

TEACHERS' TALES

Quarterly Newsletter from the Related Arts Team

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Change is good!

BY AARON TSIKA

Having a whole new team 2 years in a row can create anxiety for any team leader, but this year, I got lucky. Things felt different from the start, as our 4 new members have eased into their new positions and met all the challenges that have been thrown their way. I really look forward to what we can accomplish as a team for Coyote Ridge this year!



Computers

BY AARON TSIKA

For the 1st quarter, the focus with our Kinder through second grade has been on Keyboarding, with an emphasis on proper ergonomics and keeping fingers on the home row. Any additional practice at home with using a keyboard is always welcome parents! Our 3rd graders have just completed creating their own website and are now designing flyers to be posted on our campus for ways to save energy. Our 4th and 5th graders are currently creating multimedia presentations using Tour Builder and Tour Creator, the latter of which will be a virtual tour of our campus using 360 degree cameras! The 6th through 8th grade are taking engineering as their elective this quarter, where we are learning the engineering design process to solve real-life problems. We are currently producing working prototypes to meet the following challenge: Their team has been tasked with solving the problem of building a small bridge(working prototype) near the California coast to transport cargo across a river with the constraints of being built near the San Andreas Fault line, so it needs to withstand any seismic activity. They must stay within a budget of 1.25 million dollars.

"Our 5th graders are using Tour Creator to design a virtual tour of our campus using 360 degree cameras!"



Computers cont.

BY AARON TSIKA

For the upcoming 2nd quarter, the Kinders will create their first presentation using Google Slides, 1st and 2nd graders will be creating multimedia presentations based on grade-level science and social studies standards. Third graders will start their adaptations unit that will involve them creating a digital creature that can survive in a certain climate, then design a shelter that will meet those conditions. 4th and 5th graders will produce their own presentations based on natural disasters and research, evaluate, and communicate evidence about how natural and human-caused changes to habitats or climate can impact populations respectively. 6th through 8th grade will take robotics for their second quarter electives, where they will learn to program and hopefully build their own robots to carry out certain task challenges!

"6th-8th will learn to program and hopefully build their own robots to carry out certain task challenges!"



"We have been expanding our minds and creativity in art this first quarter!"



ART

BY BAYLEE THOMAS

We have been expanding our minds and creativity in art this first quarter! Kindergarten is working on learning the colors of the rainbow and different types of lines by drawing their own shooting stars. 1st grade was very creative coming up with their own monster designs that were then colored in with warm and cool colors. 2nd and 3rd grade have been experimenting with blending colors through chalk pastels and watercolor paints to create sunsets and silhouettes. 4th and 5th grade created incredible abstract art while learning about how to mix primary colors to create secondary colors. They also learned how to use masking tape to create stencils. 6th grade is currently working on a Pablo Picasso piece. They learned about the Cubism style of art as well as some background on Picasso himself. They are creating their own self portraits with oil pastels in the style of cubism. 7th and 8th grade has been challenged with learning about two point perspective. They are now creating their own cities/buildings in perspective.





Physical Education

BY RANDAL RICHARDS

The 1st quarter began with students understanding PE expectations. It is difficult sometimes for students to have an activity mindset in the morning. Most students have been ready for the challenge of stretching and learning some football skills. The heat has slowed us down a bit but students are asked continually to stay hydrated. We encourage students to drink plenty of water all day, not just during PE. Many students have demonstrated the proper throwing and catching skills. As a teacher, it is always nice to see a student attempt something that they don't think they can do, only to meet with great success. K-3 students have been working on locomotor and non-locomotor skills. It is fun watching these students make progress with their hand/eye coordination. We will be moving into a basketball lesson and demonstrating skills such as pivoting, passing, dribbling and shooting. I appreciate the efforts of most all of my students.

"As a teacher, it is always nice to see a student attempt something that they don't think they can do, only to meet with great success."



"We started the year with a huge drum circle in every class!"



