

Grant School

Ridgefield Park, New Jersey 07660

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January 17, 2020

A cooperative school & home newsletter for the Grant School community

Bulldog News

G & T NEWS: Mrs. Morris

Enrichment and Gifted and Talented classes are off to a fresh start in the New Year! The Kindergarten and First Grades enjoyed reading the books; Snowy Day and The History of Snow. Students then used dice to identify and add numbers to complete snowflakes. The second grade has also begun a unit on snowflakes. We read, Snowflake Bentley, the true story of Wilson Bentley. He was the first person to photograph a snowflake. We will be studying the concept of symmetry through the natural beauty of snowflakes as well as creating our own beautiful snowflakes. Third grade students have been introduced to Morse Code. Students practiced decoding and creating messages. They will use their knowledge to create a new twist to the fairy tale, Little Red Riding Hood in order to help save Grandma. In collaboration with Ms. Collova (district art teacher), the fourth graders are studying Picasso's guitars. Students will study Picasso's creations and replicate their own guitars. Using 'Makey Makey' kits, copper tape, and computer coding, we will be able to play our creations! We are really excited about this lesson! The fifth grade has begun a new unit called Picture Books for all. In this unit, the students will study mature wordless books and create narratives to accompany them. Finally, in the sixth grade, students will use works of art to study the characteristics of a selected mythical creature. They will then design a trap that will capture the creature. They will create a Google Slideshow and present their traps to our class!

LIBRARY NEWS: Ms. Raimo

While the weather outside has not been frightful so far this winter, it's all about snow in Library classes. After learning about the antics of snowmen in the book Snowmen at Night, the kindergartners illustrated themselves as snow boys and girls. First graders sketched "How To's," which are illustrated instructions on how to build a snowman after reading The Biggest Snowman Ever. The second through fourth graders learned about what life is like living in a snow globe in the story The Snow Globe Family. They compared and contrasted the lives of the regular family vs. the family living in a snow globe, found evidence in the text that showed how small the Snow Globe Family was, and developed outlines of the type of snow globes they would like to live in. BrainPop Jr. gave the fifth grade an in-depth look into winter weather patterns, and the sixth grade were introduced to a photographer by the name of Snowflake Bentley, who took real pictures of snowflakes using microphotography. The students practiced their symmetry skills by sketching snowflake halves. Even though it was challenging to draw the mirror images, the students prevailed.

ART NEWS: Mrs. Murphy

The students have been working on multiple projects using lines and textures. Third grade is weaving using recycled materials with various textures. Fourth grade is drawing optical illusions with line movement. All the children enjoy using many colors during the dreary winter months.

WORLD LANGUAGES NEWS: Ms. Molina

Hola! Kindergarten students learned about farm animals as well as some zoo animals. We have also recently been learning to count up to 30. They had fun playing a Spanish number game where they switch seats when their number is called. We will soon be talking about the days of the week and the months of the year in Spanish. First graders reviewed numbers and colors in Spanish. They are now learning several body parts by playing "Simon Says," and singing about various body parts. Second grade students have learned the days, months, seasons, and weather. We touched upon the difference between Celsius and Fahrenheit and have learned how to give the date in Spanish and tell what the weather is like for the day. Third and fourth grades are learning the parts of the face and body and how to say something hurts. They will soon be learning various items of clothes. Fifth and sixth grade students studied an assortment of diverse careers and occupations. We also discussed what they do for our community. They are now studying numerous modes of transportation. We will be talking about traveling and the essential questions needed to ask when one is traveling to a Spanish-speaking country via train or bus.

RESOURCE ROOM NEWS: Dr. Steele

All of our reading classes have finished their first novels. Ask your child about what they are reading in class now! In language arts we finished a unit on hot chocolate before the break. Students created cookbooks and included their own recipes while enjoying homemade hot chocolate in class. Finally, a reminder to our fifth and sixth grade parents, please remember to check grades on Genesis weekly.

MUSIC NEWS: Ms. Mir

Students are busy learning new music in the New Year! Band members are continuing to develop new skills on their instruments as they work their way through their Band lesson books, and parents are reminded to encourage their musicians to practice at least four days each week at home. Third graders are also practicing at home, as the proud owners of their new recorders. Together we are learning on reading the notes B, A, and G and using those notes in simple songs. Upper and lower grades have been learning music from around the world and singing fun winter songs in class.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday-Tuesday

February 17-18

No School - President's Day

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Ridgefield Park Public Schools

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Angela Bender, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. James Tevis, Interim Business Administrator / Board Secretary