

Dolphin Pod Post

Dr. Charles R. Drew Elementary School

Media:

Learning: In November students in prekindergarten and Head Start enjoyed books by author/illustrator Oge Mora to support their learning in their classroom about communities. Students in kindergarten listened to the book *This Is Not My Hat* and identified the characters, setting, and major events. First graders listened to two books about traditional foods enjoyed by families from different backgrounds and shared their own family traditions. Students in grade 2 listened to *Federico and the Wolf*, a modern version of the traditional Red Riding Hood tale, and looked at the different kinds of traditional tales found in our media center. Students in grades 3-5 visited the “Dolphin Diner” for a book tasting where they “sampled” books from a variety of genres. Fourth and fifth grade students also used Destiny Discover to create an online list of books that they would like to read.

In December, our prekindergarten and Head Start students will be reading books about community helpers. Students in grades K-3 will be reading nonfiction books and viewing videos with information related to the books they have read to learn new information. Students in grades 4 and 5 will be using different research databases to locate information. They will also learn about how the features in the databases can help them to search for and access information.

Reminders:

- Please reach out to me if you have any questions about Drew’s media center. My email is Lori_Tecler@mcpsmd.org

Art:

Learning:

- *Pre-K / HS, kindergarten, and first grade:* Students are exploring color mixing and texture! We will be looking to Eric Carle for inspiration in making collaged animals!
- *Second grade:* Second graders are experimenting with color mixing and adding values. We will be working on making animal stencils and fancy collages in the style of Eric Carle!
- *Third grade:* Third graders are learning about origami, and will be starting a new project on color mixing and expressive portraits!
- *Fourth and Fifth graders:* Students are learning about the art style of Surrealism and will be making invented creatures! We will be learning about layering art materials for a realistic but imaginative effect!

Reminders:

- Please wear old, dark-colored clothing on art days!
- Our emails are jennifer_l_potter@mcpsmd.org and jacquelyn_h_skandalis@hepss.org (PreK). If you need to contact us, please feel free! Thanks so much for your support.

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Music:

Learning: Students are working on creating music and reading and notating music. Creating music is shown through creating movement to music and creating vocal and instrumental music inspired by songs and stories. Reading and notating music is shown through notating created sounds and reading solfege and rhythms.

- *Pre-K / HS, Kindergarten, and First grade:* Students are reading/writing rhythms and pitches. Students are also creating using pitch, rhythm, fast/slow, and loud/soft.
- *Second grade and Third grade:* Students are reading and writing rhythms including half notes, quarter notes, eighth notes and sixteenth notes. Pitches Do, Re, and Mi on the staff are notes that students are reading, writing and using to create.
- *Fourth grade and Fifth Grade:* Singing in a 3-part round, reading and writing rhythms including sixteenth notes and eighth/sixteenth note combinations are a part of the music curriculum. Students are also reading and creating with pitches from the music staff.

Reminders:

- You can reach your student's music teacher at Brian_W_Weyant@mcpsmd.org or Alexander_J_Edwards@mcpsmd.org (Blackman and Arnold).

Physical Education:

Learning: December is an exciting time in the gym. Winter Wonderland will be returning to PE. The gym will be transformed into Drew Winter Mountain Resort! Each class will have a turn playing at 26 winter themed centers such as ice skating, building a snowman, sledding, and climbing a ski lift. Many Winter Olympic sports such as curling, bobsled, cross country skiing, and skeleton, will also be featured. Our older students will have a chance to be a helper, "ski patrol", for our younger students to make this activity extra special. Students only need to bring their sneakers and their imaginations. Fun and safe sledding will be had by all!

Marking period 2 measurement topics for PreK-1 include throwing and catching an underhand ball, relationships with objects such as near/far, on/off, and around, relationships with body parts such as twisted, round, wide, asymmetrical and symmetrical, and also effects of exercise. Students are recognizing what happens to their heart, skin, and lungs after vigorous exercise. Measurement topics for grades 2-5 include overhand throwing and catching, volleyball skills, goal setting. Students will learn about short term and long term goals and will establish, monitor, and modify a personal activity goal.

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Adapted PE:

Learning: Our students are comfortable with our warm-up and stretching routines. We are seeing so much growth and improvements in many students. During marking period 2 we will work on throwing and catching skills. Equipment is modified for success.

Please email either of us with any questions! Lauren_G_Rinker@mcpsmd.org and Sean_T_O'Connor@mcpsmd.org (Abdelmegid and Leichtling).

Instrumental Music

Learning: Our beginning woodwind, brass and percussion students have learned the first five notes on their respective instruments. Now begins the work for our musicians to continue working on proper hand positions, proper embouchure to produce sound, and breathe support to play notes longer. The beginning string students are working on left-hand skills by putting their fingers on the fingerboard to produce new notes as well as starting to work right-hand technique for using the bow.

Our advanced band students are focusing on the new key signature, Concert Eb and new meter signature of 3/4 time. The advanced string students have the D Major scale under their belts and will be learning G Major scale soon as well as continue to perform pieces in both respective key signatures.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Winter Concert is on Wednesday January 25, 2023 for ADVANCED Instrumental Music students. *In the event of inclement weather, we will schedule a virtual concert experience.*

Reminders:

- The exact schedule is posted to MyMCPS classroom. I will send out an announcement via MyMCPS if there are any changes to the schedule.
- Set aside a 10-15 minute practice time block, 4-5 days a week for students to practice and review for the next class.
- Questions? Email Ms. Krohn at daniella_e_krohn@mcpsmd.org

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Counseling:

Learning: In November and December we are celebrating our differences and learning about ways that we are different that may not be obvious. Kindergartners and Prekindergarten/Head Start students are learning about their family and community circles and how they fit into those circles in their own unique ways by listening to two stories by Brad Montague. In grades 1-3 we are reading Justice Sotomayor's book "Just Ask" that highlights medical, physical, and emotional differences that children may have. In 4th and 5th grades students are reflecting on their own identities and making connections with classmates with whom they thought they did not share commonalities. In general, all students are learning to feel confident in their individuality while recognizing that it is, in fact, through our differences that we make the Drew Community a more beautiful and special place.

Reminders:

- Every student has counseling in their rotation once every 4 weeks.
- There is no grade for counseling lessons, students just need to be ready to participate.
- We continue to focus our counseling lessons on building our social skills and to recognize that everyone experiences the world differently.

If you have any concerns please feel free to reach out, my email is sara_b_krauss@mcpsmd.org.