

Happy Spring!

We had a great time at Devo Caldecott Night back in January! About 70 students voted for their favorite book. It was a tough choice—there were more than 100 books to choose from.

The winner of the “Devo Caldecott” was *Toby* by Hazel Mitchell, a great story about a boy and his dog. The winner of the real Caldecott, chosen by the American Library Association, was *Radiant Child* by Javaka Steptoe, a biography of the artist Jean Michel Basquiat.

It was great to meet families and see all the kids excited about reading!

–Julie Seifert
Lower Devo Librarian

Volunteers Needed!

Ms. Em is looking for volunteers to help plan the spring art show! Jobs include sorting and framing artwork, hanging artwork at the Brookline Public Library and helping plan an opening reception. If you would like to volunteer, please email her.

Emily_Manning-Mingle@psbma.org

Specialists Info

Art | Emily Manning-Mingle

Teaches: Kindergarten-4th Grade

Library | Julie Seifert

Teaches: Kindergarten-4th Grade

Music | Anat Hochberg

Teaches: Kindergarten, 1B, 1DJ, 4G, 4O

Music | Colin Stack

Teaches: 1G, 1J, 1Z, 2nd Grade, 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 | Maria Koehler (long-term sub)

Teaches: Kindergarten, 1G, 1Z, 4th Grade

Spanish | Ana Elkhessasi

Teaches: 1B, 1DJ, 1J, 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade

Art



Kindergarten

During February, kindergarteners explored different ways of making lines. Students learned about different types of lines (including straight, wavy, zig zag) and created mixed-media drawings and paintings using a variety of media. We recently started an architecture unit. First, students worked in groups to build a tower and then students drew it from observation. Next, students went on a "field trip" and "visited" towers from around the world. Each student chose one to observe closely, draw with pencil, add a background, and then color. Next, students will design their own Dream House.

First Grade:

First graders have been connecting to the social studies curriculum by creating *Chinese Zodiac Puppets*. After creating a Chinese Zodiac puppet, students drew a background/stage and wrote a story about something that happened to their puppet.



Meet Ms. G.

Ms. G is a student teacher from the TUFTS School of the Museum of Fine Arts program. She has a background in theater design and fine art, and loves learning new ways to make art (and make a mess!) She's thrilled that Devo students have welcomed her into their art classroom this year! She will be working with us until May.

Second Grade

Ms. G has started teaching second graders an expressive landscape lesson. After looking at images of Japanese woodcuts and discussing the lines, colors and mood in each one, students made a plan to create their own landscape painting. Then, students drew a real or imaginary place that included a foreground, middle ground, and background. Now students are painting it using ink and watercolors.

Third Grade

Third graders have been working hard creating *Paper Quilts* based on a family tradition. Students drew sketches, printed their images multiple times, and arranged their pictures to create a quilt pattern. Students are learning a lot about what makes a "good print" (clear lines, the right amount of ink, and equal pressure when printing) and have made a lot of thoughtful choices about the papers and ink colors they want to use.

Fourth Grade

Ms. G has been teaching fourth graders about how to use recycled materials to make a mask. After looking at masks created by Alaskan and Pacific Northwest Native American tribes, students designed masks that could transform them into an animal, give them a superpower, or reveal a hidden quality about them. Students used cereal boxes, plastic bottles, egg cartons, glue, tape, and papier-mâché to make sturdy, strong masks that stay on their heads.

Library



Kindergarten

In Kindergarten, we read Bryan Collier's book, *Uptown*, which he wrote and illustrated. We also read *City Shapes*, which Bryan Collier illustrated. Kindergartens noticed that both books are about kids who live in cities. Some kindergarteners noticed that the buildings in *City Shapes* look like chocolate - just like the buildings in *Uptown*!

First Grade

In first grade, students learned about the address of picture books. We learned that each book has a home in the library, and its "address" is written on its spine. We also read some books by Bryan Collier, like *Uptown*, *City Shapes*, and *Visiting Langston*. First graders have been noticing how Bryan Collier uses bright colors, patterns and collage to make his stories come to life.

Second Grade

In second grade, students learned about the address of the book for picture books and fiction books. We have also read some books by Bryan Collier, including the autobiography *Trombone Shorty*. Ask your second grader what an autobiography is and what they learned about Trombone Shorty!

"Did you read the words or did you read the book?"

-Bryan Collier

In all classes, students recently read books by award-winning author/illustrator Bryan Collier to get ready for his visit to Lower Devo on March 29th.

