



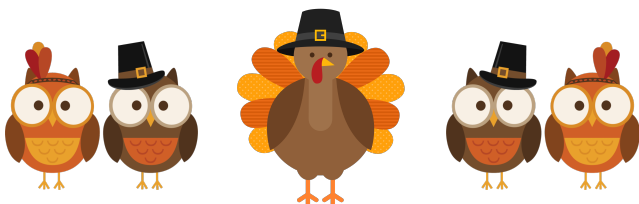
## Happy Thanksgiving!

The specialist team at Lower Devotion feels lucky to be a part of such a warm community of students, parents, and colleagues.

During this season of gratitude, we would like to give thanks to you—for supporting us and sharing students' enthusiasm when they tell stories about what goes on in all of the specialist classes! We hope that you and your family had a restful and relaxing break.

**¡Feliz Día de Acción de Gracias!**

-The Specialist Team



### Specialists Info

**Art | Emily Manning-Mingle**  
Teaches: Kindergarten-4<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Library | Julie Seifert**  
Teaches: Kindergarten-4<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Music | Anat Hochberg**  
Teaches: Kindergarten, 1B, 1DJ, 2P, 4G, 4O

**Music | Colin Stack**  
Teaches: 1G, 1J, 1Z, 2F, 2H, 2K, 2L, 3rd Grade, 4CD, 4H, 4S

**Physical Education | Jen Nixon Mathis**  
Teaches: 1B, 1DJ, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Spanish | Ana Elkhessasi**  
Teaches: 1B, 1DJ, 1J, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

# Art



## Kindergarten

Kindergarteners just finished their first long-term project. For their Shape and Texture Book, students combined many different materials (including crayons, watercolors, and ink) and techniques (including painting, printmaking and collage). We talked about how artists like to use different materials and techniques when they make art. Students had so much fun making their books and are excited to share them with you!

## First Grade:

Over the past few weeks, first graders have been talking about what a self-portrait is and why artists make self-portraits. On day one, first graders used their sketchbook to practice drawing a self-portrait with correct proportions (drawing shapes in the right side and the right place). Next, students drew a self-portrait on a larger piece of watercolor paper and drew a line or shape pattern in the background. Then, students colored their portrait with crayons and painted with watercolors.

## Second Grade

Second graders just finished their Observational Pumpkin Drawings. During this lesson, I talked about what observation is (looking closely and finding details). Students worked hard to draw mini pumpkins from observation and then colored them in by blending (mixing) colors together.

## Second Grade (cont.)

I talked a lot about persistence and how working on something that is challenging helps your brain get stronger. After drawing the pumpkin from observation, students chose to draw a realistic or imaginary background.

## Third Grade

Third graders just finished their Observational Gourd Drawings. During this lesson, I talked about how artists develop their observation skills by looking carefully and finding details. Students worked hard to draw a gourd and then colored their drawing by blending (mixing) with colored pencils or crayons. I talked a lot about persistence as students worked. Some students got to wear my special drawing glasses! After drawing the gourd from observation, students chose to draw a realistic or imaginary background.

## Fourth Grade

Fourth graders just finished their Observational Leaf Paintings. After finding a leaf, observing it carefully, and creating a sketch to plan the composition, students enlarged their drawing onto 12"x12" paper. Next, students used their knowledge of the color wheel to mix, match and paint the colors that they noticed. Then, students chose how they wanted to paint their background.



# Library



It's November and we have been busy in the library. We have lots of new books, such as the much-in-demand *Diary of a Wimpy Kid #11: Double Down*. We will also be looking at Caldecott books soon, so be on the look-out for more information about that!

## Kindergarten

In Kindergarten, we have been learning about how to choose a book. Kindergarteners have lots of choices in the library! They are learning to open up the book and look inside before picking a book, and to look for books about things they like! We read a fun, new book *This Is Not A Picture Book* (which actually is a picture book).

