

PLATnM B Press

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

P.E. (Physical Education):

It's been hot and sweaty in the gym for the first few weeks of school and not just because it's warm outside! Our students are working hard during fitness games and activities. The third through eighth grade students have completed their beginning of the year fitness assessments. Ask them how they did. They should be proud, but they should also know what area(s) they need to work on. The kindergarten through second grade students completed some fitness stations and fun fitness games. Ask them what exercises they can do at home, too.

During October all students will be engaged in a soccer unit. While we don't have the same amount of space as a soccer field, the students can still work to improve their ball dribbling, passing, shooting, and positional knowledge. Practicing with any kind of ball at home is a good way to support the students and help them to improve.

Please help the students remember to wear their proper gym uniforms on their gym day. Again, gym shirts can be purchased in the main office for \$7.00. The students also need to wear athletic pants and gym shoes. If you have any questions, please contact me at cmhennessy@cps.edu.

Athletically yours,
Mr. Hennessy

Library:

We have been working hard in the library to adjust to the procedures for this space. Listening, following directions, and raising our hands to speak are some areas we are working on. In the last week, students began checking out books, and making shelf markers to find where to put the books back if they decide that is not the book they want. Please check your homes for library books that have not been returned from years past and send them with your child to school. Students are allowed to check out books for 1 week. Grades 2-8 are allowed to bring books home, but I ask that they be very responsible with them and make sure they come back to school.

Seventh and eighth graders are beginning some research for their science fair projects. We are using the CPS databases, which are accessible at school, at home, or anywhere with Wi-Fi. Sixth grade is working on identifying plagiarism, fourth graders are putting together short skits to demonstrate their knowledge of library procedures, and Kindergarten through third are wrapping up learning about our procedures that will be enforced each week.

I am working hard to learn all the students' names. I am happy to be at Haines and enjoy spending time with your children. If you need to contact me I can be reached at rmdowling@cps.edu.

Mrs. Dowling

Art:

To start the year, all classes participated in a collaborative work of art. Each artist made a piece of the beautiful murals on display in the hallways. First, the students picked a color and cut out a circle. Then the circles were cut into four pieces, traded with other artists, and decorated. The pieces were then reconnected to form new circles, each with a piece from a different artist. We are truly connecting the dots here at Haines!

Help your child be prepared for art class by checking that he/she has a pencil and an eraser. Mechanical or 'lead' pencils are acceptable (like the kids, I love them, too)! This is part of their participation grade. Additionally, middle school students must have a **sketchbook OR a folder** filled with blank paper. Again, this is part of their participation grade. You may be asking yourself, "why should I spend money on a sketchbook? My child is not an artist!" Here are my reasons:

1. **Every** child is an artist - art is a skill that can be learned, just like math facts or spelling words.
2. Sketchbooks are cumulative - I encourage students to reuse the same sketchbook for *all three years of middle school* (This saves money, too!). We are always building on what we did the previous year. Sketchbooks can be an amazing record of growth and change in a student.
3. Sketchbooks provide ample space for PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE. No skill will get better without continuous effort, art included.
4. Sketchbooks build confidence - sketchbooks allow students to test new ideas, refine their skills, and organize their thoughts before committing those ideas and skills to a final artwork.

Please feel free to contact me via email or Class Dojo with any questions or concerns.

Artistically yours,
Ms. Hawkins Smith
kahawkins1@cps.edu

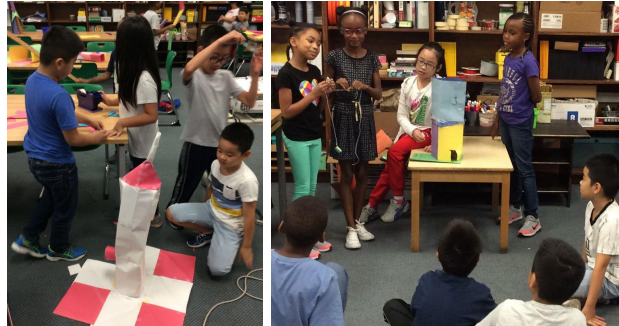
Technology:

Tinker Lab started with low tech projects in September -- paper engineering. Students examined the production of different kinds of paper including their properties and applications. Intermediate students used construction paper to create a free standing structure that is at least three feet tall. Upper grade students learned about different bending and attaching techniques with cardboard. In

the coming weeks, third grade students will continue to use construction paper and other paper materials to practice building strategies, while fifth to eighth grade students will complete a theme-based class project with cardboard. Let's have some fun while learning at the Tinker Lab!

Cheers,
Mr. Tang
rytang@cps.edu

Right:
Third Grade students building
and presenting their 3' tall
free standing structures.



Music:

During month of September we practiced old and new routines and procedures in the music room. Students should be proud of their progress as they all made improvements in following our procedures over this past month.

One of the new developments in the music room is an ever-growing number of instruments and equipment. Over the last two years, we were fortunate to receive several grants that brought all these new instruments to our classroom! Those of you who have visited the music room have seen our modern band instruments, ukuleles, unpitched percussion instruments, and the latest addition - pBones (plastic trombones)! With all these wonderful resources, our focus is to develop habits of self-regulation, care for our room, and safe movement around the classroom. All grades are working on these habits according to the instruments and equipment they use on a weekly basis.

You can reinforce these habits at home by having a conversation about the following aspects of our Grand Behavior process:

- **Entering Quietly:** lining-up in the hallway at voice level zero, and doing warm-up activities independently upon entrance.
- **Listening Actively:** maintaining eye contact with the speaker and following along with minimal body movements.
- **Trying Your Best:** full involvement and contribution in all music activities.
- **Respecting Yourself, Others, and Instruments:** actively avoiding distractions to maximize learning time, carrying instruments with both hands and with ultimate care
- **Exiting Quietly:** lining-up behind the designated marks and on the designated taped area

During October, eighth grade students will experiment with composing strategies. Seventh grade will continue with a ukulele unit, and sixth grade on piano. Fifth grade will start soprano recorder, and fourth grade continues to build their world drumming skills. Kindergarten through third grade continue building their grade-specific musical skills such as steady beat, conversational solfege, and mallet technique. Please feel free to contact me through email or Class Dojo if you have any questions.

Musically yours,
Ms. Kia
fmehrabkhan@cps.edu

Bilingual/ESL:

Bilingual staff planned and organized the 1st Bilingual Advisory Committee meeting on September 17, 2018. More than 104 participants attended the meeting from 5:15-6:15 p.m. After the presentation by Ms. Cheung, ELPT, five parents were elected as the BAC members. (President: Cai, Min Dong; Vice-President: Yuan, Ying Mei; Secretary: Sun, Jing Lin; Representative: Zhou, He Shun and Alternate Representative: Mei, Yan Yi). Then parents voted on BAC meeting dates and times. Teachers also explained the program (TBE/TPI), assessments, curriculum maps, students' expectations, and promotion policies to all parents. The newly elected BAC Executive Board reviewed the "BAC Funds Reasonable and Necessary Expenditures" handout and discussed the funds allocation for the BAC meeting expenses for the 2018-2019 academic year.

I know sometimes our children can be a little forgetful once they leave the classroom for the day. Please check for your child's homework assignments. Teachers may also have sent consent forms or letters that will need to be signed and sent back the next day. So.... always be on the lookout!

I encourage you to contact your child's teacher(s) anytime you have questions or concerns about anything going on with your child. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Linguistically yours,
Ms. Cheung
mcheung@cps.edu