Bryan Collier's illustrated books include *Martin's Big Words*, *Dave the Potter*, and *Trombone Shorty*. In class, students looked closely at his collage and watercolor illustrations and talked about similarities they noticed in all of his books.

Students enjoyed hearing Mr. Collier read some of his books and answer student's questions during his visit.

Third Grade

In third grade, students were introduced to the catalog. Third graders learned that the catalog tells you what books are in the library and help you find something to read. Third graders have also read some Bryan Collier books, including *Trombone Shorty* and *Dave the Potter*. Ask your third grader how Bryan Collier used collage in *Dave the Potter*.

Fourth Grade

In fourth grade, students learned about book awards, such as the Newbery Award and the Coretta Scott King award. We have also read books by Bryan Collier, including *Dave the Potter* and *Clemente*, the biography of a famous baseball player. We noticed how Bryan Collier used the illustrations to show Clemente's movement and strength. Ask your fourth grader what Bryan Collier book they liked best.

Music

Kindergarten

Kindergarteners are continuing to explore music with their voices and bodies. Students have been listening and moving to selections from Camille Saint-Saens' *Carnival of the Animals* - "Aquarium" and "The Swan." Students went home with a listening map of "Aquarium" and can listen and follow along at home!

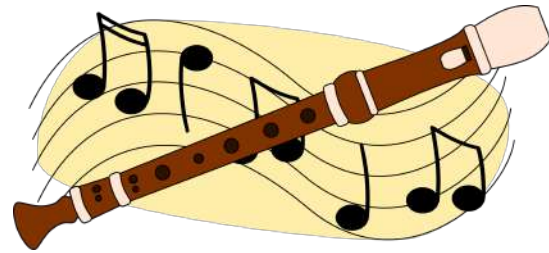
First Grade

Ms. Hochberg's first grade students continue to practice using singing voices and rhythmic movement. We have begun preparing for our spring concert (date in May TBA). Our first graders are especially excited about singing "Rockin' Robin" (Jackson 5) and are invited to listen and practice at home! Students have also been studying Antonio Vivaldi's "Spring" and "Winter" from *The Four Seasons*.

Mr. Stack's students are perfecting two classic songs from the Disney songbook ("Oo de lally" and "Zip a dee do da") and are continuing their work with traditional songs and singing games from the New England Dancing Masters Publications. These songs and dances include: "Old King Glory," "Noble Duke of York," and "Alabama Mississippi."

Second Grade

Second graders have been singing songs from Mary Poppins, a Tom Waits Irish lullaby titled "Innocent When You Dream," James Taylor's "Copperline," Carole King's "Up On the Roof," and their new favorite "Eye of the Tiger"! Our music and movement activities include a variety of fun partner songs and rhythm circle games.



Third Grade

Third grades were introduced to E and low D on recorder this past month. New recorder songs include: "Rockin' the Blues," Jolly Old Saint Nicholas" (I know... it's not the holidays, but our students were not ready to play music that involved using the right hand in December), a tango version of "Red River Valley," and "When the Saints Go Marching In." Paul Simon's "Me and Julio Down by the School Yard" and Bob Dylan's "The Times, They Are A Changin'" are among our favorites for the time being!

Recorder packets are available for all third graders who wish to practice the music at home. ☺

Fourth Grade

Ms. Hochberg's fourth grade classes have started preparing for our spring concert (date in June TBA). Students have also been improvising and composing with xylophones.

Mr. Stack's classes have been learning how to improvise and sing in harmony (up to two layers).



PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Welcome back Ms. Nixon! With our PE All-Star back in action, the floor hockey unit has been in full force.

Whether it was using the normal sticks, trying out our new knee-hockey sticks and goals, or playing hockey on scooters, it's been non-stop fun on the 8th floor in February and March!

Kindergarten

In February, kindergarteners learned all about the parachute. We played games such as "Cat and Mouse" and "Popcorn" and learned how to work as a team to make the parachute look like a giant tent. As for March, the Ks learned how to throw a ball overhand by playing "Messy Backyard" and "Oscar's Trashcan." Remember: "T"-Elbow-Step-Turn-Throw!

First Grade

The first graders started with the parachute in February and played some fun games like "Popcorn" and Cat and Mouse". We then transitioned into hockey, where students learned how to dribble a ball with a hockey stick and pass to a teammate. By the end of the month we were playing small-sided games of floor hockey!

