



“We’re Number One!”

Volume 4, Issue 3

November, 2016

Haines A-Team Express is a monthly newsletter from the teachers of Visual Art, Library, Music, Physical and Health Education, ESL/Bilingual, and Technology at Haines Elementary School.

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Visual art, library, music, technology, physical and health education are as important as language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. They are essential to balance your child’s study at school and help cultivate the whole person. They also develop their interests and promote career goal setting. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. Thank you!

A-Team Contact Info:

Visual Art: Ms. Gray	(kmgray4@cps.edu)
ESL/Bilingual: Ms. Cheung	(mcheung@cps.edu)
Library: Ms. Keller	(hkeller@cps.edu)
Music: Ms. Mehrabkhani-Kia	(fmehrabkhan@cps.edu)
Physical and Health Education: Mr. Hennessy	(cmhennessy@cps.edu)
Technology: Mr. Tang	(rytang@cps.edu)

Art

We are finishing our geometric cityscapes emulating various artists. The students learned watercolor basics and about the art of contemporary artist James Rizzi by creating imaginative cityscapes emulating the artist. 5th-8th graders learned about how artists use abstract art to communicate complex ideas. During the month of November, we are moving on to the Crazy Cactus Project for grades 5-8 learning and utilizing the principles of rhythm, line, shape, and texture. K-4 will learn about different types of lines and how to depict cohesive designs using principles of art to make creative compositions. The art room would appreciate donations of wipes, tissues, and paper towels. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!

ESL/Bilingual

- Our bilingual department has received \$ 3500.00 from OLCE (Title III funding) to fund “Educational Software Support for EL Students”. The team is decided to purchase “IXL”, a software provides interactive learning activities for English learners (EL). The goal of the initiative is to provide EL students, bilingual and ESL content support to improve their academic outcomes on ACCESS.

BAC (Bilingual Advisory Committee)

- Network 6 “BAC meeting session 2” will be held on November, 17, 2016 at Orozco Elementary School, 1940 W. 18th Street, Chicago, IL 60608. BAC committee members and all parents of students in bilingual program are invited.

PAC (Parent Involvement Committee)

- PAC meeting will be held on Thursday, Nov., 17 at 8:00am (Faculty Lounge). Please come and join us.

PAC / BAC parents’ trip to visit “Back of the Yard High School”

- PAC / BAC parents’ trip to BOY High school on Monday, Nov., 07 (from 8:45 am to noon). If you’re interested, please contact Ms. Talley or Ms. Cheung for registration by Nov., 3. Limited to first 15 parents.

Haines’ Girls Running Club

- Special thanks to Ms. Nicole Lee for donating “sunglasses & bandanas” to our Haines’ Girls Running Club.
- We are in need of “Running Buddies” to sign-up for the 5K and run/walk with our GOTR participants on Saturday, Nov., 19. Please contact Ms. Cheung at www..mcheung@cps.edu if you’re interested.

Library

When I (belatedly) realized that October was Anti-Bullying month, we took a little detour and have been reading and digging deeper with comprehension strategies with the amazing auto-biographical story, *Thank You Mr. Falker*, by Patricia Polacco, which details her struggle to learn to read and the inevitable bullying she experienced due to her dyslexia. We have had lots of rich discussions surrounding this issue! We followed that with another great book about put downs, *Simon’s Hook*, which helps students understand that they don’t have to “take the bait” when others say mean things to try to provoke them. It presents five strategies to help students with the challenge of dealing with bullies: ignore, agree, change the subject, make a joke, and stay away.

Of course we’re reading fun books for Halloween and we had our own Ms. Brandi, the children’s librarian from the Chinatown branch of the CPL, come and share some hilarious stories with the Kindergarten classes about monsters that aren’t really as scary as they’d hoped to be! We’ve also been learning a fun chant (and trying to find the beat) with updated fairy tale characters at a Hip Hop Halloween Ball called *Shake Dem Halloween Bones*, by W. Nicola-Lisa. We also learned a great round called, “Have you Seen the Ghost of John? Primary and intermediate grades will be following this catchy introduction with genre studies about fairy tales.

The upper grades continue to learn more about the Election Process with informational videos and quizzes with BrainPop. As we examine the electoral college, the difference between the two parties, and learn more about the issues, we’re working towards playing an interactive simulation called *Win the White House*. It should be fun!

P.S. The Library would appreciate any donations of tissue and hand sanitizer. Thanks!

Music

Our students in upper grades have gained a good grip on buckets. They learned about posture and hand positions, using a metronome to help them play on a steady tempo, and they also learned how to effectively communicate with the band director and other band members while playing. With those skills students are now ready to explore improvisation and learn some pieces of music for bucket band. In the intermediate level, students have been working on their singing skills through singing games and enhancing their understanding of rhythm through body percussion. In this month, we are going to sing canons which help students learn about harmony; multiple singing parts at the same time. The 5th graders will also start their "Recorder Karate" journey to earn belt after belt by playing their recorder pieces successfully. In lower grades, we are going to learn a new partner song, expand our usage of instruments, explore creative movements, and small group music making activities. Please continue to ask students about the songs they learned, the educational games they played, and the songs they listened to in music class.

P.S. The Music class would appreciate any donations of construction paper, tissues, and wide floor tapes.

Physical Education & Health :

We are finishing up our basketball unit in P.E. The upper grade students really impressed with their ability to apply different strategies for moving and space in basketball games. The intermediate students made great strides with their shooting form while the primary students gained a lot more control with their dribbling. The students will now start a volleyball unit for 3rd-8th and a striking and throwing unit for K-2nd. Continue to ask the students what skills they are learning and how they are supposed to be trying to perform them.

P.S. The P.E Department would appreciate any donations of band-aids, paper towels, and cleaner wipes.

Technology

In November, third, fourth, and fifth grades will work with Google Sheets to create arithmetic tables using formulas and different kinds of graphs in spreadsheets. Some examples are multiplication tables and infectious disease models. Sixth and seventh grades will continue to expand their visual literacy and media skills by creating thematic composite images online. Fair use rules and copyright laws will be discussed in class.

Mr. Tang's Class Website
tinyurl.com/haines311mrtang