



Happy New Year!

We hope students and their friends and family had a great start to the New Year!

Before the December break, Mr. Stack took 3rd and 4th graders on a “field trip” around Coolidge Corner to sing songs. First, students sang in front of Lower Devotion. Then students went to Trader Joe’s, Peet’s Coffee and our new construction site at 345 Harvard Avenue. Students loved visiting these neighborhood spots and spreading kindness. (See more pictures on Twitter @DevoSchool.)

2016 flew by at Devotion and we hope that 2017 will bring positive energy! This newsletter contains information about some of the projects your child has been working on as we start our journey through 2017. Enjoy!

-The Specialist Team



Specialists Info

Art | Emily Manning-Mingle

Teaches: Kindergarten-4th Grade

Library | Julie Seifert

Teaches: Kindergarten-4th Grade

Music | Anat Hochberg

Teaches: Kindergarten, 1B, 1DJ, 4G, 4O

Music | Colin Stack

Teaches: 1G, 1J, 1Z, 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade, 4CD, 4H, 4S

Physical Education | Jen Nixon Mathis

Teaches: 1B, 1DJ, 2nd Grade, 3A, 3B, 3F, 3P, 4S, 4O, 4G, 4H

Physical Education | Scott Newman

Teaches: Kindergarten, 1G, 1J, 1Z, 3D, 4CD

Spanish | Isabella Delatorre

Teaches: Kindergarten, 1G, 1Z, 4th Grade

Spanish | Ana Elkhessasi

Teaches: 1B, 1DJ, 1J, 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade

Art



Kindergarten

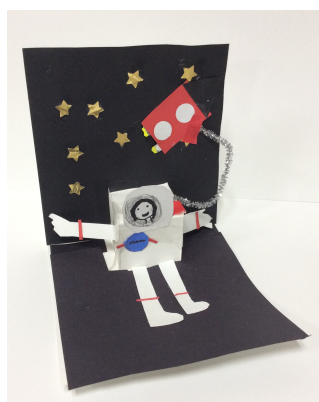
Kindergarteners recently learned about the artist Jasper Johns and how his paintings often contain “hidden messages.” Students then created their own “Hidden Message” paintings by including important information about themselves like their name, class, age, birthday, favorite color and things they love. During our next unit students will learn all about lines (including straight, wavy, zig zag) and create drawings, paintings and 3D sculptures using different kinds of lines.

First Grade:

Over the past two months, first graders have been creating Recycled Robots! After reading the book *Rob-Sauce*, by Adam Rubin, students created their own robot using cardboard, oak tag and other mixed media materials. After collaging building their robot, students printed it two different ways—first by creating a crayon rubbing and then by painting it with ink and printing it with the printing press.

Second Grade

Second graders are finishing their “Not-a-Box” paper sculpture. After reading *Not a Box*, by Antoinette Portis, students learned how to create a 3D box out of oak tag. Then students used their imagination to turn the box into something new. Sculptures included the solar system, bedrooms, houses, animals, and much more! After creating their sculpture, students wrote a short description of their project.



Third Grade

Third graders are currently finishing a puppet unit. After reading *The Monster Show: Everything You Never Knew About Monsters*, by Charise Mericle Harper, students drew, cut and designed a Monster Puppet using the letters of their name (or nickname). Next, students created a setting for their monster and wrote a story describing something that happened to their monster. Students loved using mixed-media materials (like feathers, sequins, fabric, yarn, googly eyes, and more) to decorate their monsters. Students were also able to work with a partner to create and write their story. Stories ranged from biographies to narratives and included lots of description and action!

Fourth Grade

Fourth graders recently finished their *Bird Pun Drawing*. After learning about unusual bird names (like King Penguin, Fire Crest, Dollar Bird, and Fruit Dove), students drew a visual pun to describe what their bird *might* look like solely based on its name. Then, students drew a background and used blending techniques to color in their picture. After finishing this drawing assignment, students learned how to create Marbled Paper using shaving cream and liquid watercolors. Students used this simple process to create amazing Artist Trading Cards. Soon, students will also have the opportunity to participate in an Artist Trading Card swap with a student at another school.

Library



This month has been all awards, all the time for K-3. Meanwhile, in fourth grade, we are continuing our study of non-fiction. We are all excited for the announcement of the Caldecott award, as well as other awards from the American Library Association. Students are also excited about new books in the library, such as a popular biography of Lionel Messi and a fun series called *The Haunted Library*.

