

Specialists' Newsletter Page 1

March 19, 2018

MUSIC/PERFORMING ARTS

Come out and support the eighty students that have been working on their performance of "Dear Edwina Jr.!" They will be performing on April 12 and April 13 (both performances start at 6 PM) and both performances are free. Concessions, playbills, and flowers will be sold and all proceeds will support the performing arts at Brent.

Congrats to Brent's All-City Choir representatives for performing at Duke Ellington School of the Arts this past Saturday (March 17). Those students are Jack Braunstein, Ingrid Dirren, Armoni Evans, Jamison Ford, Camille Crawford-Galvani, Clara Merrick, Claire Norris, Noa Smudde, and Sienna Wanagas. They were joined on stage by the Washington Chorus, the secondary chorus, and many music teachers for their last two songs. Both Claire Norris and Sienna Wanagas were also chosen as soloists in two different songs.

On Tuesday March 20 our ECE and KG students will be treated to a performance by members of the National Symphony Orchestra. They will learn about how movement and music work together in harmony and how the marimba and the flute can be used for various types of music.

Thanks to a partnership with "Creative Spark!" our 5th grade students have been able to learn about theater improvisation, character development, and scene creation. They will be expanding their knowledge in April by developing scripts and performing their scripts.

Looking to volunteer? Mr. Krohn could use help with book binding and copying.

Library

PreK and Kindergarten students continued enjoying "Peter Stories" by Ezra Jack Keats. We are now quite familiar with all of Peter's friends. We read Goggles, Regards to the Man in the Moon, Dreams, and Louie. Dreams and Louie invited us to create puppets for a puppet show.

Reading Without Walls Challenge

For a month long Read Across America celebration of diverse books, students are asked to participate in the Reading Without Walls Challenge (<http://geneyang.com/the-reading-without-walls-challenge>). To complete this challenge students must:

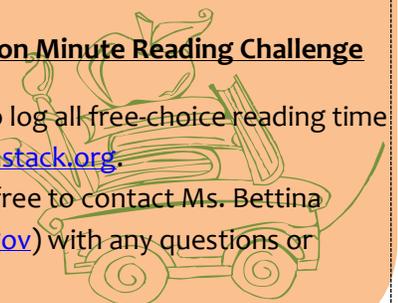
- 1.) Read a book about a character who doesn't look like them or live like them.
- 2.) Read a book about a topic they don't know much about.
- 3.) Read a book in a format that they don't normally read for fun; for example, if a student usually reads graphic novels, he/she should pick up a chapter book or a book with poems.

The Reading Without Walls Challenge was announced in the March 6 issue of Tues News, asking students to record the books meeting the criteria on an attached form. Completed forms should be returned to Ms. Bettina or the classroom teacher no later than April 3, 2018. Extra forms are available in the library. Please note that time spent for the Reading Without Walls Challenge also counts for the Three Million Minute Reading Challenge.

DCPS Wide Three Million Minute Reading Challenge

Please do not forget to log all free-choice reading time at <https://brentes.beanstack.org>.

As always, please feel free to contact Ms. Bettina (bettina.schewe@dc.gov) with any questions or concerns





Specialists' Newsletter Page 2

March 19, 2018

SCIENCE

Scientists have been back to their usual curriculum after our celebration of Black History Month, in which we studied Hidden Figures and did a little rocket science.

First grade scientists are continuing their journey through the solar system with a study of the moon. Using ping pong balls and flashlights, students are seeing first hand how phases of the moon are really just our perception of the daytime and nighttime sides of the moon. We've heard read-a-louds from authors like Eric Carle and seen footage of the Apollo missions to support our studies.

In second grade, students have returned to their studies of habitats last Fall by constructing soda bottle terrariums in the wonder room. Each week we add a living thing and investigate how life is supported by the non-living elements in the terrarium. Currently, we have radish plants, two kinds of grass, and pill bugs taking up residence on our window sill.

Third graders are exploring how balanced and unbalanced forces can make cars move across the wonder room floor. Students are taking the magnetic cars they designed in the last unit and are now powering them with balloons. From carefully analyzing video of our cars in motion, students are able to optimize their designs and find the best placement for their balloons.

Science (Continued)

Fourth graders are beginning their partnership with the Anacostia Watershed Society's Rice Rangers project. Each class has planted two varieties of aquatic plant that we are cultivating under grow lights in the wonder room. At the end of April, we'll transplant our plants to the riverbed by Kingman Island, providing filter and flood control for the river bank and food and habitat for the animals found there.

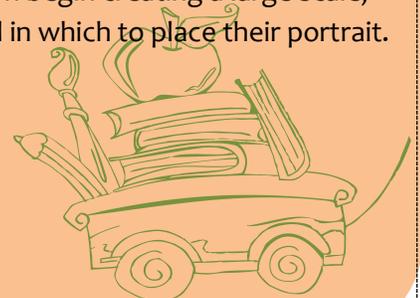
Fifth graders are wrapping up their unit on oil spills. Students have cleaned up a model oil spill in the classroom, using a variety of materials they "purchased" with a fixed budget. Throughout the project, we compared our model results to the actual conditions of the Deepwater Horizon disaster, and kept our findings rooted in our knowledge of water and oil's properties.

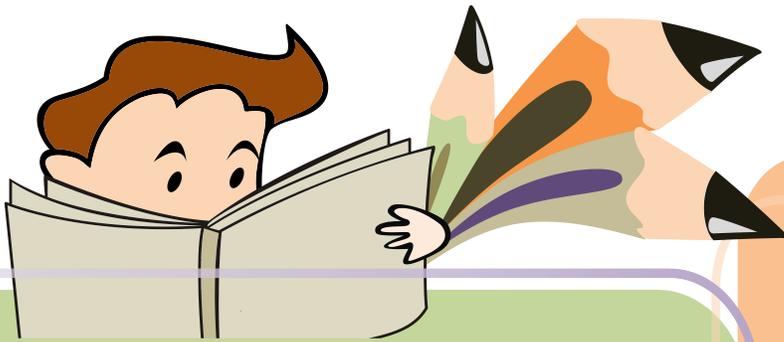
Visual Arts

Why Background Matters; the importance of place in portraits.

The National Portrait Gallery recently revealed the official portraits of President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama. The portraits painted by contemporary artists Kehinde Wiley and Amy Serald have captured the attention and imagination of viewers.

Our 5th grade artists have been considering the bold choices made by these artists and also thinking about a setting for their own "official" 5th grade portraits. Students are in the process of creating detailed self-portraits and will soon begin creating a large-scale, collaged background in which to place their portrait.





Physical Education

In P.E. class, students in grades 3rd - 5th are hard at work participating in a floor hockey unit. This unit aims to provide students with the opportunities to practice and develop the fundamental skills required for game participation in a safe / supportive environment. Early in the unit, students participated in lessons that focused on stick handling, passing, shooting, mini games, and maintaining a safe hockey stick at all times. Over the course of the last week, students have been active in game play. It has been wonderful seeing all the smiling faces, as this unit is always a highlight of the year.



I hope that everyone has a great Spring Break!

