

# **PLATnM B Press**

Physical Education, Library, Art, Technology, Music, and Bilingual

## **P.E. (Physical Education):**

I hope that everyone had a chance to get some rest during the winter break. Mental and emotional health are just as important as physical health.

As we start January and head toward the finish of second quarter, all of the students will be kickin' it with some soccer in P.E. The skills they develop progress from basic dribbling, trapping, and kicking in the primary grades to more advanced kicks, passing, and game spacing in the intermediate grades, and finally to more strategic and skilled kicks, juggling, and skilled play development in the middle school. Soccer is also a sport that requires a lot of cardio endurance, so the students will be getting a good fitness workout as well. Simply getting any ball and practicing controlling it with only the feet is a good way to get better at soccer.

Please make sure that your child wears or brings their gym shoes, even during snowy weather. They should not be participating in P.E. class without proper gym shoes.

The state and city mandated Sexual Health Education classes will be taught in March. Please keep an eye out for notices coming home toward the end of January about this program. Each grade level from K-8 has a different curriculum that is provided by CPS.

Playfully yours,  
Mr. Hennessy

## **Library:**

Happy New Year! When we return from Winter Break all will be new -- a new month, a New Year, and a new quarter, too. In Library, we will be turning towards working with non-fiction. The primary students will work on using non-fiction text features, such as the table of contents, index, and glossary, to find information about American heroes. We will start with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to lead into the holiday, as students learn more about American heroes and the genre of biographies.

For the intermediate students we will finish creating summaries of a favorite book presented in a comic strip format. When we finish, we will start using the Big6 Research Model to start researching American heroes and the bigger question of what makes a person a "hero"?

We have been working on generating rich, open-ended questions as part of the first step of the Big6 Research Model, Task Definition. Students have started generating rich, open-ended questions will be used to guide research. The questions are related to comparing as aspect of their own culture with another cultural group who immigrated to the U.S. Thus far, these questions are comparing and contrasting a specific celebration or tradition, such as weddings, funerals, or birthdays. I am sure we will all learn something in this process!

Bibliographically Yours,  
Ms. Keller

### Art:

Happy New Year! Ms. Kia and I hope you enjoyed the Winter Arts Festival! If you were not able to attend, check the News Nook and Instagram for performance highlights. A big thank you to our awesome administrators, student and staff helpers, and of course, the super star performers for all your hard work!



Many classes with kick-off the new year by getting ready for another new year celebration: Chinese New Year. This year is year of the dog. Students will be creating all kinds of fun projects including lions, and dragons, and dogs (Oh my!) Many classes will simultaneously be working on projects for Black History Month. Students will learn about artists like

Romare Bearden and Faith Ringgold, as well as study the Harlem Renaissance. We look forward to showcase all their beautiful artworks in February!

During the cold winter months, you may be at a loss for fun activities to do with your family. I'd like to suggest a trip to any of the wonderful art museums in Chicago. The Museum of Contemporary art offers strollers tours and awesome family days that include make-and-take activities. (I used to volunteer there - family day is ton of fun!) Many other museum offer free admission for children under 14. The Art Institute of Chicago is one such place, and it's only a short El ride away from Chinatown (Monroe stop on the Red line; or transfer to Brown and get off at Adams). We are so lucky to live in a city with so many world class cultural institutions. Bundle up and go enjoy some art!

Artistically yours,  
Ms. Hawkins Smith  
On Instagram [@jchainesart](#)

**Technology:**

**Music:**

Welcome back and happy New Year! We concluded 2017 with awesome performances in Winter Arts Festival and we are ready for a fresh start.

Seventh and eighth grade students will begin a modern band unit by learning about guitar. Fifth and sixth grade students will journey to recorder land. They will learn to play soprano or alto recorder while exploring concepts such as expressive speech, creative movement, improvisation, and composition. Kindergarten through fourth grade students will learn a final piece on Orff instruments. At the end of January, we must say goodbye and return the Orff instruments to Illinois Music Education Association.

Choir will start its second season with a new repertoire (and cool t-shirts!). If your child is considering joining the choir, now it is the time to do it. All fifth through eighth grade students are welcome.

Musically yours,  
Ms. Kia



## Bilingual/ESL:

The ACCESS 2.0 test will take place between January 17, 2018 and February 20, 2018. This is a required assessment for all English Learners across the state of Illinois. The new format will be administered on the computers for students in grades 2-8. They will complete the Listening, Reading, and Speaking portions of the test using a computer. Grades 1-3 will take the Writing section in paper-pencil format, while 4th to 8th grade students will complete the Writing section on the computer. Kindergarten ELL students will continue to be assessed individually using the paper format.

Over the next few weeks, we will be practicing the assessment with students in order to familiarize them with the format of the test. You may go on the website as well. It's a good idea to practice with your child at home on the computer:

1. Type in [www.wida.us](http://www.wida.us) into the search bar
2. Hover over the ASSESSMENT tab at the top of the screen and select the first link to ACCESS for ELLs 2.0.
3. Scroll to the bottom of the screen and select **Link to Interactive Sample Items**

Also we had our 3rd Bilingual Advisory meeting on Monday, December 4 from 5:00 to 6:00p.m. Miss Cheung, Ms. Liu, and Mr. Lee helped more than 20 students and their parents with technology support to monitor students' progress when using educational software.

Ms. Mei and Mrs. Lei have started their OLCE EL After School Tutoring Program. The program will last until beginning of May 2018. The goal of the program is to provide ELL students in grades 2-8 Bilingual and ESL content support to improve their academic outcomes on ACCESS.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns at [mcheung@cps.edu](mailto:mcheung@cps.edu)

Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season!

Linguistically yours,  
Ms. Cheung

