

## October Spirit 2015

Dear Coleytown Families,

We have had another successful month at Coleytown Elementary! Please be sure to read your classroom newsletters and the attached information from special area teachers about what has been happening at CES. In addition, we hope to see all parents at our Run for a Reason community event on Monday, November 2. Please join your child(ren) during their recess block to run or walk and raise money for the Mercy Learning Center. A donation form has been attached to this email.

We are pleased to welcome Mr. Nelson Alicea to our staff as our School Security Officer. Mr. Alicea joins our staff after a thorough interview process that included meeting with school and district administrators as well as vetting through the Westport Police Department. Mr. Alicea brings with him professional experience in security and while at Coleytown, he will partner with all members of the school community to ensure a safe and secure learning environment. Mr. Alicea will patrol and monitor our building and grounds, and interact with students, teachers, parents and school administrators throughout the day. Early next week, we will introduce our students to Mr. Alicea and give them a chance to get to know our newest staff member. When you see him, please greet our security officer with a warm welcome!

If you have questions about the role of security or our building entry procedures, please contact the administration at Coleytown.

Sincerely,

Janna Sirowich

### **What's Happening in Art?**

Mrs. Goldenberg

Did you happen to notice all of the Back To School Posters around the main hallway? Those were created by fourth graders last year to welcome back all the students to school when they were fifth graders! They created them in groups, designed and planned and created on their own!

We have been busy in the art room! Here is a grade by grade update!

**Kindergarten:** We have been learning how to use the paints in the art room and have really enjoyed painting pictures of our choice. We are finishing a BIG painting of an animal of our

choice that we first drew and then painted. We made sure to include the horizon line and make sure that the “sky comes down to touch the ground!” *When you are outside with your child, point out how the sky goes all the way to the ground. They often think it is a blue stripe because that is what they see outside above buildings and trees. The beach is a great way to show how the sky comes all the way down to the water.*

**First Grade:** We started off the year by making self-portraits that are now hanging in most of our classrooms. We talked about the shapes of our eyes and how the iris is the colored part of our eyes and the pupil is the black dot. We reviewed our painting tips from last year and enjoyed making paintings of our choice. Printing with objects dipped in black paint was a big hit! When they are dry, we will add some colorful details with chalk pastels. *If you have some objects at home such as old toy parts or paper towel rolls, they really enjoy dipping them in paint and printing them on paper.*

**Second Grade:** We began the year by making a ripped paper self-portrait collage. It was tricky to rip the paper for some of the shapes, but it made great texture for our collage. Recently, we have been working on making a fall landscape that has a foreground, middleground and background as a way to create depth in a picture. We also learned ways that artists make things look far away in a picture. *At home, ask your child what those words mean and how to draw something that looks far away. While out and about, you could point out how small something appears far away and how the colors are not as bright as when it is up close.*

**Third Grade:** We began the year by drawing a self-portrait that included a setting that showed a place we like to go to. Some included accessories on the drawing of themselves to suit the background. For example, ski goggles for being on a ski mountain. We used crayons and colored pencils to color it in. We learned how to create texture in our picture by using the colored pencils to make things such as grass blades, or strands of our hair. We are currently working on making a picture of the ground on a fall day. They used textured rubbing plates to make the leaves and then painted them carefully. When the paint dried, we added more details with oil pastels and a touch of gold paint. *While outside, use some sticks to make a square on a top of a section of grass and closely observe what you see in that section of the ground. Artists are great observers!*

**Fourth Grade:** We began the year by creating a collage of our interests. Our challenge was to create it all out of paper and overlap many details. Currently, we are working on our sketch for a painting we will be creating of a place that is special to us. We were asked to draw this place in a way that makes the viewer feel as if they are in that space enjoying what your child loves to do there. Those wheels are turning! *Ask your child at home what place they chose to draw and why that place is special to them.*

**Fifth Grade:** We began the year by creating a black and white self-portrait surrounded by symbols of our interests. We created patterns in our design and used repetition to move the viewer's eye along our work. Next, we learned how the color wheel can be used as tool to help us mix colors. We spent a day using only the primary colors to mix the secondary and intermediate colors. To make the colors just right, we had to do some problem solving as to how much of a certain color we would need. They really enjoyed experimenting with this. We then learned about the value of a color and had the opportunity to create the tints of shades of a color of our choice. We are working on adding details (crayons, colored pencils, oil pastels, fabric, ribbon, foam shapes...) to those paintings with materials that are the tints and shades of that color. *Show your child a picture of a color wheel and ask them to explain to you how it works.*

### **What's Happening in ITL?**

Mrs. Syndercombe

The Kindergarteners are learning how to log onto the computers with their usernames and passwords. This is quite a momentous task due to the fact that all student usernames are 9 characters long! We continue to focus on developing fine motor skills while navigating the CES Homepage to the K Links (Students, ITL, K Links). Ask your kindergartener about ABC-Ya! and Star Fall. Both sites are on the K-links of the CES Homepage.

