical activities that have us moving, grooving, and singing with joy.

Second Grade (cont.)

titled “Hey There Friend” and “Mr. B,” and we are singing Bob Dylan’s “Duguesne Whistle,” Bruce Springsteen’s version of “Old Dan Tucker,” Harry Connick, Jr’s version of “A Spoonful of Sugar,” and for Halloween we are singing Ray Parker, Jr’s “Ghostbusters.”

Third Grade

Third graders learn how to play the recorder as a precursor to the instrumental program for 4th grade conservatory. In September we focused on the basics: rest/playing position, gentle air flow through the instrument, fingerings for D, C, B, A, and G on a collection of songs from the Yamaha Recorder Method (“Hot Cross Buns,” “Merrily We Roll Along,” “Au Claire,” “Sailing, and Lightly Row”), learning how to read notes on the treble clef, and rhythm using the Takadimi method. We still sing songs in 3rd grade as well! We are currently working on Louis Prima’s “Banana Split for my Baby,” Jill Sobule’s “Old Kentucky” and Nat King Cole’s “Straighten Up And Fly Right.”

Fourth Grade

In fourth grade music we continue to work on our singing, rhythm, and composition skills. In Mr. Stack's are hard at work perfecting songs for their winter concert (TBA soon!). Michael Penn’s “No Myth” and “Don’t Dream It’s Over” by Crowded House are two songs that we are currently rehearsing/arranging. In Ms. Hochberg’s 4th grade classes we have been singing “When I’m Gone,” recently popularized by Anna Kendrick in *Pitch Perfect* but first performed by the Carter family singers in 1931! We have also been developing our rhythmic percussion skills by learning the cup game accompaniment to “When I’m Gone.”

PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Welcome to PE! We have been all over the place over the last two months, including the 8th Floor, the 5th Floor, the Blacktop, and Griggs Park. The students have begun to learn a lot of fun new games and activities that will help them develop important skills such as soccer dribbling, tossing and catching, skipping, jumping, leaping, and more! It's gearing up to be an exciting year in P.E.!

Kindergarten

The Kindergarteners have been learning about all the different ways to move, such as running, skipping, galloping, leaping, and jumping. Mr. Newman has also taught them about the rules and expectations in the gym, and classes have started to learn some fun games like Lily Pad Tag, Super Mario Tag, and Hot Potato Tag!

First Grade:

With Ms. Nixon, 1DJ and 1B have been using the black top and Grigg's Park. Mr. Newman has been using the 8th Floor and 5th Floor for 1Z, 1J, and 1G. They have been learning routines, rules, and expectations for Physical Education. We have also spent a lot of time on space awareness, movement concepts, levels, pathways, and evasion, and have learned a bunch of new warm-up games like Berserk Ball, Sliders, and Color Tag.

Second Grade

The second graders have been going to Grigg's Park for Physical Education class. They have been learning routines, rules and expectations. We have spent a lot of time on space awareness and movement concepts as well as levels, pathways and evasion.

Third Grade

The third graders have been going to Grigg's Park for Physical Education class. They have been learning routines, rules and expectations. We have spent a lot of time on space awareness and movement concepts as well as levels, pathways and evasion. With the new 8th Floor space being unveiled in October, we have started showing the third graders how awesome P. E. will be with a completely renovated gym!

Fourth Grade

The fourth graders have been using the black top and Grigg's for Physical Education class. During the 1st couple of weeks we were learning routines, rules and expectation. We have spent quite a bit of time on evasion games/chasing, fleeing and dodging. Recently, we have moved onto ball skills/eye foot and small-sided games of soccer. Some of the 4th graders have even had the chance to use the 8th Floor space and have been doing stations of jump-roping, tossing and catching, fitness, and soccer skills.



Spanish



The year started "*muy bien*" (really well) at Lower Devo! Profe D and Profe Ana are making sure students use as much Spanish as possible in class! Wanna help? Try using "*gracias*" (thank you), "*de nada*" (you are welcome) at home too!

Kindergarten

It was so much fun for puppets Gloria and Miguel to meet their new friends in Kindergarten! Gloria and Miguel enjoyed helping their new friends learn how to say their names and their ages in Spanish. After some intros, we learned to say the name of some school supplies in Spanish. We will use these all year! Kindergartens have now started their Fall Unit!

First Grade:

First graders started the year with a review of greetings and introductions. We reviewed what they had learned in K and added a couple new words and questions. The culminating activity for this unit was the "*Todo Sobre Mi*" (All About Me) book that students took home. Children worked hard on their books and read them to each other upon completion. They were proud of their work and did a fabulous job sharing with their peers.

Second Grade

For the first weeks of school, second grade reviewed vocabulary learned in previous years, such as greetings, introductions and weather. This was a great way to introduce new students to Spanish class! Students have been working on the "*Todo Sobre Mi*" (All About Me) project and sharing with their class.

Second Grade (cont.)

Students will take their projects home after they finish a last page related to "*Apariencia Fisica*" (Physical Appearance).

Third Grade

Since the start of the school year, third graders have been reviewing vocabulary previously learned through a lot of different fun games and activities. We talked about greetings, introductions, physical appearance, and school subjects. We also introduced Mexico as our cultural focus. During the year, students will learn many different fun facts about our neighboring Spanish-speaking country!

Fourth Grade

For several weeks we talked about physical appearance and personality traits in fourth grade Spanish. We played a modified version of Taboo and several other games. Students worked on a small project called "*Mi Amigo Imaginario*" (My Imaginary Friend), where they used the correct form of SER and TENER ("to be" and "to have") to write a short description for their imaginary friend. Later they shared their work with each other. They did a fantastic job! ¡Bien hecho! Students took their work home with a letter from Profe D.