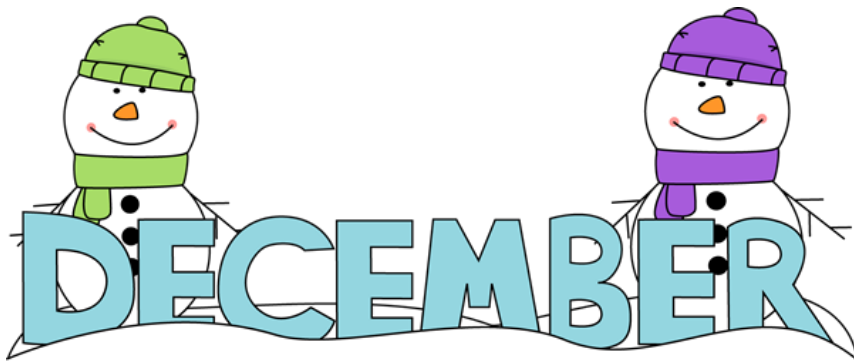


Elementary School News:

December Newsletter



Brrrrr!!!! It's Getting Cold Outside!

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday filled with lots of love, family, and friends!

The end of the year is quickly approaching! Can you believe it?!! Please join us on Friday, December 16th for our annual end-of-the-year performance! Not only will there be performances by all classes (toddler through 5th grade), but there will also be items such as food, clothing, art-work, etc. from all over Latin America! You definitely don't want to miss this special event!

Value of the Month: GIVING

As we look beyond the external act of giving gifts, the research on child development tells us something very important about what happens in children's internal worlds. It's a season that shapes their lifelong identities. Of course, children associate the holidays with being the *receivers* of gifts. But according to studies in human development, it is *gift giving* that reaps the greatest psychological rewards. Parents can help their children realize these rewards by teaching them how to give back during the holiday season and throughout the year.

Thank You Parents!

Because of you, our annual Thanksgiving pot-luck lunch was a success! Thank you to all parents who brought a food item to share, and a special thank you to the parents who helped set up food and break



Calendar

December 5

-Deadline to register for winter camp

December 9

-Parent/Teacher Conferences– No School (elementary school only)

December 16

-End-of-the-Year Performances (Toddler-5th Grade)

December 19

-Last day of school semester 1

December 20-23

-Winter short camp 1

December 24

-Hanukkah begins

December 24-25

-Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

December 26

-Kwanzaa begins

December 27-30

-Winter short camp 2

December 31-January 1

-New Year's Eve and Day

January 2

-No School

January 3

-First day of school semester 2

Birthday Corner

Happy Birthday to all students who will be celebrating this month!

Sophia Cediell
Cameron Teh

11
20



Why I Teach My Kids About Charity

Kids are never too young to learn the concept of charity. That's why I'm starting now.

By Kristen Bell from Parents Magazine

A few weeks ago, I was shopping with my toddler when she loudly declared that she loves giraffes. A mother and her 8-year-old overheard and approached us. The mom said her daughter had a toy giraffe at home and since she was learning the concept of giving, she'd like to give it to my daughter. We exchanged addresses and the following week we got this little stuffed giraffe in the mail. My kid instantly fell in love, named it "Carson," and sleeps with it every night.

That little unexpected act of giving planted the seed for us to start thinking about what toys we owned that could possibly have another life in another home. Now we have a "one in, one out" rule. If we bring home a new puzzle, my toddler has to give an old one away, and she's pretty good at this, despite how young she is. Either directly, the way the generous mother and daughter did with her giraffe, or through charities, there are so many ways to give.

I know the concept and purpose of charity can be somewhat obtuse for young kids, and even for some of us non-kids, but I like to think of it this way: If someone in our family needs something, what do we do? We help. I think of all people as my kids. How would I want them to be treated? I usually ask myself that question and the answer guides my conduct. I think everyone has a great internal kindness barometer, if you can awaken it. I've had plenty of great examples of kindness in my life. The way I see it, we are all on Team Human, and I tell my kids that the world is just our extended family.