The 1st graders have started learning about coding. Yes, computer programming! Two "unplugged" (paper and pencil) lessons have been taught so far. Students were introduced to new vocabulary such as "algorithm" and "program". Last week the students drew arrows to help "Flurb" (ask your 1st grader) get to her fruit in the least amount of steps. This week the students used cardinal directions (N, S, E, W) to "program" each other to find a specific location in the room. Next week, the students will start to use coding blocks (labeled with arrows and a cardinal direction) on the computer to "program" characters to move.

The 2nd graders have started their weekly typing lessons. They come to the computer lab once a week to work on their typing skills. Students are reminded to use two hands placed on the home-row keys, sit up tall and keep their feet on the floor. Once students learn basic keyboarding, we will focus on how to format a document. Students should also be practicing their typing at home on a weekly basis. There are several typing games linked to the CES-Homepage as well as the program we are using in school, Typing Agent. Have your child show you what they are learning.

The 3rd graders also come to the lab once a week to continue practicing their typing skills that began last year. Google Docs and Google Drive have been introduced to 3rd graders and are used for their presentations and reports. Students are beginning their Adaptations Unit in science and will begin the research process with both the Library Media specialist and myself.

Several new databases have been introduced to 4th and 5th graders this year. The most exciting being BrainPop! It is a wonderful resource that includes movies, quizzes, games, experiments, activity pages, and much more covering hundreds of topics within Math, Science, Social Studies, English, Technology, Arts & Music, and Health. The link can be found on the CES Homepage under Students, ITL, Reference Sites. Username: coleytown; Password: ces

### What's Happening in Music?

Jim Andrews, Anthony Granata, Barbara Maisonpierre

#### **Mr. Andrews:**

Hello everyone in the Orchestra Program!

4th Grade Orchestra - 99% of the students are tuned up and practicing their string instruments to get ready for their first concert ever on January 21st at 7pm in the gym. Each student receives 2 - 30 minute lessons each week and every Wednesday at 7:30am, I have the pleasure of rehearsing everyone together. Ah, the beautiful sounds that fill the air.... It is the greatest feeling observing these young musicians improving every day ...

5th Grade Orchestra - Wow! The improvement after one year of studying an instrument is incredible. Students have been practicing very hard to prepare for the Holiday Concert on December 16th at 7pm in the gym. I am so proud of all the students and we look forward to an evening of making and sharing music with all.

Keep up the great work musicians!!!

#### **Mr. Granata:**

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band** students are having a great time! Students have been coming to lessons for over a month and have learned how to assemble their instruments as well as play some simple tunes such as *Mary Had a Little Lamb* and *Hot Cross Buns*. Some students are even figuring out how to play other tunes by ear! In large band rehearsals, students are learning ensemble skills such as starting and ending together, going from rest to playing position and listening to their rhythm and intonation as a group. Like any ensemble of players (be it Orchestra, Baseball, Dance, etc.), Band is a team effort, and these musicians are well on their way to being part of a great team!

**Mrs. Garard's first grade music classes** are having a lot of fun as they develop their singing voices and express themselves through movement. We regularly integrate dancing and movement as we sing, and a particular favorite of the first graders is *Old King Glory on the Mountain*. Right now in preparation for Halloween, the students are singing fun spooky songs and creating sound effects that help to develop and mature their vocal cords.

**Mr. Grin and Mrs. Metke's fourth grade music classes** have been putting together a fun little Halloween song about Goblins. In this song students sing, play xylophones and play their recorders, and each part is different and layered onto the previous one! Mrs. Maisonpierre and I have been having a lot of fun dividing up the fourth grade classes as we practice the recorder parts to this piece. It's going to be a fun year!

**Mrs. Maisonpierre:**

All students, K through fifth grade, have been experiencing music and dance movements that teach the joy of moving to classical music. The dances are used as movement explorations of musical form as well as spring boards for discussions about classical music and their composers. Students in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade have also been writing in their music journals about their listening and moving experience as well as writing about the feelings or moods the music might invoke in them. We listened to music by Mozart, Beethoven (Fuer Elise), Eric Satie and Edward Grieg's "In the Hall of the Mountain King".

In Kindergarten we have been having fun discovering our singing voices and listening ears. Students have been singing many different songs such as: Oh, my, no more pie!, The Frog Song, Pitter Patter, Down by the Bay, Fais do, do, Apple Apple, yum, yum and in October some scary Halloween songs: One little, two little Witches, Old Mother Witch, Songs of The Witch, The Goblins, The Ghost, and The Skeleton.