MUSIC

BY ALISA ASHLEY

We've been having a wonderful time in music during this first quarter of the school year! We started the year with a huge drum circle in every class! All classes have had an opportunity to listen to music, play music and create new songs. Several students have learned how to play some simple songs on the piano such as "Happy Birthday", "Baby Shark" and "Mary had a Little Lamb" to begin understanding how to put their fingers on the correct keys while playing piano. Kindergarten and 1st grade are learning about high pitch and low pitch and how to tell the difference and also some basic rhythm patterns and movements and dances along with singing. We are also learning songs in Kinder, 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade that we are hoping to sing in performances in the fall and winter months. 4th and 5th grade students will soon be learning how to play recorders.

Recorders are a great first instrument to learn because they are relatively simple to learn how to play and then are inexpensive and durable. Students will learn how to read music and play recorders through a program called "Recorder Karate" where they will progress up through the belt colors as they learn progressively more challenging songs.

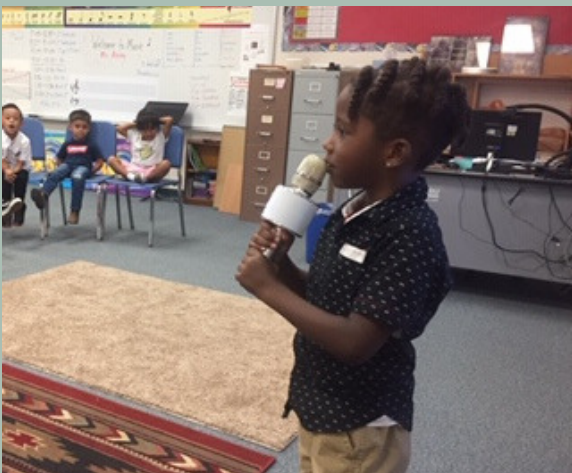


"Students in choir will learn how to read music, how to sing in harmony and will have opportunities to perform in choir concerts."

MUSIC cont.

BY ALISA ASHLEY

6th-8th grade elective students have been using programs such as SoundTrap and Incredibox to compose their own music and also composing music on piano keyboards. We have also been reviewing music theory and genres. Students in all grades have an opportunity to perform for their peers during "Student Spotlight" so that they can practice singing or playing an instrument and their classmates can practice being attentive and polite audience members. We will soon be starting an after-school choir program from 3:00-4:00 on Tuesdays. Students in choir will learn how to read music, how to sing in harmony and will have opportunities to perform in choir concerts. If you are interested in joining choir, please get a form from Ms. Ashley. Forms need to be signed by parents or guardians and they are due by Monday, Sept. 23. Choir practices will begin on Tue. Sept. 24th.



Band

BY DORIAN MOHAR

The band program is going strong for the first quarter! We have already had our first mini-concert thanks to the combined 7th/8th grade band "Flash Mob", we have planned some "Happy Birthday" performances, and along with a few other surprises the excitement level is elevated! All trumpeters are invited to play this year at Glendale Glitters for an event including all the trumpeters of our school district. My guess would mean over a hundred trumpeters!!! More information will be coming out soon, plan on this wonderful event happening! Honor Band is just starting to ramp up in planning as we design our 2019/2020 show. Please keep an eye out at honorband.glendaleband.org for audition material and audition dates. To help continue the positive trend, please help your child get the school band book! You can find links to purchase it at Glendaleband.org along with an answer to any question I have received and all the information I teach with in class. I literally teach the band class from the website. If you have a question, please check it out or send me an email!

(dmohtar@gesd40.org) Fifth graders (and beginners in all grades!) are at that point where they are noticing they will have to work a bit to play a musical instrument. As a note to the students, you've got it! Work hard, get the book, and I know you will succeed! As a note to the parents, your endless support during this development is what makes learning an instrument a positive experience. Thank you for your email and phone call questions, purchasing reeds, getting the band book, and hearing things that might sound closer to a nail on a chalkboard while telling your child they are doing a great job. Success takes patience and persistence, I look forward to being a supportive teacher for you all!

"As a note to the students, you've got it! Work hard, get the book, and I know you will succeed!"

