

PLATnM B Press

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

P.E. (Physical Education):

Spring is in the air! With that comes our annual Sexual Health Education classes. These classes will take place between March 5 and March 23, 2018 during normal P.E. class periods. The state of Illinois along with Chicago Public Schools mandate that these classes be offered to all students in Kindergarten through 12th grades. Written notification letters were distributed in mid February. The content taught at each grade level was copied on the back of the letters that were sent. If you would like your child(ren) to be excluded from these classes, please inform me in writing prior to March 5. Alternative Health assignments will be given to these students. This content provides a great introduction to a variety of safety, personal health, and sexual health topics. Please use the information your child learns in class as a springboard for important conversations at home.

The third through eighth grade students began a badminton unit in February. They are making great strides with their serves (from the waist and below) and various other types of strategic hits. The games have been very exciting to watch. Kindergarten through second grade students have been working on throwing and fitness stations. Ask them about the differences between underhand and overhand throws. Have them practice for you. Remind them to step with their opposite foot when throwing (right hand-left foot). When preparing to throw overhanded, ask them to “make a muscle” to get into proper throwing form. Extra practice at home would greatly benefit their progress in throwing properly.

Healthfully yours,

Mr. Hennessy

cmhennessy@cps.edu

Library:

The March Equinox is almost here (3/21), but March starts off with the annual Read Across America Day in conjunction with Dr. Seuss's birthday on March 2nd. The primary grades will take some time to enjoy some of the classic Dr. Seuss titles, such as *Green Eggs and Ham* and *The Lorax*, as well as some of his less well-known titles like his debut, *And to Think that I Saw it on Mulberry Street*. Women's History Month will also serve as a topic for primary read alouds with picture books about famous women, such as Wilma Rudolph, Mae Jemison, Helen Keller, and Marie Curie.

The intermediate students continue their work on a 30-second trailer about a favorite book. To date, students have written a book review outlining the elements of their story, such as the genre, main characters, and plot elements to serve as the outline of a script. Next, students are creating a simple storyboard to plan the lay out for the visuals and script for their book trailer. The objective of this project is to persuade their classmates to read their titles based on viewing the book trailer they created. I can already see lots of creativity and passion for reading demonstrated in the students' work thus far and I am eager to have the students view the work of their classmates.

For the upper grades, we continue learning the steps of research using the topic of biographies, turning our attention from Black History to Women's History for the month of March. Students will use primary source documents from the National Park Service website, such as letters and maps, to research Eleanor Roosevelt's Val-Kill compound, where she created the Declaration of Human Rights document.

Literally Yours,
Ms. Keller
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Art:

March is Youth Art Month. We'll be celebrating at Haines with a bulletin board sharing Haines' staff experiences in art and music, content-specific words of the day, and more!

Primary grades are doing a color unit during the month of March. Students will learn the primary colors, how to mix primary colors to make secondary colors, and how to find color families on the color wheel among other things. We will continue to work on drawing, painting, cutting, and gluing skills as students explore this important art element. Expect to see the halls awash in a rainbow of colors this spring!

Intermediate grades are finishing up artworks for Black History Month. Third graders are working on Memory Quilts based on the artwork of Faith Ringgold. Fifth graders are also creating quilt collages based on the amazing quilts from Gee's Bend. Students are completing an in-depth study of the artists and the beautiful works of art created from worn out clothing. This whole project is driven by student input: the kids came up with their own questions, did their own research, and planned their own quilt design. Ask any one of our expert fifth graders about Gee's Bend if you're curious about the quilts. Fourth grade are beginning the ever-popular Dreamcatcher sculptures.

Sixth and seventh graders are experimenting with collage techniques. Eighth grade students are in the midst of a sculpture unit. Students are exploring abstract, non-objective sculpture and using styrofoam cups to create their own unique designs. To challenge their creativity, they must alter the shape of the cup and they must use every single piece they cut out. I am impressed with their problem-solving and ingenuity so far!

Artistically yours,

Ms. Hawkins Smith

On Instagram [@jchainesart](#)

Technology:

Students are going to diverge into various maker projects beginning in March. Primary grades will build all things moving--objects that fly, robots that wobble, and characters that animate. Intermediate grades will start with their stop motion media project. They will first get familiar with the concepts, apps, and devices for making their chalkboard animation. Then they will move onto small object (or real life) animation. Upper grades will explore different videographing techniques to compose a video that conveys a certain emotion. Students will continue to explore different materials for their projects and develop skills to create and express using them.

Spring Fun Tinkering,

Mr. Tang

Music:

March is the Youth Art Month and the Music In Our Schools Month or "MIOSM". MIOSM is the annual celebration during March which engages music educators, students, and communities from around the country in promoting the benefits of high quality music education programs in schools.

Music In Our Schools Month began as a single statewide Advocacy Day and celebration in New York in 1973 and grew over the decades to become a month-long celebration of school music in 1985.

During month of March we will be posting music class activities on our arts department Instagram page using two hashtags [#MIOSM](#) and [#MusicConnectsUs](#). Please check our Instagram for weekly updates. To show your support for music program in our school you are encouraged to change your profile picture in your social media accounts. Please visit

below to download the picture:

<https://nafme.org/programs/miosm/change-profile-picture-music-schools-month/>



Primary grades continue building musical skills through singing and playing. Fourth grade students start the ukulele. Fifth and sixth grade students continue through the Recorder Karate curriculum and earn their belts as they pass each song. Please encourage your child to practice their recorder DAILY even if it is only for five minutes. Seventh and eighth grade students will start learning a song of their choice in the modern band. Modern band consists of keyboard, guitar, bass guitar, and drums.

Musically yours,

Ms. Kia

fmehrabkhan@cps.edu

Bilingual/ESL:

A total of 205 English learners took the ACCESS 2.0. during the past few weeks. All testing materials were returned before the testing window ended. Special thanks to the bilingual team, Mr. Tang, and the administrators who made the testing process go smoothly.

Special thanks to all the parents and guests who came and celebrated Chinese New Year with us! In addition, we'd like to give a shout-out to our administrators, all bilingual teachers, general education teachers, all performing students, PLATnM staff, guest teachers, teacher-assistants, foster grandparents, custodial staff, AV crew, tech crew, photographers, and all parents and volunteers who donated their time and worked diligently to support our Chinese New Year Celebration performance. Please stay tuned for more information of March BAC meeting.

The Department of Literacy, CPS, is hosting “CPS-Parent Literacy Workshop Day” on Thursday, March 15, 2018 at North-Grade H.S., 4338 W. Wabansia, Chicago, IL 60639. Don’t miss out the opportunity to learn about Literacy, Library, Social Science, Math and much more. If you need more information, please contact Ruth Pena at 773-841-6759 or at ripena@cps.edu

Linguistically yours,
Ms. Cheung
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