I think teaching children this concept is important for two reasons. First, it helps them to look past boundaries. I don't want my kids to be restricted by country lines, religious beliefs, or languages. I want them to see the whole of mankind: It makes everything less scary, more accessible. And if they see the world as boundless, then their achievements will follow suit.

Second, charity teaches our kids that what we have is not who we are. It's not about who has a house with a pool, the most toys, or the coolest clothes. Feeling attached to possessions can cause a child to identify and value his or her self-worth based on materialism. A friend of mine once said if you can't give stuff away, then you're the end of the chain. Ask yourself: Is there anyone who needs this more than I do right now? If the answer is no, great! Keep your stuff. However, chances are there's someone right under you on that chain, so don't cut her off. I'm not saying this is easy. I, too, hoard some belongings. (You never know when you're going to need that string of pineapple-shaped patio lights!) But I don't want my kids to be afraid to part with their things, as they're just that—things. My wish is that my kids are able to discern between what's disposable in life and what's not. Material items can go, but acts of kindness, love, and giving must stay. Those are the true things that make us who we are.

To me, charity doesn't mean giving things away into a void. It means sharing with a purpose. When I bring my girls along with me to volunteer and try to teach them to share toys with each other, I want them to learn that it's not just about sharing stuff, it's the sharing of experiences.

One day we will send Carson the Giraffe to go live with another child. And in the meantime, we'll continue to help everyone we can, even people we don't know. It's our only way to ensure that Team Human wins the race.

Holiday Fun With Your Kids!!!

Bake Holiday Treats! Visit: <http://www.cookinglight.com/entertaining/holidays-occasions/healthy-christmas-recipes-kids> to find healthy holiday recipes your kids will love! Recipes include gingerbread people, popcorn brittle, frosted pumpkin cake, and so much more!

Make Holiday Ornaments! Visit: <http://handsonaswegrow.com/30-homemade-ornaments-for-the-kids/> to find creative ways to make ornaments with your child!

Fun Things to do in Atlanta during the Holiday Break! Visit: <http://www.atlanta.net/events/seasonal/christmas/> for more information.

- Macy's Pink Pig— Lenox Mall *through Jan. 1st*
- Garden Lights Holiday Nights— Atlanta Botanical Gardens *through Jan. 7th*
- Snow Mountain— Stone Mountain Parks *through Feb. 26th*
- Cookies with Santa— Zoo Atlanta *Dec. 3rd and 4th*
- Polar Express Adventure— Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History *Dec. 10th*
- Reindeer Day— Chattahoochee Nature Center *Dec. 11th*
- Production of *A Christmas Carol*— Alliance Theater *through Dec. 24th*
- Production of *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*— Center for Puppetry Arts *through Dec. 31st*
- Magical Lights— Lake Lanier Islands *through Jan. 3rd*



Congratulations to the following students for perfect attendance throughout the month of November:

Kindergarten: Anush Allen-Krincek, Michael Anyaoha, Alistair Boachie, Christian Cole, Dessandra Dublin, Mason Ezzard, Aaron Hackett, Davis Jackson, Sabrina Paddock, Nathen Skillings, Alyssa Yi **First Grade:** Marcelo Aburto, Savannah Ansari, Dallas Jackson, Ava Mason, Autumn Meeks, Laura Pjetri, Julian Reece, Anjie Reynolds, Finley Sockwell **Second Grade:** Noah Allen, Chris Bell, August Boachie, Zoey Brathwaite, Olivia Carr, Maya Hawkins, Nomizza Mathu, Noah Yi **Third Grade:** Brian Coleman, Malia Merritt, Teddy Morgan, Stephania Posada, Zoe Reece **Fourth Grade:** Nicholas Allen, Nicolas Bell, Rafael Bustamante, Andruw Cantu, Tristan Nash, Zachary Stair **Fifth Grade:** Riley Nixon, Juan Diego Orduz, Noah Song

