



Bulldog News

@ Grant Elementary School

October 20, 2023



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<https://grant.rpps.net/>

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Character Theme:

RESPECT

is seeing value
in all people and things
& treating them with care

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

Art: Mrs. Conversano

Mrs. Conversano's Art students are off to a great start. Kindergarten students have been practicing skills in coloring, cutting and gluing, and drawing. 1st and 2nd grade artists have been working on a Name Grid by folding paper to create a 4x4 grid and writing one letter of their name in each section of the grid to create a pattern. 3rd and 4th grade students created Name Doodles using block letters, line, and pattern. 5th and 6th grade artists have been working on Radial Pattern designs using Sharpie markers.

Spanish: Ms. Molina

¡Hola a todos y bienvenidos a un nuevo año escolar! Hello everyone and welcome back to a new school year! Thus far, Kindergarten and first grade students have begun by learning a few basic greetings and to answer a few simple questions in Spanish using flashcards and puppets. Second and third grade students have also been reviewing greetings and salutations but have also begun to expand their knowledge with a more extensive list of vocabulary to answer the question "Como estas?" All students had a chance to talk and learn about Celia Cruz, a legendary singer and entertainer originally from Cuba for Hispanic Heritage Month. They really seem to have enjoyed learning about her many professional accomplishments such as winning several Grammy awards, a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame, a newly released Barbie doll in her likeness, a stamp and U.S. quarter all designed as a tribute to her.

¡Gracias y hasta pronto! -





**We now have a website!
Visit it today for all PTA
activities, events, and more!**

<https://linktr.ee/rpgrantpta>

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G&T: Ms Morris

Kindergarten and first grade students listened to the story *Five Little Pumpkins* by Megan Liljenquist. Kindergarten students built gates using Keva blocks and drew pictures of their gates! First graders designed and built pumpkin gates using craft sticks and tape for 5 little pumpkins to sit on. We also had a blast singing along with the story at the end of class! The Second grade is working on a unit on architecture. We read *Iggy Peck, Architect* by Andrea Beatty and learned about strong shapes. Students enjoyed building paper bridges and figuring out how to make their structures stronger. Next, we are building “sticky structures” consisting 2 and 3 dimensional shapes using toothpicks and modeling clay. G&T fourth graders have been studying simple machines. They are currently designing and building Pumpkin Pulley systems. In grade 5, G&T students began a CSI unit called *Who Stole the Chocolate!* During our first session, students encountered a crime scene. They sketched the scene and bagged and tagged the evidence. Each upcoming week will consist of a forensics lab to test a piece of evidence gathered from the crime scene. Finally, the sixth grade G&T students are researching and learning about various forms of renewable energy. As a culminating activity, students will use K”NEX to build and test a solar powered car.



Physical Education & Health: Mr. Garcia

Students are off to a great start! In P.E. students are introduced to basic level manipulative sports such as speed ball and frisbee. They are using these skills in small games so that they can successfully score points and gain confidence in the skill learned. This will build into new sports which may be more challenging but fun for the students.

In health, students are engaging in learning about safety and community health. Students learned how to deal with conflict within a community and why it may be normal as well as how to improve it. Let's continue having a great week learning!

Welcome to a new and exciting 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 5 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 (3-6) are going to study the rainforest. 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 to get them a library card and to see the new ESL kits that were purchased. Use this link to create a digital library e-card.

<https://catalog.bccls.org/polaris/patronaccount/selfregister.aspx?ctx=117>

After creating a digital card, please can visit the library, provide proof of address, and receive the physical card.



Counselor's Corner: Mrs. Mastroianni

Hello! For those of you who don't know me, my name is Julianne Mastroianni and I am the Grant School Counselor. My goal is to ensure every student feels safe and welcome at our school so that they can do their very best learning! I visit every homeroom class biweekly to conduct social emotional learning (SEL) lessons with the students, and I also see all of the students during morning line-up and outside at recess. During SEL we practice important social skills, including conflict resolution and how to be a good friend. Students have the opportunity to earn Character Card shout outs each month based on the theme of the month. Our Character Theme of October is Respect! Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns throughout the year. I am here to help :)



Music at Grant School is off to a great start! Students in the lower grades have been learning about the difference between steady beat and rhythm. Not only have students been singing and playing rhythm instruments during music class, but they also spent time creating and performing their own “ostinato” (a short, repeated rhythm pattern) to accompany some of our songs. Third graders have been learning all about different families of instruments with a little help from Luigi’s Baton, whose stories have been entertaining and informing us about the instruments in an orchestra. Upper grades have been learning about dynamics (the variations in loud and soft sounds in music) by learning to recognize and respond to different dynamic markings as they sing or play rhythm instruments.

Many of our 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students are excited that Band lessons have begun! Parents of Band students are encouraged to help their child remember to practice four or more days at home each week, as well as remember to bring their instruments and music on lesson days.

Finally, all of our students have begun preparing for our Holiday Concerts. Both of our Holiday Concerts will be held on Tuesday, December 19th. Grades K-3 will be performing in the afternoon during school time, and grades 4-6 will be performing in the evening. Mark your calendars and be on the lookout for more information which will be sent home in November!



Dates to Remember

**10/26
Thursday**

**Grant Glow Party for Pre-K to 3rd grade
(4th-6th stay tuned for your Grant glow event this winter)**