

The Specialty Classes

Technology

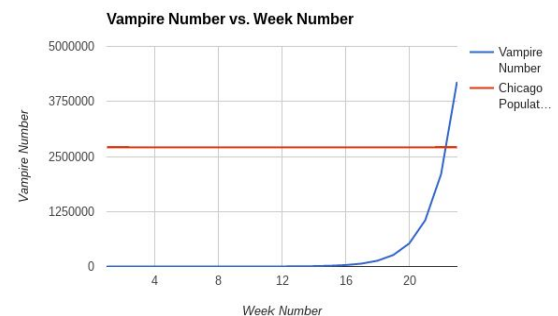
This year's Hour of Code is during the first week of December. The Hour of Code is, according to Code.org, "a global movement reaching tens of millions of students in 180+ countries." Haines students will experience coding during this week. Moreover, third to fifth graders will continue to explore various programming tasks through the month of December, including exploratory and advanced programming. At the same time, besides participating in the Hour of Code, sixth and seventh graders will research, summarize, and compile the major events of 2016. They will design and create a Web 2.0 artifact (website, wiki page, blog, etc.) to record their interpretation of the events.



From November:

Veterans Day Collage

by Mei Lian Wu (303)



Vampires in Chicago
by Xiao Bing Gong (312)

P.E.

The third through eighth grade students are improving with their volleyball skills and will continue to do so throughout the month of December. The third through fifth grades are working toward proper bump passing and underhand serve techniques while also learning basic game strategy and rules. The sixth through eighth grades are improving their bump passing and underhand serving skills while also learning proper setting, overhand serving, spiking and striking, and digging skills. I anticipate that the game play will be much more competitive this year compared to previous years! Our kindergarten through second grade students are starting a bowling unit using equipment we have borrowed through the Bowler's Ed program. These students will learn basic bowling set-up and rules along with proper grip and basic release form. I am hopeful that they will enjoy this lifelong activity. Please ask your child to demonstrate the different forms and techniques they are learning in class. Enjoy the month of December and all of the family time that accompanies it and here's to a wonderful upcoming new year!

Music

The month of December will be a busy month in the music room as students polish up their pieces and get ready for the Winter Music Festival performances. The upper grades will continue working on their bucket piece rehearsals and make expressive and stylistic choices to their performance. In the intermediate grades students we will learn a few folk dances from around the world and will get to apply their knowledge of rhythm into the dance movements. The lower grades will continue to expand their music literacy by exploring solfege; the system that teaches sight-singing. They will also experience a vigorous plan that incorporates a lot of instrumental skills. You can facilitate your child's learning experience by asking them to tell you about what they learn in music class, what they do well, and what challenges them the most. Our music class can benefit from your input, as well as your contributions. If you feel inspired to donate to the music class, multi-color expo markers and tissue boxes are among the highly-needed items at this time. Thank you!

Bilingual Department

Promotion Criteria for English Learners English Learners (ELs)

The students will complete their general academic curriculum in their native language and/or English. ELs in the benchmark grades shall be promoted to the next grade at the end of the academic year if they receive final report card grades of "C" or above in reading and math. An EL's District-Wide Assessment (DWA) score shall not be used for purposes of promotion. ELs who fail to meet the academic performance criteria noted above will be promoted to the next grade only upon satisfactory completion of summer school. Summer school placement will be determined by the Office of Teaching and Learning. For questions regarding promotion criteria for ELs, please call the Office of Language and Cultural Education at (773) 553-1930.

Cold Weather Reminders

With the weather getting colder, please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the temperature that day. We will be going outside as much as possible unless it is rainy and wet. Please send your child with a scarf, gloves and a jacket or sweatshirt that they can wear outside to stay warm. If they get hot, they will be able to take them off. Thank you so much for your cooperation with this.

Mark Your Calendar

December 12 (Monday): Bilingual Advisory Meeting (BAC)
December 9 (Friday): Parent Advisory Meeting (PAC)
December 26 (Monday) to January 6 (Friday): Winter Break
January 9 (Monday): Classes resume

Things to do in Chicago in the winter

<http://www.events12.com/chicago/december/>

Library

The primary grades will continue comparing and contrasting fairy tales from different cultures and other variants of classic stories, such as *The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig*, by Eugene Trivias and *The Little Red Hen Makes a Pizza*.

The intermediate grades are reading *The Witches* by Roald Dahl and will be comparing and contrasting the book with the excellent film version by Nicholas Roeg.

The upper grades are enjoying Roald Dahl's autobiography, *Boy*, and are investigating how an author's experiences and culture influence their writing. We have already learned the origins of the main character in the *BFG*, (the Big Friendly Giant) –Dahl described his grandfather as an "amiable giant at 7 feet tall". Very interesting...

Art

The month of December will be a bustling time in the art room as all grades will be working on end of the year projects for the Student Winter Art Show correlating with the Winter Music Festival. All students will be exploring the importance of mosaics as forms of creative expression by viewing and making their own winter mosaics using brilliant colors, space, value, shapes and textures. We will close the calendar year by creating collaborative "Peace" quilts incorporating the various principles and elements of art that students have learned thus far and use them to decorate the hallway bulletin boards. It has been an immense pleasure teaching such a talented group of budding artists.