Congratulations to the following students for getting to school on time during

Kindergarten: Anush Allen-Krincek, Alistair Boachie, Dessandra Dublin, Aaron Hackett, Davis Jackson, Valentino Oñate, Alyssa Yi **First Grade:** Savannah Ansari, Toby Fowler, Raphael Jackson, Ava Kimble, Chase LaPointe, Julian Reece, Anjie Reynolds **Second Grade:** Noah Allen, Chris Bell, August Boachie, Cameron The, Noah Yi **Third Grade:** Sophia Cediell, Brian Coleman, Santiago Gonzalez, Malia Merritt, Teddy Morgan, Stephania **Fourth Grade:** Nicholas Allen, Nicolas Bell, Rafael Bustamante, Tessa Fowler, Zachary Stair **Fifth Grade:** Juan Diego Orduz

GRADES K-5: ENGLISH/SPANISH

KINDERGARTEN ENGLISH

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving!! I cannot believe it is already December, and the first semester is already almost over!

Language Arts: We will be learning the sounds of the letters, d and k. We will also begin learning about nouns. We will continue working on improving our reading skills in the classroom.

Writing: We will be focusing on writing in our journals this month following a prompt. The main goal with our journals will be for the students to write a sentence that begins with a capital letter and ends in a period.

Math: We will be working on our unit on fractions during this month. The students will learn what it means to have equal parts and how to name each

one (ex: one fourth).

Social Studies/Science: We will be learning about the four seasons and weather patterns that occur during each of them.

Ms. Charle



KINDERGARTEN SPANISH

Language Arts: During the month of December, we will work with the letters B, CH, and R. We will continue to reinforce the spelling of words seen in class and begin to write short sentences. We will also continue reading individually and in groups, with books specific to each child's level according to his or her progress. All Spanish language activities are done in combination with manipulatives, art, music, or drama. Learning is always creative!

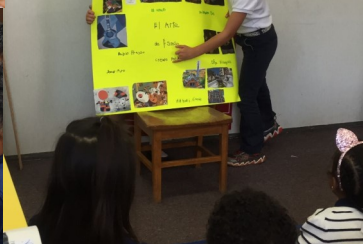
Math: In November, we finished the unit on Geometry, and in December we will begin learning about basic fractions and ordinal numbers. As a result, we will complete many fun projects and games to ensure learning.

Social Studies: We will finish practicing

the mambo. The children have been working very hard on it!

Science: We will finish learning about the three states of matter (solid, liquid, and gas) and how they change. The children complete a project on this unit this month.

Ms. Alessandra



FIRST GRADE ENGLISH

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving!! December is a short month for us with some fun activities planned.

Language Arts: We will be learning how to add "-es" to words to make them plural, as well as learn about words with r-controlled vowel sounds.

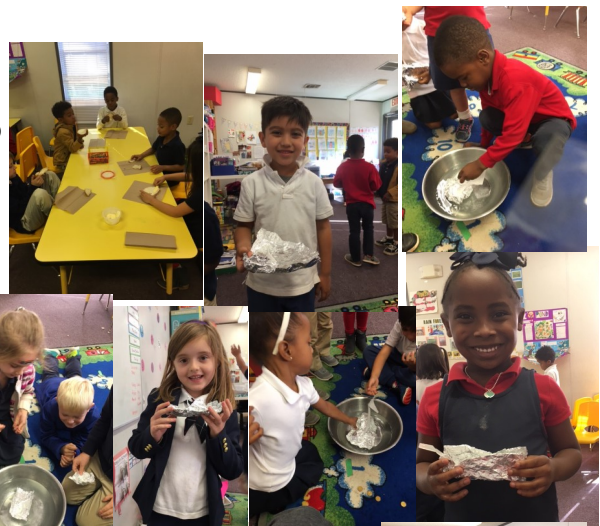
Grammar/Writing: We will continue working on verbs this month. We will also learn how to write a realistic story.

Math: We will continue working on our geometry unit by focusing on 3D shapes this month.

Social Studies: We will be learning about the rights and responsibilities of our elected officials.

Science: We will complete a fun STEM activity in class.