## First Grade:

In first grade, we have been learning the parts of a library book. Because it was close to Halloween, we did this in a Halloween style—like the “spooky spine” and the “jack-o-lantern jacket.” We also learned what an author is and read *One Day, The End: Short, Very Short, Shorter-Than-Short Stories*, about a little girl who becomes an author. Ask your first grader to tell you a very short story!

## Second Grade

In second grade, we have been talking about taking good care of books and how to remember to bring your books back on the right day—this is a new skill for second graders, since it is their first year taking books home. We read a book about a boy whose books are stolen, *Where Are My Books*, and second graders used their powers of observation to

## Second Grade (cont.)

figure out who was taking the books. Ask your second grader how they're going to remember to bring their books back!

## Third Grade

In third grade, we have been learning about different kinds of fiction—like historical fiction, fantasy, realistic fiction, and science fiction. We also learned what a novel is—a long work of fiction, and only fiction! Third graders enjoyed listening to and checking out novels in verse, such as *Love That Dog* by Sharon Creech. Ask your third grader what a novel is!

## Fourth Grade

In fourth grade, we have been learning all about non-fiction. We learned that non-fiction means true facts. But, some books are in the non-fiction section even if they aren't 100% true—like fairy tales and legends. We learned that these books are in the non-fiction section because they are part of *culture*, and they are stories that have been passed down for generations. We also learned that non-fiction books are grouped by topics, and that each group has a certain number. Ask your fourth grader what they noticed in the nonfiction section.

# Music



As the black-bird in the spring, 'neath the wil-low tree sat and piped I



heard him sing, sin-ging, "Au-ra Lee." Au-ra Lee, Au-ra Lee, maid with gol-den

## 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. We have started using our imagination to move expressively to music as if we are moving through Jell-O, as if our hands are butterflies, or as if we are moving inside giant bubbles. Some of our favorite songs from this month include "Puff the Magic Dragon," "Apple Tree," "Wise Old Owl," and "Jenny Had One Friend." We have been moving to Prokofiev's "Lt. Kije Suite Op. 60," "The Wedding Of Kije" and Respighi's "Ancient Airs And Dances Suite #3 Siciliana."

## First Grade

In Mr. Stack's first grade music class, we continue to explore the concepts of music and movement with the addition of a few Thanksgiving songs. Our first graders are moving and grooving to a jazzy rendition of "A Turkey Named Burt" and our bluegrass arrangement of "Over the River and Through the Woods." Their voices are continuing to develop nicely over Paul Simon's "59th Street Bridge Song" and the Arthur Freed and Nacio Herb Brown classic "Singing in the Rain."

In Ms. Hochberg's first grade music class, we continue to develop our singing voices, listening ears and minds, and expressively moving bodies. Some of our favorite songs this month have been "John the Rabbit," "Au clair de la lune," and "Frog in the Meadow."

## First Grade (cont.)

We have also been flexing our creative muscles by improvising singing questions and answers at the beginning of every class.

## Second Grade

Second Grade continues to perfect Harry Belafonte's "Jump In the Line" and "Banana Boat Song". Bob Dylan's "Blowing in the Wind" helped facilitate a great discussion about racial equality and the folk music movement of the 1960s. We added "Ms. Marry Mack" to our ever-increasing collection of partner songs. Paul McCartney's "Put It There" and the Bangles' "Manic Monday" had everyone singing with joyful voices this month!

## Third Grade

We are getting so much better at identifying notes on the treble clef and reading 8th note rhythms. The new recorder music has been challenging, but very rewarding. "Aura Lee", "Sailing", and "Shortening Bread" are the new songs that were added to the recorder line-up this month.

## Fourth Grade

The fourth Grade Chorus continues to rehearse and perfect songs for their winter concert TBA very soon!



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION



## Kindergarten

This month, Kindergarten has been practicing their underhand tossing by playing a great new game where two teams try to toss all of their equipment into their team's baskets. In order to be successful, they not only had to underhand toss using the skill cues, but they also got to practice working together as a team, sharing equipment, and communicating positively with each other in order to reach their goal.