Kindergarten

In Kindergarten, we have been reading past Caldecott winners and honor books, as well as looking at “Caldecott Contenders”—that is, picture books that were published this year and might win the award. We have read several of these. Kindergarteners especially enjoyed *Thunder Boy, Jr.* by Sherman Alexie, a colorful story about a little boy who wants to change his name.

First Grade:

In first grade, we have been reading past Caldecott winners and honor books, as well as looking “Caldecott Contenders”—that is, picture books that were published this year and might win the award. We have looked at how all the different parts of the picture book tell the story, from the illustrations to the end papers to the cover. Students especially enjoyed reading *Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed a Neighborhood* by Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell.

Second Grade

In second grade, we have looked at several awards, including the Caldecott Medal, the Coretta Scott King Award, and the Belpre award. We read *Uptown* by Bryan Collier, which won the Coretta Scott King Award, and *Drum Girl Dream*, which won the Belpre

Second Grade (cont.)

Award. Second graders have also looked at wordless picture books and enjoyed “reading” another Caldecott Contender, *The Typewriter* by Bill Thomson.

Third Grade

In third grade, we have learned about several awards, including the Caldecott, the Coretta Scott King Award, The Belpre Award, and the Newbery Medal. We read *The Last Stop on Market Street*, which won the gold Newbery Medal and the silver Caldecott Medal. We have also looked at publishing and read another hilarious Caldecott Contender called *How This Book Was Made*, by Max Barnett and illustrated by Adam Rex.

Fourth Grade

In fourth grade, we have been continuing our study of non-fiction. Fourth graders have practiced finding nonfiction in the online catalog and then locating it on the shelf using the Dewey Decimal Number. Students have had the chance to look for non-fiction books related to their own interests, from soccer to Greek Myths. Fourth grade students also had the opportunity to read books that are nominated for the Massachusetts Children’s Book Award.

Music

Kindergarten

In Ms. Hochberg's kindergarten music class, we continue to explore on our singing voices, our listening ears and minds, and our moving bodies. Some of our favorite songs from these past months include "Baby Beluga," "Kye Kye Kule," and "Charlie Over the Ocean."

In the week before December vacation, Kindergarten classes had a special joy-sharing mission: we went around during music class to sing to other classes and adults in the building! We had a blast on our serenade tours.

First Grade

Mr. Stack's first grade classes continue to work on a variety of folk songs and dances for the month of January. After developing a good sense of pitch and long-term melodic memory from our shorter songs and movement activities in the fall, our students are now at a point where they are more than capable of tackling material that is more complex. Some of the new songs include an old square dance from Gill, Massachusetts titled "Listen to the Mockingbird," a variant of "Miss Mack" originally taught by Avon Gillespie at the Orr-Schulwerk course in Santa Cruz, California in 1987 titled "Green Sally Up," a shorter song called "Hambone" that has intricate improvised patterns of body percussion, and the Beatles' classic "Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da" (their new favorite!).

Second & Third Grade

Mr. Stack's 2nd and 3rd grade classes are hard at work preparing songs for the 2nd-4th grade Winter Concert.

Mr. Stack's winter concert for grades 2nd-4th (all of 2nd & 3rd Grade, 4S, 4Cd, and 4H) is scheduled for **Thursday, February 16th** in the auditorium at Upper Devotion School.

Students should arrive by 6:15pm for placement and setup. The show will start at 6:30pm. Students should dress up for this occasion (suits, dress pants and shoes, skirts, dresses, button-up shirts and ties of any color combination are all encouraged! Please no sneakers, sweatpants, or jeans). The concert will last for about 40 minutes.

Fourth Grade

At the beginning of January, Mr. Stack's fourth grade classes were learning how to compose for percussion instruments using standard and graphic notation. They are now preparing and perfecting songs for the 2nd-4th grade Winter Concert.

In Ms. Hochberg's 4th grade classes (4O and 4CD), we continue to work on reading music and singing. We have also started applying our music reading skills to learning percussion parts (including drums and xylophones) to accompany our singing. Finally, we have started working on our vocal and instrumental improvisation skills.

