



# Middleton Stuart Elliott Elementary School



## *Special Area Reports – SY 2008-2009* *First Quarter*

### Information Center

Our classes have been very busy this first nine weeks. Below is a recap of what was reviewed and introduced to your child.

#### **Pre-K**

- Introducing themselves
- Book care
- Basic parts of the book, information located on the title page
- Turning pages correctly
- Fingerplays and nursery rhymes

#### **Kindergarten:**

- Introducing themselves and responding to questions
- Book care
- Detailed parts of the book; information located on the title page
- Turning pages correctly
- Fingerplays and nursery rhymes

#### **First Grade:**

- Reviewed: book care, parts of the book, information on the title page and shelfmarkers use
- Book check-out and return procedures
- Library Media Center Manners
- Four types of books in the LMC
- Periodicals
- Weekly poem
- **Second Grade:**
- Reviewed: book care, parts of the book, information on the title page, use of shelfmarkers, book check-out and return procedures and four types of books in the LMC
- Introduced: Arrangement of Picture Books and Fictions Books by author's last name
- Author Hunt: Alphabetization of author's names
- Dewey Decimal Classification System and arranging the nonfiction books in order
- Weekly poem

All classes were exposed to a variety of good literature, heard holiday stories and enjoyed singing their "Library Songs." This year the children also come to the library for an additional period called the "Community of Learners." During this class, we read and discuss a story and then participate in activities which expand and enrich the literature. Parents are always welcome to visit their child's library class and borrow books for home reading.

Look for our **Read Across America** information. This program will begin Nov. 1.

Happy Reading!

# Physical Education

The Physical Education school year has gotten off to a great start. The following are some of the skills and activities the children have been working on:

- classroom rules and procedures
- exercising to music (warm up)
- locomotor (movement) skills = walk, run, hop, jump, leap, skip, gallop, slide
- station work
- games = the objective of play being to practice movement control and spatial awareness while interacting with others



The activities presented in class are aligned with the DoDEA Physical Education Standards.

These standards are divided into three strands:

PESK- Responsible Personal and Social Development

PE1- Movement

PE2- Physical Activity and Fitness

Please continue to help your child gain the most from Physical Education class by reminding him/her to wear tennis shoes on P.E. days.



## Art

During the first quarter our Art students have spent time primarily on American Folk Art and the works of Vincent van Gogh. We focused on country scenes with farm animals and created our own Folk Art piece by drawing, tracing, and painting it. We will re-visit Folk Art later on, by studying the art of quilt making. The students did a wonderful job recreating van Gogh's "The Starry Night", and "Sunflowers". After studying and discussing his painting, "The Bedroom", everyone enjoyed drawing their own bedroom and sharing it with the class. We will culminate our unit on van Gogh by drawing a portrait of him and writing what we have learned about his paintings and his life.

To get everyone in the mood for Fall, the students also sketched and colored pumpkins from a still life display. These turned out very nice and many teachers used them in their classrooms as fall decorations.

## Guidance

This year in Guidance, we are once again learning to be 'Super Citizens'. We are learning that super citizens are:

Respectful  
Responsible  
Honest  
Caring  
Fair



School wide, we are working on making the right choices to treat others with the way we like to be treated. We have also met Kelso the frog. Kelso helps us to make choices to solve any people problems that we may have. Kelso gives us 9 choices to solve our problems. During Red Ribbon Week, we learned how to be responsible for our health and our bodies by making good choices for ourselves.



## Music



Greetings to all from the Music Department! It has been very exciting to introduce music to your children this first quarter through singing, movement, and listening to many different kinds of music.

Each grade, through many activities geared to each grade level, has been working on:

- Finding the steady beat in our songs by either snapping fingers, patting knees or clapping hands.
- Listening to loud and soft sounds.
- Tone color by finding different ways to use their voices.
- Echo singing- I sing a song and the students sing back to me.

In September we studied a unit on Mariachi Music celebrating National Hispanic Heritage month. We listened not only to the instruments of a mariachi ensemble but also the history of the music. And of course, as the quarter ends we are deep into preparations for the Holiday Celebration Sing-a Long to be held in December.

## Spanish FLES

### Kindergarten & 1<sup>st</sup> Grade



Students in the Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grades have been busy learning vocabulary words in *Espanola* :

- **Days of the Week**
- **Needs & Wants**
- **Alphabet**
- **Colors**
- **Greetings & Simple Phrases**

Students were excited to learn about Hispanic Heritage and have participated in instruction about Halloween. We will continue to learn and have fun expanding our knowledge of the Spanish language.



### Second Grade

*Hola!* Spanish for the first quarter of this year has been *muy excelente*. We have learned to count to 20, recognize and say 9 colors, identify the days of the week and say some typical greetings and farewells. We have learned by singing, reading, listening and repeating. We started our workbooks and lesson books, completing Unit 1 of *Nuevo Bravo, Bravo*. We created a moveable parrot and designed the Mexican flags that are hanging in the classroom. Encourage your children to practice the Spanish language and sing you some of the songs they have learned. *Hasta luego!*