



# Bulldog News

@ Grant Elementary School

**April 1, 2021**

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

## SMALL GROUP INSTRUCTION NEWS: Dr. Steele

Our third trimester has started and students are working hard in the resource room! Our writing students just finished writing Compare/Contrast Essays. It was one of our longer essays and we had some outstanding work! Parents, please ask your child to share their essay with you. We are also starting a new program called eSpark. Students will be able to work at their individual levels and complete "Quests" at their own pace. The link and class code can be found under Helpful Resources on our Google Classroom page. In math, we are working on fractions in each grade. Our fourth graders are learning about equivalent fractions using fraction strips. Fifth graders are multiplying fractions by whole numbers and our sixth graders are using them in problems involving ratios. Keep practicing math facts and reading at home each night!

## ART NEWS: Mrs. Conversano

Our focus unit in art this month is folk art. Similar to folk stories, folk art is art that is passed down from generation to generation. Folk art is the artistic expression of a culture's traditions and values. Almost every culture around the world has their own version of folk art. Most folk artists do not have formal art training, but might have trained as an apprentice. Students in grades K through two are drawing Folk Art Dinosaurs. Students in grades three through six are drawing Scandinavian Folk Art Foxes.



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[https://www.rpps.net/our\\_schools/grant\\_elementary\\_school](https://www.rpps.net/our_schools/grant_elementary_school)

Visit Dr. Bender's Website  
[www.rpsuperintendent.net](http://www.rpsuperintendent.net)



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**ESL GRADE NEWS: Mrs. Smith**

All students enrolled in ESL are currently taking the ACCESS for ELL 2.0 test as mandated by the state of New Jersey. The ACCESS for ELL 2.0 test is administered every spring to determine the English language proficiency levels and progress of English language learners. The test assesses social and academic proficiency in English as well as language associated with language arts, math, social studies and science. The students are tested in speaking, listening, reading and writing. Test results will be mailed home to parents during the summer months or early September. These results help determine the student's level of proficiency and placement in ESL the following school year. As always, your support is a necessary factor in your child's success at school.

**ENRICHMENT NEWS: Mrs. Morris**

Kindergarten through second grade classes enjoyed hearing, How to Catch a Leprechaun by Adam Wallace. The students then designed plans for traps to build. Second graders extended this lesson by building their traps! Third grade G & T students designed 3 "tiny homes" to keep them warm in a winter climate. They selected their favorite design and will be creating a model of it. We will test our designs in the freezer to see if they would keep someone warm! The fourth grade G & T students completed their Theme Park STEM projects and did an amazing job. They created a map and a ride with moving parts. The fifth and sixth grade students have completed their Rube Goldberg machines, they are sharing their creations and reflecting on the process. I am so proud of all of their hard work and creativity!

**MUSIC NEWS: Ms. Mir**

Grant School students have been doing a variety of Spring songs and activities in music class. In grades K through two, we sang all about how March comes in like a lion, and out like a lamb. We also learned a little Irish jig and sang Hip Hop Shamrock for St. Patrick's Day. Additionally, the lower grade students continue to learn how to read simple melodies, using a handful of notes and rhythms appropriate for their grade levels. Third graders are getting the hang of playing their recorders and learning the importance of both practice and perseverance. As for the upper grades, after spending the month of March learning about traditional Irish instruments and songs, we will be spending the month of April learning about Salsa music. We are looking forward to learning more about the many different places and people that contribute to the world of Salsa!



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**DANCE NEWS: Ms. Butler**

All the dancers in kindergarten through sixth grade are down to their last six dance classes! We start wrapping up the dance we made together with Kindergarteners from all over the district. First grade is finishing up their dance with learning about freestyling in hip hop dance. Second grade Lindy Hoppers are learning how to clean the dance, also known as fine tuning and working out the details of the dance. They also heard an interview from the radio with Norma Miller, a well-known Lindy Hop dancer. Third grade has moved from traditional Ugandan dance to Afrobeats, the style that has taken the dance world by storm. Afrobeats blends the traditional rhythms of music and dance from different African countries with sounds and movement of pop culture. Fourth grade is moving into hip hop choreography based on the drills and isolations we have been practicing. Fifth grade is finalizing their Latin dance and can use the demonstration video on the dance Google Classroom as an example. Sixth grade is learning a bit about the influences of house, currently tap and jazz dance. As they finish learning they can also use the demonstration video and choose the simple version or the more complex version of their dance. Any student who wants to send me a video of them dancing for feedback can send it to [dbutler@rpschools.net](mailto:dbutler@rpschools.net).

*Highlights and Shout Outs*

**Dates to Remember**

Friday	April 2	Good Friday – School Closed
Monday-Friday	April 19-23	Spring Break – School Closed You MUST quarantine if traveling outside of the Tri-State area per CDC guidelines.