

Grant School

Ridgefield Park, New Jersey 07660

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A cooperative school & home newsletter for the Grant School community

Bulldog News

ART NEWS: Mrs. Conversano

Remote learning in art class means we have the opportunity for unlimited creativity. Every drawing begins with a pencil and a new sheet of white paper. Students are adding color to their drawings with their choice of crayons, markers, colored pencils, or watercolors. In kindergarten through second grade, students have been learning about elements of art: line, shape, and color. First, we explored different types of lines and how lines come together to make shapes. Then students completed their drawings by coloring or painting the shapes they drew. Our students have created autumn-themed drawings such as an autumn owl and a cute candy corn. Third through sixth grade students have begun the school year by creating their own personal message in Positive Graffiti Art. We began with a discussion of what constitutes art and how art can be used as a form of communication. Each student chose a positive word or phrase that has meaning to them. Students are using the elements of line, shape, and color to create their positive messages.

MUSIC NEWS: Ms. Mir

Music class, like so many things, is looking a bit different this year but Grant School students are rising to the challenge! Lower grades have been singing along with Melody the Elephant while reinforcing skills like keeping a steady beat, using their singing voice, and making notes high or low. Middle grades are learning new ways to count rhythms and remembering how to read pitches in preparation for playing instruments in the future. Upper grades have been doing some of the same, along with learning about "Space Age" music by composer Juan Esquivel, with some classes even getting the opportunity to create their own music using sites like Chrome Music Lab and Incredibox. Until we can make music in person together again, we are making the best of *virtually* everything in Music class!

ESL NEWS: Mrs. Smith

Welcome to a new and interesting year for ESL at Grant School! ESL classes concentrate on reading, writing, speaking and listening exercises to provide a variety of opportunities to learn English. In the Kindergarten class, we study a new letter every week. This includes singing a song for the letter, writing upper and lowercase letters, and drawing vocabulary words that begin with that letter. First grade works on five new sight words every week, and concentrates on learning short vowel sounds. Students read stories and sing songs that include short vowel words. Second grade is studying the thematic unit of planting seeds. The upper elementary grades are learning about animal skeletons. Both units of study include an opportunity to read a variety of materials, use technology, and incorporate subjects like math, science and social studies to learn more about a topic. Please support your child at home by visiting the Ridgefield Park Public Library as well as utilize the RAZ website to promote reading at home.

WORLD LANGUAGES NEWS: Ms. Molina

¡Hola! Bienvenidos de nuevo a la escuela de Grant. Hello and welcome back to a new school year at Grant School. Students have been doing wonderfully learning Spanish virtually using Google Meets. Many of the younger students brought their puppets, stuffed animals and/or dolls to our virtual Spanish classes to use when greeting one another and using simple conversational Spanish with one another. Kindergarten students, in particular, who are learning Spanish for the first time have been having fun learning how to say hello, good bye, and give a few simple answers for "How are you?" in Spanish. Students in first grade have begun the school year by reviewing some basic greetings as well as learning to answer some very simple questions in Spanish. Second grade students have been reviewing their salutations and are now beginning to learn a variety of Spanish commands. Third and fourth grade students have slowly started branching off from conversations and greetings to recognizing the names of various classroom objects. Lastly, the students in the older grades have also been doing a great job verbalizing their Spanish with some Mother Goose poems and songs that allows them to practice their pronunciation while also learning various descriptive adjectives. Thank you to all the Grant School parents for all of your assistance and I look forward to a wonderful year. ¡Hasta luego!

ENRICHMENT NEWS: Mrs. Morris

Enrichment and Gifted and Talented classes are off to a great start! Students in kindergarten through second grade began the year celebrating International Dot Day. This lesson is based off of the beautiful book, The Dot, by Peter Reynolds. In Peter's own words "The Dot tells the story of Vashti, a girl who begins a journey of self-discovery after she is challenged by her teacher to make her mark." Students have also learned about the changing leaves and the autumn season. The second grade worked on their Iggy Peck Architect unit, where they learned about various types of bridges and even built their own bridges using paper, books, and pennies to test! Grades three through six Gifted and Talented classes began the year with a fun challenge to refresh our memories of the Engineering Design Process: Ask, Imagine, Plan, Create, and Improve. Students were asked to plan and build forts with materials found around their homes. Included are some pictures of the student's work.

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