Ms. Charle



FIRST GRADE SPANISH

Language Arts: In December, we will learn about poetry and rhyming words. We will also study words that begin with the letters, J and V, and learn the plural form of nouns. We will continue with the weekly dictations and daily reading both individually and as a group. The children will begin writing short illustrated stories.

Math: We will study ordinal numbers up to twentieth, as well as learn about patterns, counting groups of ten (with remainders), and forming numbers with tens. We will conduct various activities to make sure that learning is always fun!

Social Studies: We will finish up our practice of the Samba. The children are excited to perform for you at the end of this semester!

Science: We will continue to learn about the four seasons. We will also learn about climate change during each of them. The children will complete an in-class project on this theme.

Ms. Alessandra



SECOND GRADE ENGLISH

Reading: One of my favorite holiday stories is *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. I am looking forward to sharing this story with the second graders this month. We will read the story together and look more in-depth at what occurs within the story – such as main idea, sequencing, cause/effect, and why Dr. Seuss wrote this delightful story.

Writing/Grammar: Keeping in line with the holiday theme, our next upcoming writing project will be to write an informational (expository) piece involving comparing and contrasting. The students will begin by looking at informational texts about reindeer and moose. After a brief review of recognizing facts from opinions, the students will gather their favorite facts about each mammal, sort them into the appropriate areas of their writing templates, and produce a two paragraph paper. We will finish off our writing with a "craftivity" to really bring the spirit of the season into it. Throughout this process, we will also continue to work on the different types of nouns. The students will also be assigned two spelling tests this month focused on practicing those r-controlled words (ar, or, ore, er, ir, and ur).

Math: Students will begin the month with a brief review and exam of 2- and 3-digit addition/subtraction problems. From there, we will begin discussing the different types of graphs: pictographs, bar graphs, and coordinate graphs.

Social Studies: Moving on from the topography of Georgia, our next unit of study will focus on the earliest citizens of our state: the Creek Indians, the Cherokee Indians, and the first settlers. As this unit includes quite a bit of material to cover, a portion of our lessons will be taught in December while the other portion will be covered in January when we return from our break. Therefore, in December, our primary focus will be comparing/contrasting the Creek and Cherokee Indians through detailed classroom discussions, an at-home enrichment project, and a celebratory "Indian Day."

Science: In our last unit of study, the students learned about different forms of energy. This month, our focus will be primarily on light energy and its relation to the differences we see during the day (shadows) and during the night

(moon phases). We will finish off by tying our science studies in with our math studies by doing a moon tracking/graphing activity.

Ms. Kari



SECOND GRADE SPANISH

My favorite time of the year is almost here!

Math: Throughout the month of December, there will be a different work dynamic. During the first couple weeks, we will do a cumulative review of all math topics since the first day of school. This will include adding and subtracting numbers up to 4 digits with and without regrouping, as well as problem solving.

Language Arts: We will learn about synonyms and antonyms and continue to work on consonant groups. We will also do a cumulative review of all vocabulary words. Lastly, we will work on writing short stories and reading fun, holiday-themed stories.

Social Studies: We are using this time to practice for our end-of-the-year Colombian dance, Rumba Criolla.

Science: We will finish up the semester with a cumulative science exam that will include what was recently learned on the states of matter.

Ms. Janeth



THIRD GRADE ENGLISH

Reading: Right before the Thanksgiving holidays, our class finished the book, *Stone Fox*. Some of the students had very good predictions of what was going to happen, while others were very surprised by the ending. This month, we will be concluding our novel study packet with an original "last chapter" writing activity and art project. Once this has been completed, time permitting, we will practice identifying the main idea and supporting details of several short holiday stories.

Grammar/Writing: The students will be participating in two writing activities this month. First, they will complete the last portion of their previously-written persuasive essays about the perfect spot for our next field trip. In addition, they will start a new writing project that I feel they will be very excited about: creating a brand new original doughnut! This assignment not only allows the students to express their creativity, but it also fits well into their recent social studies discussions on producers and consumers. To help strengthen their writing, we will finish learning about pronouns and move into a mini lesson about adjectives (quantitative, descriptive, comparative, and super-

lative).

