

Cougar Specials Newsletter

Quarter 1 (2024-2025)

Monthly highlights for Art, Music, Spanish, P.E. and Computer/R.E.A.L.

Music

In music, we have had an exciting and busy start to the school year!

Kindergarten, first and second grade have been practicing moving their bodies to music, singing and playing instruments. We are learning to keep a steady beat in a variety of ways including body percussion, egg shakers and rhythm sticks. We are also practicing how to maintain personal space, move safely through space to the steady beat, and stop and start on cue. Students have learned the difference between the steady beat and the rhythm and have worked hard at counting and creating rhythms using iconic notation. We have learned many new songs already this year and are working on matching high and low sounds with our voice, as well as representing high and low sounds through creative movement games. Second graders are even learning to sing the Solfege syllables sol and mi!

Third graders have been working on an arts-integrated lesson connecting music and math. They are learning to recognize and create musical patterns, and represent those patterns using addition and multiplication number sentences. Fourth and fifth graders have been working hard at aural skills and sight signing using solfege syllables sol, la, mi, re and do. We have learned to echo, improvise, and read melodies in standard notation on Orff instruments, as well as play simple ostinato and bordun accompaniments. Fifth grade is also learning to count rhythms using the Eastman counting system!

-Mrs. Baumgarner





3rd Grade Connecting Music And Math



5th Grade Playing Orff Instruments

Art

OTE Artists have been learning all about POP Art, and color theory. K-2 welcomed parent volunteers to make our Pop Art Squishees. We will continue to focus on POP Art throughout the second quarter as well. Look in teacher newsletters for future opportunities to volunteer in the art studio!

Feel free to browse Mr. Van Leeuwen's Art Studio Wishlist!
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/30MEKGIT90BCJ?ref_=wl_share

-Mr. Van Leeuwen





Hispanic Heritage Month

Spanish

Kindergarten

The Kindergarteners have started the year off with great enthusiasm! We have been learning what to say if we meet a friend who speaks Spanish. Ask your kindergartener how to greet you depending on the time of day and how to introduce themselves!

Some words we have practiced include:

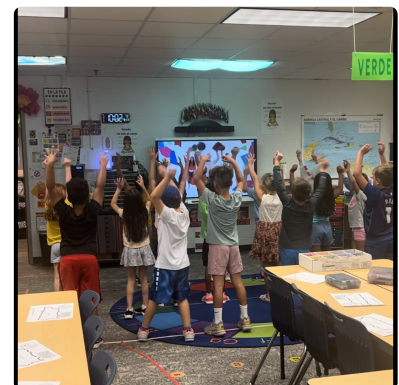
- Buenos días - Good Morning
- Buenas tardes - Good Afternoon
- Buenas noches - Goodnight
- ¿Cómo te llamas? - What is your name?
- Me llamo ____ - My name is _____

1st Grade

First graders are learning all about how to say different titles of the adults in our building. Using the question, "¿Quién es?" (Who is...?) they can tell you the difference between "Señor, Señora, and Señorita." We have also reviewed our colors and gone outside to play Red Light, Green Light.

2nd Grade

Our first semester in 2nd grade started out in an exciting way: a flight to Puerto Rico! Complete with in-flight snacks, entertainment, and boarding passes, they had a great time. We will be spending the entire semester in Puerto Rico exploring vocabulary and famous landmarks of the island. Ask your 2nd grader, "¿Adónde vas?" and see if they can answer you in both Spanish *and* sign language!



3rd Grade

We have had a wonderful start to the year in 3rd grade Spanish! The Spanish students have started their "Animales en el Zoológico" unit with a vengeance! Ask your third grader if they can tell you three animals you would find at the zoo!

4th Grade

"Home Sweet Home" is the name of our fourth grade unit. These students have been learning about different types of homes as well as the different rooms in a house.

5th Grade

The 5th graders have started learning how to name and describe different interests they might have outside of school. Our goal is to be able to express opinions about different extra-curricular activities to our peers in Spanish. Our primary question is, "¿Qué te interesa?" (What interests you?)

Codi Lawrence

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or just to say "Hola"

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P.E.

K- 2nd Grade

K-2 students have been actively developing their motor skills and teamwork abilities. We've focused on hula hoop skills, emphasizing coordination and balance, while also learning how to move safely around the gym. Through engaging teamwork games, the children have practiced collaboration and communication. Additionally, they've been refining their striking, throwing, and catching skills using their hands. Throughout these activities, we've highlighted the importance of good sportsmanship, encouraging them to support each other and enjoy the experience together. Thank you for your continued support!

3rd Grade - 5th Grade

3rd to 5th graders have been having a blast while learning essential skills through fun games! We've been focusing on cooperation and teamwork, helping our students learn how to work together and support one another. They've also been mastering the art of striking a ball with their hands, which has led to exciting games that showcase their newfound skills. Additionally, we've been practicing throwing and catching, making for some great moments of teamwork and friendly competition. It's been a joy to see their enthusiasm and growth, and we can't wait for more adventures in movement!

Cougars in Action!

I am excited to announce the launch of our "Cougars in Action" bulletin board in the gym. This initiative aims to celebrate our students' participation in sports/activities outside of school hours. We encourage your child to bring in a photo of themselves engaging in their favorite sport or activity to be proudly displayed on the board. It is a great way to showcase their enthusiasm and achievements while fostering a sense of school spirit. Thank you for supporting this exciting new project!

★I do ask that the photos submitted are either 4x6 inches or smaller.



Kids Heart Challenge

October 31st - November 15th

★Click here to sign up and learn more!

<http://www2.heart.org/goto/overlandtrail>



Erica McDonald

Erica is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters