



Bulldog News

@ Grant Elementary School

December 11, 2020

A cooperative school & home newsletter for the Grant School community.

News from Dr. Steele's Class

The students are working hard and finishing up assignments before the end of our first trimester. I am really proud of the work they are doing! We all know that online learning has its drawbacks, but I am also finding some positives: 1. Students are given time to complete work at their own pace. If they are not finishing assignments during our live hours, they may work on it in the afternoon. 2. Students are becoming problem solvers. Most of the students know how to restart computers or join in Meets using different devices. They even helped me solve a problem last week when I could only hear half of the class! 3. Students have the opportunity for more one-on-one help. They may join an afternoon session with either Mrs. Eto or myself. Most of the time they will receive over an hour of individual help. 4. Students are learning how to hand in assignments using Google Docs. Many now know how to cut and paste assignments and use tools to check spelling and grammar. These are all tools that they will be able to use in the future.

ENRICHMENT NEWS: Mrs. Morris

December has been a busy month in Enrichment class. Students in K-1 are participating in different holiday STEM activities. We read, [A Wish To Be a Christmas Tree](#), then students created holiday colored paper chains or used white paper to see how long they could make their paper chains. Up next, we will read, [Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree](#), and we will use cups to see how high we can stack them to make our own "trees" in the tallest tree challenge. Second and third grade students read, [The Gingerbread Man is on the Loose](#), and are planning and building Gingerbread Man Traps. Fourth grade G & T students are planning and creating their own board games. The fifth graders are wrapping up their unit on creating "Real Life Hero" comics. The students used Flipgrid to share their comics and they did an awesome job! Finally, the sixth grade G & T students have created their own children's books that teach a moral that they think is valuable and will be presenting them to our class.



Ms. Natasha Hernandez, Principal
Email: nhernandez@rpschools.net
104 Henry Street
Ridgefield Park, NJ 07660
201-641-0441
fax (201) 440-9579

Visit our website at:

https://www.rpps.net/our_schools/grant_elementary_school

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TECHNOLOGY NEWS: Mr. Lenart

Students in Mr. Lenart's Technology class have been working very hard this year thus far. Kindergarteners are working on learning how to use computers and the various parts through game play. First graders are learning how to type on the computer by playing Dance Mat Typing. Second through fifth graders began the year by working on their word processing and have now moved onto coding. Over the upcoming weeks, they will take part in activities designed to introduce them to the principles of programming computers. Our sixth grade students have been learning how to be safe and make good decisions in a virtual world and have now moved onto a big research project. Have a wonderful holiday.

WORLD LANGUAGES NEWS: Prof. Molina

¡Hola! Gracias to all of the parents who help your children to sign on to our Spanish class and participate in helping them learn Spanish. Students in kindergarten and first grade have been learning the days of the week and the months of the year in Spanish. We will begin learning to count as well as the colors in Spanish. Second grade students had fun practicing "los mandatos" - the commands - playing "Simón dice..." and are presently learning about "la familia." Third and fourth grade students are getting to learn the names of several classroom objects and will also be learning about the different school subjects as well. Fifth and sixth grade students have done great practicing "los adjetivos" and are learning some culture and geography about the many Spanish-speaking countries beginning with Mexico. I'd like to wish all of my students and their families a wonderful holiday and a very Happy New Year. ¡Hasta pronto!

MUSIC NEWS: Ms. Mir

Grant School students are continuing to rise to the challenge of learning music in a virtual classroom. Along with developing skills like keeping a steady beat and using their singing voices, our youngest students have recently begun to recognize and read simple rhythms. Second and third graders have been learning to read more complicated melodies, and have also been singing some of our "greatest hits" from previous concerts. Along with reviewing their music reading skills, the upper grades have been learning about musicians Bobby McFerrin and the acapella singing group Pentatonix. The group's version of "Winter Wonderland/Don't Worry Be Happy" has been a favorite of many students and has brought a happy holiday spirit to our online classroom!