Second Grade

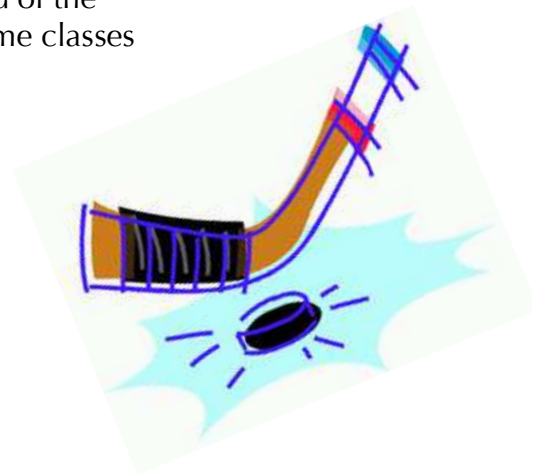
Second grade wrapped up their basketball unit with some fun shooting and dribbling stations. After the February break, it was all about the hockey. Students learned how to dribble a ball with a hockey stick, and by the end of March they were playing small-sided games of floor hockey.

Third Grade

Third graders were introduced to knee-hockey, a modified version of floor hockey that is played with shorter sticks. It was a great new game to play given the smaller dimensions of the gym. When they weren't using the new knee-hockey equipment, they were playing small-sided games (4v4 and 5v5) using the larger sticks.

Fourth Grade

The fourth graders played small-sided games of floor hockey with both the knee-hockey sticks and the regular floor-hockey sticks. Towards the end of the hockey unit, some classes were even able to use the scooters and the knee-hockey sticks to play scooter-hockey!



Spanish



Kindergarten

During the month of March, we have been reviewing fun games and songs about colors, family and birthdays. We played an interactive St. Patrick's Day dice game (all in Spanish!) called *El Trebol de la Suerte* (The Clover of Luck). Then, because of the changes in weather, we practiced *el tiempo* (the weather) by signing a song and playing an acting game. We also started talking about *la primavera* and a few related words, such as *la flor*, *la mariposa*, *el grillo* y *el jardín*. Ask your child about *La Canasta de Primavera de Profe M.*

First Grade

First graders reviewed vocabulary related to shapes (*formas*) y *colores* (colors) by describing and creating different elements such as *muñeco de nieve* (snowman) and recognizing a *corazon* (heart) in our Valentine's Day project. Some first graders enjoyed the story "Amigos" about a town where different shapes live. In March, we said *adios* to *invierno* (winter) and *bienvenida* to *primavera* (spring). Students learned a song to review *el tiempo* (the weather) and *cancion de La primavera* (Spring song) to review different elements present during the spring season.

Second Grade

In February, second graders learned about winter vocabulary by playing different activities and games to help them recognize, describe and verbalize new vocabulary using Spanish words (colors, shapes, clothes, body parts and sizes). Before starting our spring unit, we took a week to review shapes and colors. At the moment, we are learning different words related to *primavera* (spring) through stories, interviews, bingo games and other activities where students can use words like *mariposa* (butterflies), *pajaros* (birds), *flores* (flowers), *jardin* (garden), *pasto* (grass) and more!

In the beginning of March, we welcomed Profe M. (Maria Koehler) who is covering Profe D.'s K, 1st and 4th grade classes while she takes care of her new baby. Profe M. is originally from Puerto Rico and is already having a blast teaching your kids Español! If you would like to contact her, you can send her an email at maria_koehler@psbma.org.

Third Grade

During February, students learned about different geographical features by giving directions to one another using cardinal directions (*norte*, *sur*, *este*, *oeste*) and drawing these features on a map. Students identified different important community places and drew a few of them on their maps. In March, students have been learning new vocabulary about community members, asking about where they work (*¿Donde trabaja?*). Our final project will be related to uniforms or *uniformes*, describing different uniforms using Spanish vocabulary.

Fourth Grade

During February, the fourth graders did several activities to practice clothing vocabulary with Profe D. These new words included patterns, sleeve lengths, sizes and price. For the culminating activity students set up their own stores with several clothing items and pretended to buy and sell from each other. They had lots of fun and spoke lots of Spanish!

To get to know each other, we reviewed expressing likes and dislikes about different topics and talked about our families. Afterwards, students practiced breakfast, fruit and vegetable vocabulary, adding new food and drink items, expanding on how often they eat or drink them and how to describe them (color, taste, quantity). We also compared a typical breakfast from the US to those typical of Spanish speaking countries from the *Cono Sur*: Argentina, Chile, Uruguay y Paraguay. Ask your child to tell you some of the similarities and differences!