Math: The students have been working very hard on multiplication. At the beginning of the month, the students will be tested on their knowledge of this material. The students will then begin learning about division. This unit will be taught by first acknowledging the meaning of division, and then learning about division facts.

Social Studies: December will be a continuation and a conclusion to our unit on economics. The students learned a great deal of information last month about what it takes to run a business. This month, they will be given several opportunities to practice this information first-hand.

Science: In December, the students will participate in several activities involving a deeper understanding of the process of weathering and erosion. We will also incorporate social studies standards by investigating the rivers and mountain ranges of the United States.

Ms. Kari



THIRD GRADE SPANISH

That wonderful time of the year is finally here! December is an atypical month because of the holiday season, so the work dynamic will be different.

Math: During the first couple weeks, we will do a cumulative review of all math topics since the first day of school. This will include multiplication operations with 2 or more digits. We will also begin learning about Geometry, including classifying solid figures by their attributes. We will use terms

such as face, edge, and vertex to describe the shapes.

Language Arts: We will be reviewing all vocabulary and grammar since the beginning of the year.

Science: We will finish our unit on plants, learning differences between coniferous and deciduous plants and understanding how they change with time.

Social Studies: We are using this time to

practice for our end-of-the-year Colombian dance, Rumba Criolla.

Ms. Janeth

FOURTH GRADE ENGLISH

Can you believe that the end of the semester is right around the corner?! This month we will spend time reviewing information, finishing units, and practicing for our December performance.

Math: Right before Thanksgiving break, we finished our unit on multiplication and division. This month, we will begin working with fractions. We will begin the unit by decomposing fractions and finding fraction equivalence.

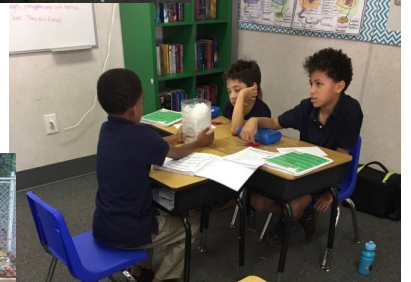
Reading: We have finished our novel study of *Island Of The Blue Dolphins*. During the month of December we will read short stories and discuss the differences between historical fiction, realistic fiction, and fantasy fiction. We will also discuss making text-to-self connections and connect what we are reading to other stories.

Grammar/Writing: We will begin a unit on sentences. This unit begins with learning about the different types of sentences. We will later discuss complete sentences vs. sentence fragments. In writing, we will begin discussing opinion writing.

Science: We will continue working on our unit on the water cycle. In December, we will mainly focus on weather. The students will learn how it is measured, how it is predicted, as well as other aspects of weather.

Social Studies: We will begin our unit on early European explorers. This unit discusses major Spanish, French, and English explorers, and what they were in search of. This unit leads into our unit on the original colonies.

Ms. Claire



FOURTH GRADE SPANISH

Math: During the month of December, we will use the short time we have together to review and emphasize a geometry unit. We will use formulas to find the area and perimeter of shapes, such as rectangles, squares, parallelograms, triangles, and irregular shapes. We will also learn how to find the volume of solid shapes.

Grammar: We will study the prefixes, im-, sobre-, sub-, super-, and suffixes, -ez, -eza, -anza. We will also learn the rules for writing words that begin with y and ll. Lastly, we will learn about contractions, prepositions, and conjunctions.

Reading: We will continue to read short stories for comprehension and fluency. We will also find

the main idea and details in each story and identify and define new vocabulary words. Additionally, we will learn and understand the characteristics of a friendly letter.

Science: We will finish our unit on ecosystems with a test, then begin a new unit on light and sound.

Social Studies: We will start a project on endangered birds of Puerto Rico. We will also learn about Puerto Rico's cultural history, indigenous/European/African influences, and ancestry.

Ms. Gladys



FIFTH GRADE ENGLISH

It's hard to believe that we have reached the end of our first semester! December is a short month, therefore we will spend a lot of time reviewing material and finishing units.