## First Grade

They have been learning underhand/overhand throwing and catching. For underhand throwing the arm goes straight back, step in with the opposite foot and the hand follows through to the target. When catching, if the ball or beanbag is below their waist, the pinky fingers come together. If it's above their waist, thumbs together. For overhand throwing, they learned, T, elbow, step, turn, throw and follow through to their target.

## Second Grade

They have been working on underhand/overhand throwing and catching. They have done this with beanbags, beanie babies and small foam balls. They just finished the unit using these skills in a fun game. They had to throw various pieces of equipment into a basket.

November has been all about putting our new gym to good use! Many new games and activities have been created to make the most out of our 8th Floor space, where the goal for every grade is to move around and have as much fun as possible!

## Second Grade (cont.)

The first group to get all of their equipment into the basket won the game.

## Third Grade

Third graders have been working on overhand throwing and catching. With the third and fourth grades we have been using small foam balls and super bounce balls. Working on catching the ball in the air and learning to field a ground ball. They just finished the unit using these skills in a fun game. They had to throw various pieces of equipment into a basket. The first group to get all of their equipment into the basket won the game.

## Fourth Grade

Fourth grade is doing a much better job adjusting to the space. On Tuesday's and Thursday's Mr. Newman and I combine our classes, which has been a lot of fun. They have been working on overhand throwing and catching. With the third and fourth grades we have been using small foam balls and super bouncy balls. Working on catching the ball in the air and learning to field a ground ball. They just finished the unit using these skills in a fun game. They had to throw various pieces of equipment into a basket. The first group to get all of their equipment into the basket won the game.



# Spanish



November was all about “otoño” (fall) for the lower grades at Devo! We talked about the weather, colors, shapes, Halloween, pumpkins, etc!

## Kindergarten

For the last couple of weeks, kindergartners did several activities using fall items such as “manzanas” (apples), “calabazas” (pumpkins), “espantapájaros” (scarecrows), etc! We used this opportunity to review and learn more shapes, colors, sizes, parts of the body, etc. Ask your child to sing the “calabaza” song! There is also a link to the video on Profe D’s website.

## First Grade:

First graders have been reviewing “otoño” vocabulary as well, exploring the story of an “abuela” (grandma) who eats lots of fall fruits and shapes and ends up with an “espantapájaros” in her stomach! There were several interactive activities around this story and the culminating project was a short book where students wrote their own version of the story. The book is called “La abuela come...” (The grandma eats...) and you should definitely ask your child to read it to you! They did an awesome job! ¡Bravo!

## Second Grade

Fall was the main topic for second graders during november. We played different games and activities focusing on using Spanish to complete sentences and express what we see in the fall. Students created their own “Mi libro de otoño” (My book about fall) drawing and writing words in Spanish about this season.

## Second Grade (cont.)

Students related some words such as “manzanas” (apples), “calabazas” (pumpkins), “maíz” (corn) y “pavo” (turkey) to “Accion de gracias” (Thanksgiving). ¡Buen trabajo!

## Third Grade

At the beginning of the month, we talked about Mexico and important holidays such as “Día de los muertos” (Day of the Dead) and how people celebrate. During the rest of the month, third graders learned all about “otoño”: to describe nature, clothes and weather. We played different fun games to use complete sentences and vocabulary already known as well as some new words. I am very happy to see their progress! ¡Muy bien chicos y chicas!

## Fourth Grade

As we started a new unit on leisure activities, Profe D has been very impressed by how fourth graders have been able to build on their learning from previous years to express what activities they enjoy doing, why and with whom. Students told Profe D they like to “ir al cine porque es divertido” (go to the movies because it is fun) or that they like to “jugar fútbol con mis amigos” (play soccer with my friends). Profe D keeps challenging students to speak in sentences as much as possible and they are definitely working hard on it! ¡Excelente, chicos y chicas!