



# Bulldog News

@ Grant Elementary School

February 3, 2023

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

## G & T NEWS: Mrs. Morris

Kindergarten and first grade classes have been learning about Chinese New Year. They heard the story, Lion Dancer, by Kate Waters and Madeline Slovenz-Low. Students then created lion masks and learned how to be lion dancers themselves! Second grade students read, Grandfather Tang's Story, by Ann Tompert. This is a folktale told using ancient Chinese puzzles called Tangrams to represent the characters from the story. Grade three G & T students are designing and building Marble mazes. The students were given specific building constraints and materials to complete their projects. The fourth grade G&T students are creating their own original comic strips. These comics depict the short story of a real life hero. In this unit, students discuss and focus on what makes a person heroic. Students in fifth grade G & T have started on a "Picture Books for All" unit. Students will create written narratives to accompany wordless books. This writing challenge will encourage and allow for freedom of expression and a wide range of interpretation. Finally, the sixth grade G & T students continue studying mythical creatures. They are creating Google Slide presentations to teach about their chosen creatures. Students will then design and build a model of a trap that will contain their creature without causing them any harm.

## MUSIC NEWS: Ms. Mir

Many exciting things are happening in music class at Grant School! Our third graders started learning how to play the recorder, and they can play simple melodies using the notes B, A, and G. Students should be certain to practice their instruments at home at least 4 or more days each week and can check Google Classroom to remind them of their assignments and find some fun activities and videos to help them learn the recorder. Students in the younger grades have been practicing keeping a steady beat and playing rhythms with notes and rests. First and Second graders really love when we sing and clap to a song called "Clocks!" to review rhythm names. Students in the upper grader are also doing rhythm activities, making connections between music and math while learning about time signatures. Students really enjoyed using tennis balls to demonstrate strong and weak beats in music.



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

Visit our website at:  
<https://grant.rpps.net/>

Follow us on Instagram:  
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February's Theme:

# HONESTY

Living truthfully in your words,  
actions, and thoughts.

Edited by Steve Lenart



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**PHYS ED NEWS: Mr. Garcia**

Students are working hard in both health and physical education classes. Students in health class are beginning to grasp a good understanding of how a community comes together to work into creating safe environments. The upper grades are developing their knowledge in understanding how our organs work together so that our body can stay healthy. This month, students have been learning about the lungs and the respiratory system as well as how to keep it healthy. In Physical Education, students have been dedicated and working hard in developing new basketball skills. Dribbling, passing, defensive and shooting techniques are all very important key skills needed in order to play a complete game of basketball and students are beginning to hone their abilities in each category. Learning a sport from the ground up can be challenging but definitely rewarding as well as fun!

**RESOURCE ROOM NEWS: Dr. Steele, Ms. Raimo, & Ms. Conversano**

Mrs. Conversano's third graders are learning division facts, fourth graders are reviewing place value, and fifth graders are interpreting data using data sets and line plots. The students are completing independent math skills using IXL Real-Time Diagnostic to achieve individualized objectives. Remind them to complete daily homework to reinforce classroom learning. Dr. Steele's students are working on a book challenge! Students have a checklist that covers different genres (graphic novels, historical fiction, informational books, etc.). As they complete books, they add a piece to their classroom chart. Once they complete the challenge, they will receive a prize. Books can be from our classroom, the library, Raz Kids, etc. Please encourage your child to read every day, and ask how they are doing with their 28-Book Challenge! Ms. Raimo's students are focusing on their writing skills. Journal writing is a powerful strategy in building vocabulary and stamina. The students freely generate ideas from prompts given based on the independent read alouds and other subject content. They learn to brainstorm and organize their ideas while expressing themselves in writing.

**DANCE NEWS: Miss Butler**

All students have begun working on new choreography for the performance coming up in the spring. Each grade has started using the Positive Affirmations poster to stay encouraged when learning new choreography. Because most of the older students have been participating in the dance program for a few years, the older grades are responsible for helping to create the choreography. This way, students have more ownership of the dance they create and have been more willing to practice and participate. Each class' dance is being added to their Google Classroom and I encourage them to use the videos to refresh their memory so that when we come back together, we can add new parts. A practical note, students are reminded to wear sneakers on dance weeks, otherwise they will be unable to participate. We want students to get as much practice as possible to be ready for the upcoming performance in the spring! Finally, the Dance Club after school program has returned! There is a cap so your child may be on the waitlist to join. If that is the case, as soon as openings come up you will be notified if your child gets the chance to attend.



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**ART NEWS: Mrs. Conversano**

Art students in grades K-6 have been building their drawing skills, painting with watercolors, and creating 3D sculptures using modeling clay. Student artists are making choices in the art classroom about how they want to express their individual creativity. We have an amazing group of talented artists!

**WORLD LANGUAGES NEWS: Ms. Molina**

¡Hola y Feliz Año Nuevo a todos! - Hello and Happy New Year to all! I hope everyone had a relaxing winter break. Kindergarten students enjoyed reading the book, La Tortilla Corredora - The Runaway Tortilla, by Laura Herrera which is similar to the story of the gingerbread boy but with a Spanish twist to it. Before that, they were studying the days, months and major holidays that take place during the year. They recently started learning the colors in Spanish. First grade students had fun learning to count up to 40. They are now learning the seasons and the weather as well as how to answer the question: "¿Qué tiempo hace hoy?" - What's the weather like today? Second grade students reviewed the Spanish alphabet after learning about the family. They are now being introduced to the names of various fruits and vegetables. Third grade students are continuing to learn about Spain. They colored pictures on Madrid's most famous landmark: "El Oso Y El Madroño" - "The Bear And The Strawberry Tree" and were introduced to Andalucía's national dance, "el Flamenco." They enjoyed watching the dancing and performing that goes with Flamenco especially when we watched a video on a master of Flamenco dancing, American-born José Greco also known as "El Greco." All grades worked on a Christmas project. Their projects looked fabulous! ¡Hasta pronto!

*January Student of the Month*

*Congratulations to Isabella (K-RM), Angel (Ms. Marin), Joaquin (1K), Maddox (1W), Nicholas C. (2D), Liam (2S), Devyn (3L), Cinar (3Y), Ethan (Mr. Espinal), Zavior (4th Grade), Erin (5th Grade), Manuela (6th Grade).*

**Date to Remember**

**2/20 & 2/21**

**Monday & Tuesday**

**School Closed- Presidents Day**