Math: We finished our unit on multiplication and division of decimals. This month we will begin our unit on fractions, going more in depth with all aspects of them. We will begin with addition and subtraction of fractions and move into multiplication and division.

Reading: We will read different short stories, discussing the narrator's point of view in each of the stories and understanding how that point of view affects the way that events are presented in a story.

Grammar/Writing: We will begin our unit on

sentences. We will begin learning about the different types of sentences and then understand the difference between fragments and complete sentences. In writing, we will continue working on our opinion pieces.

Science: This month, we will be moving from classifying plants and animals into cell division and traits. Students will learn how traits are inherited from parents.

Social Studies: Now that we have finished talking about America at the turn of the century, we will be moving forward in time to events leading up to World War I. In this unit we will discuss America's involvement in the war and what post WWI America looked like. We will also be discussing The Great Depres-

sion and The New Deal.

Ms. Claire



FIFTH GRADE SPANISH

Grammar: In December, we will learn about pronouns, specifically personal, possessive, demonstrative, and indefinite pronouns. We will also learn the rules for writing words with the letter v, and we will learn the suffixes, -able, -ible, -ancia, -oso, and -osa.

Reading/Writing: We will learn about the principal aspects of poetry and also learn about the structure of a newspaper. The students will continue to read short stories and make predictions about the characters and plot and identify the author's purpose.

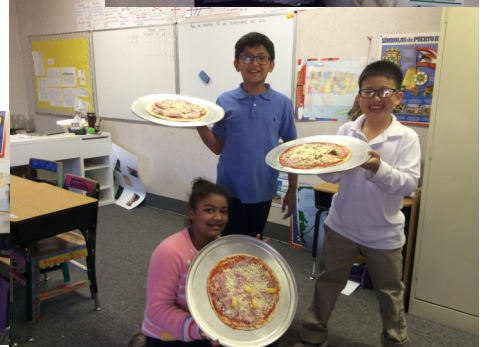
Math: We will emphasize what has been learned in English class by reviewing multiplication and division of decimal numbers. We will also learn about scientific notation.

Science: We will continue to discuss

terrestrial and aquatic biomes in addition to learning how organisms interact with each other.

Social Studies: We will continue to discuss the Mayan Civilization, including location, conquests, territories, and disappearance.

Ms. Ciria



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

MUSIC PROGRAM– *MS. GLADYS (MS. ROSI WILL RETURN IN JANUARY)*

Kindergarten

Music Concepts: *beat, *create a dance, *timbre- unpitched instruments, *dynamics- loud/soft

Songs: "Put the Beat in Your Feet," "Once I Caught a Fish Alive"- poem, "I'd Go Dancing," "One Little Candle," "Rock Around the Christmas Tree," "Play the Bells to Celebrate," "He'll be Comin' Down the Chimney"

First Grade

Music Concepts: *beat, *timbre- unpitched instruments, *pitch-high/low, *dynamics- loud/soft, *tempo-fast/slow

Songs: "Elevator," "Hanukkah Fun," "Up on the Housetop," "The Bells on the Sleigh," "Love my Slippers"

Second Grade

Music Concepts: *tempo and tempo terms, *create actions, *create new verses, *timbre- unpitched instruments

Listening Resources: composer Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky: 1. "Overture" from "The Nutcracker," 2. "Dance of the Mitlitos" from "The Nutcracker"

Songs: "Do Your Ears Hang Low?" "O Hanukkah," "Ring, Ring, Ring the Bells," "Holiday Round," "Jolly Old St. Nicholas"

Third Grade

Music Concepts: *singing in harmony, *practice reading sixteenth notes, *play unpitched instruments, *Spanish song

Listening Resources: composer Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky: 1. "Overture- Nutcracker," 2. "Waltz of the Flowers" from "The Nutcracker"

Fourth/Fifth Grades

Music Concepts: *note reading, *G and C major scales, *12 bar blues, *Spanish song, *create sound effects, *2 part choral, *expression

Listening Resources: composer Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky: 1. "Trepak" from the "Nutcracker," 2. "Chinese Dance" from the "Nutcracker"