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DANCE NEWS: Miss Butler

Dance with the little ones is off to a great start! Kindergarten is slowly going through the elements of dance to expand their creativity in movement. So far we have covered the three different levels and space, i.e. big and small movements. We are working on timing now, also known as speed. Students have been memorizing the elements and practicing them individually and in different combinations. Soon they will be able to make creative choices based on music and the environment they are in! First grade dancers have been getting their groove on with old school hip hop! Not only are they learning party dances from back in the day, but they are learning to execute them with more precision and to be able to recognize them when they see performed by others. They are also in the process of learning about important individuals who are considered the originators of the hip hop culture. Second grade is focusing on jazz this year and they are starting with the rich history and culture of the Harlem Renaissance. We have begun learning the Lindy Hop, a style of jazz that was made popular in Harlem in the 1940's. Students are learning the power of dance. The Lindy Hop was danced and perfected by Frankie Manning and many others at the Savoy Ballroom in New York City. Ask your kids what they know about this marvelous, historic place! Here is a quick look at this dance that requires a lot of energy and stamina.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aholReiCaPk>. Third grade dancers are learning about traditional Ugandan dances, starting with the Kizino (ask your third-grader how to say the name of this dance). We have been talking about the culture in the country of Uganda, and how all the traditional dances have meaning and purpose. The Kizino dance is one of many traditional dances and requires lots of energy! The fourth graders are taking a look at hip hop as a dance style, starting with the old school and working their way to new school dance moves. They will be looking at how to execute movements with accuracy, and will work their way up to freestyling! They will also soon be taking a look at the rich and intense history of hip hop as a culture and how it has influenced American culture. Fifth grade classes are working on Latin dance, specifically salsa, merengue and bachata. Latin dances all have amazing histories and prominent figures who made the styles into what they are today. We are now in the process of working on choreography to "Corazon," a song by Maluma, which blends the dance styles together. Many students recognize some of the classics played in class, and for everyone else, an appreciation of Latin culture is something that helps them to understand American culture from a different perspective. Sixth grade is learning a style that gave way to the EDM music that is now popular worldwide-- house! This style of music and dance is just one example of what can happen when people borrow, share, and steal what others have created. As they learn about the style of house as a technique, they are also learning and discussing the fascinating history of deejaying and how the dances that were created in parties have become the fundamentals of the style all over the world.

ESL NEWS: Mrs. Smith

Our ESL classes have been working steadily this year so far. All of the ESL classes concentrate on reading, writing, speaking and listening while incorporating vocabulary to provide a variety of opportunities to learn English. In ESL 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. In the first grade, we work on 5 new sight words and we learn about short vowels. Students read stories and sing songs that include short vowel words that we are learning about. Grade two is working on the unit Plants We Eat, which involves learning about fruits and vegetables. Our third and fourth graders are learning about human body systems. Both units of study include an opportunity to read a variety of materials, use technology, and other subjects like math, science and social studies to learn more about a topic. In grades five and six, we are starting to learn to read and write in English. We use a phonics book to help sound out words and a picture dictionary so that students can learn using pictures. Please support your child at home by giving them a quiet space to work in during virtual school.

ART NEWS: Mrs. Conversano

I would like to commend the art students for a successful first marking period during remote learning. We have been learning about the elements of art. Student artists have been working hard at improving their drawing skills. Fifth and sixth graders have begun a unit on Value. Third and fourth grade students completed a poinsettia drawing that featured symmetry/asymmetry. Kindergarten, first, and second grade students are learning about cultural celebrations. K-2 read, The Gingerbread Man, and drew their own gingerbread man. The little ones also learned about Hanukkah and drew a menorah. Season's Greetings to all. I wish you and your families a healthy and happy holiday season.

Dates to Remember

Wednesday	December 23	12:30 Dismissal for Students and Faculty
Thursday	December 24	Winter Recess Begins – School Closed
Thursday – Monday	December 24- January 4	Winter Recess – School Closed
Monday	January 4	Virtual school is Back in Session