



# Bulldog News

@ Grant Elementary School

January 22, 2021

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



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## ART NEWS: Ms. Conversano

Grant school artists have been busy as we begin 2021! Art students have been learning new skills using Sketchpad, a digital drawing app. They have been choosing the subjects they want to draw in class this month. Here are some highlights: At Luis' request, students in 6-G created thank-you cards to surprise Mrs. Gerard! At Elyanie's request, students in 3-Y drew galaxies. At the request of nearly every student in the class, students in 3-Y have been drawing a series of logos and characters from their favorite apps and computer games, including Among Us, TikTok, Roblox, and Fortnite. Thanks to the suggestion of a kindergarten student, students in K-2 and in Ms. Marin's class drew a house and landscape. To celebrate the birthday of the great civil rights activist Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., students watched a short video about Dr. King's legacy. Younger students drew a picture of two clasped hands surrounded by a heart with the caption "I Have a Dream." Older students drew a portrait of Dr. King. The children have been excited to show their artwork during class and to see the artwork of their classmates. Even though we are learning remotely, art class is a place where students socialize and express their creativity.



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**DANCE NEWS: Miss Butler**

All students are slowly getting into their choreography that they will be focusing on for the rest of the year. New choreography that is covered in class will start to appear on Google Classroom in the classwork section. If students so desire, they may be able to use the videos for support as they rehearse outside of dance class. Aside from this, I will be discussing how Martin Luther King Jr is connected to the dance styles students are learning. Since we are learning social dances, "dances of the people," started by people of color (mostly) in the United States, the groundwork that was laid by MLK Jr. helped to make a way for voices of people of color to be heard and valued.

**MUSIC NEWS: Ms. Mir**

Happy New Year to all of our Grant families! Our music classes have been busy learning about and making music. Lower grades have been using snowman songs to learn all about making melodies. Melody is not only the name of the elephant who helps us start every class, but is also what we can create when we combine rhythms and pitches. We continue to sing favorite winter songs like, "Hot Chocolate," and, "The Snowman on the Lawn," and soon it will be time for us to sing our special song for, "100 Days of School!" The middle and upper grades have been practicing reading notes on the staff, using songs like, "Ode to the Treble Clef." Additionally, third graders will be getting their recorders very soon and are very excited! (Parents can expect to hear about a materials pick-up to get their child's instrument and music shortly.) In addition to practicing note-reading, upper grades have been learning about Broadway and musical theater. So far, we have briefly covered different types of musicals and the many different types of jobs in musical theater. Some students have seen a Broadway show already, and many hope that they will be able to see one someday in the future!



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**SMALL GROUP NEWS: Dr. Steele**

Our small group instruction students are becoming amazing writers! We have seen some interesting personal narratives, biography reports, and descriptive writing stories. This week students will wrap up a unit on fairy tales. Please ask your child to share their creative stories with you. We are also wrapping up our unit on verbs. Students should review their past assignments in preparation for our upcoming tests. Students are also working daily on IXL assignments. Remember that for those assignments, students are graded on the time spent working each day. Parents, you can always check your child's Google Classroom to see which assignments are due, which are missing and which assignments have been handed in and graded. Our fifth and sixth grade parents should check Genesis regularly for current assignments and averages. Our parent conferences were held last week and I had the chance to meet with some of you. If anyone did not have a chance to sign up and would like to meet with me, please contact reach out and we can set up a conference.

**ESL NEWS: Mrs. Smith**

Happy New Year! We are in a great routine with ESL classes this year. The Kindergarten continues to work on letter identification. We're halfway through the alphabet already. First grade is working on five sight words a week and working on short vowel sound /e/. Second graders are finishing up A Rainbow of Food unit. Grades three and four are also finishing Inside Your Body unit. The Newcomers group is halfway through our workbook. All of the students are following their schedule perfectly. Please continue to support your child at home by providing them with a quiet place to work. Please use headphones and try to keep your children separate if they have class at the same time. Most importantly, keep working hard to improve your English language skills. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

## ENRICHMENT NEWS: Mrs. Morris

January is off to an awesome start in Enrichment class. Students in Kindergarten through second grade listened to and enjoyed, The Mitten, by Jan Brett and learned about hibernation. They are now moving on to a Snowflake Unit. During this unit students are studying the phenomenon and natural beauty of snowflakes. Students will hear the story, Snowflake Bentley, by Jacqueline Briggs Martin. Younger students will be introduced to symmetry. The second graders will also learn about why snow looks white and create their own symmetrical snowflakes. The third grade Enrichment Class has started “Grandma’s Secret Code.” During this unit, students will study Morse Code and create two musical instruments to help Little Red Riding Hood communicate with her Grandmother in a twist on the classic fairytale. Fourth grade students have completed their original board games and are playing with their families and presenting to our class. I am so impressed by the effort put forth on these games! The fifth and sixth grades have begun units on Rube Goldberg Machines. A Rube Goldberg Machine solves a simple task in the most overcomplicated, inefficient, and hilarious way possible. The students’ “machines” will incorporate a minimum of ten steps and be made out of regular household items. The trick is to make it as fun and absurd as possible while still being functional! Wish us luck!

## SPANISH NEWS: Ms. Molina

Hello and Happy New Year to all! Kindergarten students have been learning the numbers from 1 to 20 in Spanish with stories and songs. They have even done some basic stretching and exercising all while counting in Spanish and are now beginning to learn the colors. We will soon begin to learn the names of different animals as well. First grade students had fun learning the primary and secondary colors and will be reviewing the Spanish numbers up to 30. Second grade students have been learning about the different members of, "la familia," and saying who and how many people are in their families. They will be reviewing the days, months, and seasons next. Third and fourth grade students have been learning the names of the different school subjects and talking about their backpacks, where they are and what school supplies they have in them. Our fifth and sixth graders have been learning some culture and geography. We learned how many states there are in Mexico and Guatemala as well as their names. We also talked about some of the more famous people who come from there. ¡Hasta pronto!

### Dates to Remember

Tuesday	January 26	PTA Meeting 7pm Zoom link will be sent on Monday
Thursday	January 28	Family Literacy Night 6-7pm