Congratulations to 4G on their music performance with Ms. Hochberg on January 30th! 4O looks forward to their concert on **Wednesday, February 8th** at Lower Devotion in the 5th floor multi-purpose room.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

January has been the month of “Bs”...basketball and bowling! The unique shape of our gym inspired some serious creativity from our students and PE team for both bowling and basketball. Additionally, we welcomed Mr. Anthony Lanza to Devo as Ms. Nixon’s long-term sub while she recovers from a hip surgery. He has been an awesome addition to the team—thanks Mr. Lanza!

Kindergarten

Kindergarteners learned all about the basics of bowling, such as how to properly roll a ball underhand so that it goes straight down the lane for a strike! In the basketball unit, the focus was on how to dribble with our “favorite hand” by playing a game called Frogs and Flies. They also learned about how to shoot a basketball into our beautiful new hoops using the right form. Start small and end tall!

First Grade

First grade also learned about how to properly roll a ball underhand by stepping forward with the opposite foot and keeping the ball low to the ground. Pins were falling down left and right! For basketball, they learned how to dribble with their favorite hand as well as with their “second favorite hand”, and also learned about how to shoot a basketball into a hoop. Remember; start small, end tall!

Second Grade

Second grade learned all about how to hold an actual bowling ball and underhand roll it correctly so that it could travel straight down the lane. Each bowling lane had a different obstacle, from rolling it between chairs to bouncing it off the wall, which made for some really fun and challenging lanes!

Second Grade (cont.)

As for the basketball unit, the focus was dribbling with the “dominant” and “non-dominant” hand while moving around in space by playing a game called Squirrels and Acorns. They also practiced using the correct form to shoot a basketball...2nd grade shoots and SCORES!

Third Grade

Third grade learned how bowl with challenging obstacles in the way, as well as use other skills like passing a soccer ball or shooting with a hockey stick to knock down pins. For basketball, they learned how to dribble with each hand while moving in space without losing control by playing a game called Dribble Knockout. Finally, they learned the correct way to shoot a basketball by practicing on our new hoops.

Fourth Grade

Our fourth graders not only learned how to bowl with exciting obstacles in their path, but they also learned how to keep score as a team for each bowling lane they completed. As for basketball, the fourth grade played Dribble Knockout and learned dozens of small dribbling drills to help them become better ball-handlers outside of PE. Additionally, they practice shooting with correct form so that when they get to Upper Devo they’ll be sinking shots from all over the court.



Spanish



tortuga



serpiente



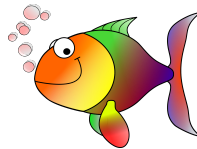
cuy



perro



pájaro



pez



Before we left for the Winter Break, younger students at Devo learned about family members and pets. Students learned songs, played games, drew and shared about their families in class. Above is a picture of *Los Increíbles* family portrait. ¿Y tú? ¿Cómo es tu familia?

Kindergarten

The year started with friendly monsters for K students in Profe D's class. This was an opportunity to review family members, body parts and also learn a couple of new colors and a new song (with a new dance, of course!). You should definitely ask your kindergartner to sing the "*Baile de los Colores*" song!

First Grade:

First graders also reviewed family members, pets, colors and body parts for the past couple of weeks. We played charades, read books, played a monster family guessing games as a class and in small groups, sang and danced. We had lots of fun! See if your child can name any of the pets above. Some of them are new and harder to pronounce, but they might be able to do it with a little help!

Second Grade

Second graders reviewed vocabulary related to family and pets. This year we introduced some new words such as *tío* (uncle), *tía* (aunt), *primo* (boy cousin) and *prima* (girl cousin). Students got to know the story of Pilar (a girl from Colombia) and her family. We also played different games and worked on "*Mi mascota favorita*" project. Students also learned more about the Andean countries, including their location and flag!

Third Grade

During this time of the year, third graders have been reviewing and learning vocabulary about food, mealtime and Mexican food. Through different games and interactive activities, students learned the name of different ingredients used to make a sandwich, named their favorite desserts, and picked their favorite Mexican food. Now we are reviewing the vocabulary learned for the past weeks and interacting with each other to use all those new words! I love to see their progress and participation!

Fourth Grade

Fourth graders closed 2016 with a video project. Students did an amazing job! Profe D was SO proud. However, with so many students being out, we have not been able to display their videos in the school yet! We should have them up on the first floor by early February. Now fourth graders are working on a clothing unit. We introduced some new vocabulary to describe patterns and sleeve sizes. Ask your child about the difference between a *mango* and a *manga* in Spanish! And challenge them to describe what they are wearing to school every once in awhile.