Songs: "Winter is Here," "Charley Marley," "Campana Sobre," "Christmas Shopping Blues," "Twelve Days of Christmas," "Snowflakes"



ART PROGRAM- *MS. CIRIA*

We will continue learning about theater and poetry, with the purpose of developing creativity and sensitivity in children through performance and improvisation. The children will continue to be engaged in discussions about different types of theater and poetry from around the globe. They will observe the steps and movements, clothing/costumes and accessories used, and other elements. Furthermore, the children will continue making puppet creations out of recycled materials. Lastly, the children will make ornaments for the Christmas Tree.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM- *COACH B.J.*

We have a very short month but will make the most out of it by sharpening and improving our volleyball skills. This is a great team sport that is separated by a net and requires two teams. Some Volleyball terms the children will learn and use are spike, dig, rally, bumping, and setting. In addition, the students will familiarize themselves with the rules and play a game or two. Volleyball is a wonderful sport for children to play. It promotes a healthy lifestyle, fosters teamwork, and can be played on the beach, in a gym and even in your backyard! See you on the volleyball court!



FRENCH PROGRAM– MS. YAMINA

Kindergarten

Vocabulary: During our circle time, we will continue practicing word pronunciation by working on pronouncing vowel and consonant blends. We will work on words that begin with the letters r, s, and b. The students will continue to practice reading their words to help them memorize them. Additionally, we will be playing different games and activities to practice spelling French vocabulary words.

Math: We will continue learning numbers and adding them together to form larger numbers. Also, we will continue ordering numbers by using the concepts of “plus grand=bigger” and “plus petit=smaller” in French. Lastly, we will continue to work with different shapes and naming objects associated with them.

Reading: During this month, we will read about winter in our book, *Les Quatres Saisons*.

French Vocabulary Words:

French	English
Rat	Mouse
Rire	To Laugh
Rouge	Red
Savon	Soap
Singe	Monkey
Serpent	Snake
Boule	Ball
Bleu	Blue
Bateau	Boat

1st-2nd Grades

Vocabulary/Grammar: During this month, we will study singular and plural forms of some common nouns. Also, we will continue working on words with syllabic combinations: on, an, ou, and eu. Additionally, we will continue working with verbs, nouns, and adjectives in order to build simple sentences.

Math: We will continue working on subtraction of 2-digit numbers in French. Also, we will start adding 3-digit numbers. Additionally, we will continue working on solid shapes, symmetry, and line patterns. **Reading:** This month, we will begin reading a new chapter from our book, *Les Aventures d'Isabelle*. The students are encouraged to read in French at home.

French Vocabulary Words:

French	English
Manger	To Eat
Mouton	Sheep
Moteur	Engine
Danser	To Dance
Facteur	Postman
Ouvrir	To Open
Monteau	Coat

3rd-5th Grades

Vocabulary/Grammar: This month, we will be learning about verbs that end in -re (3rd group verbs). Students will learn some of these verbs, their meanings, and conjugations in French. Students will also learn to identify these words in a story. Through grammar exercises, students will learn how to use this group of verbs in sentences. Additionally, we will continue learning about feminine and masculine nouns and their plural forms.

Math: In addition to learning the spelling of numbers between 10 and 20 in French, we will continue working on multiplication in French.

Reading: We will discuss the main idea in our book, *Gafi, le Fantôme*. Students are, as always, encouraged to read in French at home.

French Vocabulary Words:

French	English
Attendre	To Wait
Boire	To Drink
Croire	To Believe
Joindre	To Join
Apprendre	To Learn
Répondre	To Respond
Résoudre	To Solve



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM– MS. CIRIA-KINDERGARTEN, MS. BEA AND MS. LILY-1ST-2ND GRADES, MS. GLADYS-3RD-5TH GRADES



A group of children and adults are seated around a large table covered with a floral tablecloth. The table is set with plates of food, including what appears to be pizza, and various items. In the background, a woman in a red shirt is standing near a staircase. The room has white walls and a doorway on the left.

