

PLATnM B Press

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

P.E. (Physical Education):

Happy Spring! I hope that everyone is able to start getting outside more to enjoy the nicer weather and a bit of sunshine. It is the perfect time to commit yourself to getting some exercise each day. While the recommended daily amount of exercise is 60 minutes per day, any amount is better than none. Go for a walk, play at the playground, or make a different choice -- just aim for something.

In P.E. class the third through eighth grade students are beginning the long-awaited volleyball unit. They will work to learn and improve their bump passing, serving, setting, and playing skills. Bumping and setting are easy skills to practice outside at home if you have a ball. I look forward to checking out everyone's improving skills. The kindergarten through second grade students will be starting a jump rope unit along with playing some modified games involving throwing and catching while using the volleyball nets. Their throwing skills and catching skills are improving and I look forward to having them continue to learn to apply them in new activities and games.

Please remember that all students need their gym shoes along with soft flexible pants and the Haines T-shirt on P.E. days.

Healthfully yours,

Mr. Hennessy

cmhennessy@cps.edu

Library:

Signs of Spring's renewal are all around! After our break, it's back to school in April with National Poetry Month. For the primary grades we will be using poetry to present what we have learned about extreme weather. We will explore onomatopoeia as we use the sounds of spring to inspire our writing.

The intermediate students and upper grade students will share what they learned about a famous woman in history with a poetic form of their choosing, be it by writing a cinquain, diamante, concrete, or an acrostic poem.

Dr. John Manning said, "Children come to school in two ways. They have been read to regularly or they haven't. What a difference this makes in school success!" Parents, try to read to your children every day for at least 20 minutes. As they say, language is more caught than taught.

Literally Yours,
Ms. Keller
hlkeller@cps.edu

Art:

Spring is finally here! Primary students continue to explore the art element color. If you are in the building, please look at the students' colorful work, ask them about Roy G. Biv, or quiz them about mixing colors.

Intermediate artists are exploring fiber arts through sculpture. Third grades are working on woven landscapes. Fourth graders continue to labor happily on their goal-catching, eye-catching Dreamcatchers! Fifth grade students are creating their own baskets. Baskets are one of the oldest artforms. In fact, they've been around so long, no one is sure when basket-making began! We are focusing on the art principle unity for all of these projects. Unity is a sense that all the things in a work of art belong together. Students are learning to make choices while making art that will lead to a unified composition when the work is complete.

Sixth grade students are learning about heraldry and designing their own coat of arms collages. We are having fun learning about the symbolic meanings of animals, colors, and symbols, and incorporating some of our own ideas, too. Seven graders are exploring watercolor techniques and abstract art. Eighth grade students are creating personalized batik designs.

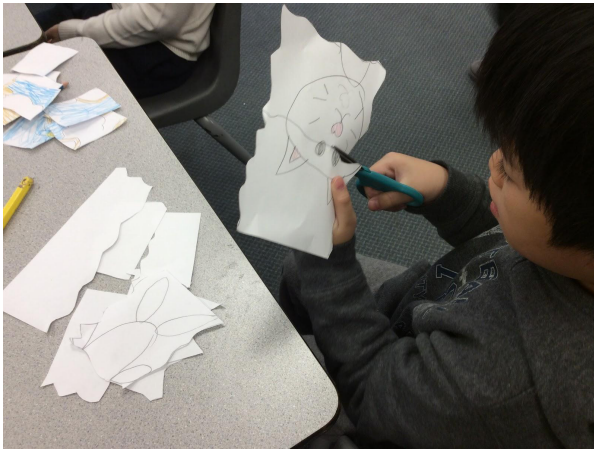
It may be time to replenish your child's supplies for the final months of school. Students need a pencil and eraser for art class each week, and this is the time of year when mischievous bunnies and leprechauns hide all the pencils! Make sure your child is well-stocked just in case :)

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

Technology:

April marks the transition to our last quarter of tinkering and making this year. Kindergarteners and first grade students will apply their skills to create small objects with different materials and experiment their properties. Third and fourth graders are going to work on electrical and manual automatons that move to imitate living organisms. Fifth grade students will start their pre-production of a stop motion animation project. They are going to decide on a theme, create a storyboard, and gather materials. Upper grades are going to sample various making projects and plan their final project in April. This is going to be a jam packed month of making!

Imaginatively Yours,
Mr. Tang



(Left) A First Grade Student Designing and Making a Spring Themed Jigsaw Puzzle



(Right) Fourth Grade Students "Drawing" Flowers using Long Exposure Photography

Music:

Spring fever is here and the only way to tame it is by singing and playing relentlessly! The spring fever also reminds us that the Spring Arts Festival is getting closer and it's time to prepare our repertoire.

With that said, seventh and eighth graders started learning a song of their choice on modern band instruments including guitar, keyboard, and drums. Fifth and sixth graders are earning karate belts for recorder songs, and are focusing on moving from yellow to purple belts during April. The first group of recorder karate graduates will receive the honorary title of "Recorder Ninjas" and will be appointed class mentors while advancing

their own recorder abilities. The fourth graders will explore the ukulele, a guitar-shaped Hawaiian instrument. Through this curriculum fourth graders learn to read standard music notation as well as alternative notations such as tablature. They also learn to sing and play simple songs. The music literacy focus for primary grades is “harmony”. Students will explore Earth Day themed partsongs and canons through which they learn to sing multiple parts at the same time.

Fifth through eighth grade parents: please remind your children to bring all their required materials (listening clue sheet and recorders) every week!

Musically yours,
Ms. Kia
fmehrabkhan@cps.edu

Bilingual/ESL:

As a reminder, OLCE's final **April 7th Saturdays with OLCE** of the year. This is a great opportunity for both teachers and administrators to participate and learn more about best practices in various areas around ELs.

OLCE is offering several professional development sessions at **National Teachers Academy** specifically designed for Teachers of ELs from Pre-K to HS. The Saturdays with OLCE Program Booklet includes descriptions of each session.

Learning Hub

Enroll in Learning Hub

Title: SY18 Saturdays with OLCE Series Part 3

Course code: 38726 (advance search)

Class code: 74513

Location: National Teachers Academy 55 W Cermak Rd, Chicago, IL 60616

Time: 8am - 12:30 pm

ISBE Clock Hours are provided for all participants

2017-2018 Promotion Policy for English learners (Benchmark Grades 3, 6 & 8)

Promotion Criteria for English Learners

English Learners (ELs) will complete their general academic curriculum in their native language and/or English. ELs in the benchmark grades, regardless of Program Year, 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 DWA scores shall not be used for purposes of promotion. ELs with DWA scores above the 24th percentile and a low grade of “D” shall be promoted according to General Promotion Criteria. 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. ELs are not required to take the Summer Exit Exam. Students with an active CPS EL status will be placed in Bridge summer school classrooms with: Spanish Bilingual instruction for Spanish speaking ELs and English as a Second Language instruction for non-Spanish speaking ELs.

For questions regarding the Elementary School Promotion Policy (Board Policy 13-1023-RS1), please call your ISP, Network Office or the Office of Teaching and Learning at (773) 553-2517.

Linguistically yours,
Ms. Cheung
mcheung@cps.edu