We have been listening to Song Tales, which are songs that tell a story: There was an Old Woman, Had a little Rooster, and The Tailor and the Mouse.

We have also been moving around the room and discovering what it is like to use light feet, heavy feet, slow feet, fast feet, being a fish, and pretending to move through a room of JELLO!

In First Grade the students have been using their singing voices and singing simple songs. Oh, In the Woods, Peep Squirrel, Frog in the Middle, Do Your Ears Hang Low?, Closet Key, Kye Kye Kule, Apple Apple, Yum, Yum and in October some scary Halloween songs: One little, two little Witches, Old Mother Witch, Songs of The Witch, The Goblins, The Ghost, and The Skeleton. We have been listening to song tales, which are songs that tell a story, such as Old Joe Clarke, Over in the Meadow, The Tailor and the Mouse, There was an Old Woman.

Movement has been a big component of the curriculum, as well as playing the hand percussion instruments. Today the students had fun moving like witches, goblins, skeletons and ghosts, all in the Halloween spirit. Students also move to the beat of a piece of music. Yes, keeping a steady beat is the name of the game in First Grade!

Second Graders are enjoying playing the melodic barred instruments such as the Xylophone, Metallophone and Glockenspiel as well as the many hand percussion instruments. They are learning about note values and how to keep a steady beat while playing the instruments. As part of our Halloween celebration, students made up words of yucky things that are put into the cauldron, such as "Red eyeballs". They then added the rhythmic values to it, such as the quarter note. (ta)

Ask your kids to demonstrate these rhythms to you! Yes, the steady beat and a good singing voice are also part of the curriculum. Songs were: Charlie over the Ocean, Draw a Bucket of Water, Christopher Columbus, and Halloween songs

In Third Grade we are getting ready to read music! Students are being introduced to note values: whole note, half note, quarter note, eighth note, and the notes on the staff. They play on the barred melodic instruments as well, all the while keeping a steady beat and singing songs such as Old Joe Clark, Tennessee song, Halloween Cat.

The fourth graders are playing more difficult songs on the recorders and have added some new notes. They are also learning about syncopated rhythms and sixteenth notes, while singing songs such as Funga Alafia, I Want to Rise in the Early Morn', Mama Paquita, and the Halloween song Collegium Musicum for recorders and instruments.

The Fifth graders are busy studying "The Elements in Music": rhythm, melody and harmony. They have played and listened to music looking at the various elements, all in preparation for their upcoming composition unit.

### **What's Happening in PE?**

Mrs. Evans & Mr. Scholz

PE is in full swing at CES! Students are learning how to play hard, play fair, and play safe! Our PE classes are focusing on moving in space by skipping, galloping, and chasing, fleeing and dodging with tag games. Our soccer unit has begun which focuses on the eye-foot coordination skills of dribbling, passing, shooting as well as applying game strategies with small-sided games and activities. Ask your child what part of the foot to use when passing a soccer ball!

Intramurals has begun for grades 4 and 5 that provide fun, recreational, social activities along with a tinge of competition! It's a great opportunity to get those extra minutes of physical activity into your child's day!

In addition to the after school program, we are into our 6<sup>th</sup> week of Runners Club! The weather has been great and we have approximately 96 participants! It truly is a wonderful way to get the physical activity in before the learning day begins!

We see the elementary level as the beginning of the road to a lifetime of physical activity beginning with foundational skills, knowledge of how the body works, and the value of physical activity. Our goal is to produce physically literate children who not only know how to move, but have fun doing it!

We also hope that what your child learns in PE will carry over into their personal lives with time spent being physically active with friends and family!

### **What's Happening in Spanish?**

Senor Fernandez-Carol & Senora Weingart

In Kindergarten we are learning the parts of our face and how to express different feelings. Ask your kindergartners to share the song about the face with you!

First graders are learning the days of the week and activities we do in Specials classes. First graders love to sing Los dias de la semana song to the tune of La Macarena.

Second grade students are learning seasons, weather and clothing. At the end of the unit students will be able to read a thermometer and tell you what clothes they wear in which season.

Grade 3 is completing a soccer unit, where students learned how to use soccer terms (pass, kick, throw in, corner kick, out-of-bounds, etc.). All sections of 3rd grade played a soccer match outside, and used the terms we learned in class while on the soccer field.

Grade 4 is working on an Escudo Unit, All About Me Unit. Students create a written and illustrated narrative where they describe their favorite things (subject in school, color, animal, sport), what activities they do in summer and winter, and their age/birthday in Spanish. They read their narratives in front of the class, and are given a grade on their projects.

Fifth Grade is learning about fruits, and we have just completed a juice tasting where students described their reactions to the flavors of 5 different juices.