

PLATnM B Press

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

P.E. (Physical Education):

We are entering the final month of meteorological winter! Hopefully that means that good weather will be right around the corner along with more opportunities to get outside and be active. In the meantime, try to stay active with indoor exercises. Search on YouTube and cable networks for good workout videos to try at home.

In P.E. the students are finishing up their soccer unit. Hopefully they have gotten a “kick” out of it! The third through eighth grade students will next be starting a badminton unit. It is always a favorite! They will learn about different types of swings, racquet control and manipulation, game rules and strategies, and more. Each class culminates the unit with in-class tournaments where they can display their skills. The kindergarten through second grade students will be starting a throwing and fitness unit. There will be different stations for the students to practice their overhand throwing and accuracy. Follow up with them at home about how they should hold the ball: the ball should be held in their dominant hand near the dominant side ear, the throwing arm elbow should be pointed back, they should step with their non-dominant foot toward the target, and follow through with their arm when letting go. Practicing with soft objects at home can provide valuable practice time.

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 in February about this program. Each grade level from K-8 has a different curriculum that is provided by CPS.

Athletically yours,
Mr. Hennessy
cmhennessy@cps.edu

Library:

It's hard to believe that the school year is already at the halfway mark! Where has the time gone? The upper grades continue to work on research skills related to the Big6 Research Model. To date we have worked on generating thoughtful questions that are neither too narrow nor too broad related to defining the task, as well as starting to work with Google's

Advanced Search functions to conduct more effective searches. The next quarter we will continue to work through the steps of the research process using a variety of resources.

Some of the intermediate grade students have started a Book Trailer project. So far we have critiqued some online student-created book trailers to model examples and come to a consensus about the elements of successful ones. Students will create a storyboard and script in preparation for creating a short thirty second book trailer to persuade other students to read a book they have enjoyed reading.

After focusing on fiction in the form of variants of folk tales and fairy tales for the first half of the year with the primary students, we will continue to read aloud picture books to explore and discuss historical fiction related to African American history topics, such as the Underground Railroad.

Literally Yours,
Ms. Keller
hlkeller@cps.edu

Art:

I hope you will attend our annual Chinese New Year Assembly on Tuesday, February 20, 2018. The students worked hard to make beautiful works of art for this celebration! Kindergarten practiced gadget printing to make lovely red and gold lanterns, first graders learned to draw lion dancers in costume, while third graders used symmetrical balance to collage dragons, and fifth graders crafted lucky red fish.

Black History month is the focus in the art room for February. Students are exploring art and artists that made an important impact. We are cutting and gluing up a storm as we examine works by Faith Ringgold and Romare Bearden. Eighth grade students are beginning a sculpture unit. They are learning about non-objective art and making intricate compositions using the Principles of Design and styrofoam cups. This is a big challenge and I'm looking forward to working with the students doing some creative problem-solving!

I encourage you to check in with your child and replenish any missing or broken school supplies. Students need a pencil and eraser for art (and many other) classes, and some are arriving at my door empty-handed or (gasp) with a pen! New supplies may inspire new vigor for the second half of our school year, so check that your student is ready to learn!

Artistically yours,
Ms. Hawkins Smith

On Instagram [@jchainsart](#)

Technology:

We celebrate diversity and all cultures. February marks the time to bring this celebration to the foreground with African American History Month and Lunar New Year. To appreciate various cultures, students are going to explore different symbols some cultures use in their technology and social movements--mathematics, science, cryptology, secret codes, etc. Students will work together to decipher messages, create devices, and encrypt their messages using symbols and words. In addition, students will start on practicing their camera work to prepare for their digital media activities later this month and in March.

Mr.



(Tang)

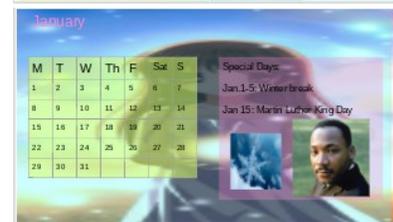


Above Left: Kindergarten Students Marking "Today" on Their Paper Plate Calendar



Middle: Third Grade's Semi-Year Calendar

Right: Fifth Grade's Thematic Monthly Calendar



Music:

During February we work with Chinese New Year as well as the Black Heritage month themes in music class. Middle school students explore the life and legacy of one African-American composer and start adding the drum set and electric guitar to their band setting. Fifth and sixth grade students will continue building on their recorder skills and will start their individual performances through the Recorder Karate curriculum. Younger students will explore songs and dances about CNY and will play hand bells and boomwhackers as part of their musical instrument exploration.

Choir is also preparing for CNY and Black Heritage month performances with two catchy and memorable tunes.

Musically yours,

Ms. Kia

fmehrabkhan@cps.edu

Bilingual/ESL:

ACCESS 2.0 testing started on January 16th and will end on February 20th. This is a required assessment for all English Learners across the state of Illinois.



This year, Chinese New Year (the year of the dog) falls on Friday, Feb. 16. We will have our Lion Dance crew scare away the evil spirits, and share some “New Year Treats” with all students and Haines’ staff on that day. In addition, we will have our annual Chinese New Year Assembly on Tuesday, February 20, 2018. Students will showcase their talents in a variety of cultural performances.

We encourage all faculty, students, parents, and community members to participate in the Chinatown parade which will take place in Chinatown on Sunday, Feb. 25 from 1:00 to 2:00pm.



Wishing everyone:

Have a happy and prosperous new year!!!!

祝大家新年快樂、萬事如意、恭喜發財！

Linguistically yours,

Ms. Cheung

mcheung@cps.edu

