



Stafford Elementary School

The Specials Scoop September/October 2023

ART Mrs. Veilleux

Grades 1-5 started the year reading the book *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds. The book follows an apprehensive girl named Vashti. Vashti overcomes her challenge of thinking she can not draw. She starts with a mark and her dot artwork really takes off. Every student created their own dot in styles of different artists such as Kusama, Seurat, and Kandinsky. Now, 1st grade is exploring Mondrian and lines, 2nd grade is exploring line and shape and making spiders, 3rd grade is exploring negative and positive space, 4th grade is creating portraits in the style of Tim Burton, and 5th grade is exploring graphic design.

BAND Ms. Sayles

Beginning band students are learning their first songs: "Hot Cross Buns" and "Au Claire de La Lune." Advanced band students are learning "Let it Snow" and "Sleigh Ride" by Leroy Anderson. Both beginning and advanced bands will be performing during grades 1, 2, and 3 lunches as a part of the Stafford Elementary Serenade starting in December! Students are encouraged to practice 15 minutes daily!

HEALTH Mr. Schadt & Mr. Terry

In Mr. Terry's classes, lessons are focusing on the unit of Disease Prevention in grades 1, 3, and 5. They start by reviewing proper handwashing in 1st grade and progress up to learning about the workings of the immune system in 5th grade. In grades 2 and 4, lessons have been focused on our emotions and how to manage these emotions, especially when trying to problem solve. In Mr. Schadt's classes, lessons are currently focused on the unit of Alcohol and Other Drugs. In the younger grades, the emphasis is on what medicine is, its safe use, proper supervision, and storage, and identifying trusted adults in their lives. In the upper grades, lessons continue to include discussions about medicine, but also expand to analyzing influences in students' lives, the benefits of not using alcohol and other drugs, their effects, and committing to not using. Moving forward into the month of November, we will be touching upon the importance of being thankful.

LIBRARY Mrs. Funk

In honor of September 11th, students listened to a read-aloud of [30,000 Stitches: The Inspiring Story of the National 9/11 Flag](#) by Amanda Davis. Then, younger students learned facts about the American flag, 4th graders created "helping hands" by writing about a time they were helpful, and 5th graders wrote their responses to the prompt "America is special because..." Now, 1st and 2nd graders are making comparisons between fiction and nonfiction, 3rd graders are engaged in read-alouds of the [Nutmeg books](#) and sampling our one-month free access to the [PebbleGo](#) database, and 4th and 5th graders are contemplating and discussing "media balance" as part of Digital Citizenship week. Please check out this helpful parent resource from Common Sense Media: [How Much Is Too Much?](#)

MUSIC Mrs. Bienvenu

Students in 1st and 2nd grades have been working on quarter note, eighth note, and quarter rest rhythms. We have been composing songs using pictures of things that have one or two sounds like the notes, and then playing the songs on instruments. Students in 3rd and 4th grades have started to play recorders. They should come prepared for music with their papers and recorders every week. Students in 5th grade have been playing layered rhythms on instruments where four groups of students each play a different rhythm pattern but all at the same time. We are about to begin playing the ukulele. Chorus has also begun for grades 3, 4, and 5.

P. E. Mr. Schadt & Mr. Terry

Our P.E. classes have been having fun and learning a lot of skills! Mr. Terry's 1st and 2nd grade classes have been working on their teamwork and cooperation skills as they use the parachute and his 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade classes have been practicing their hand-eye coordination as they speed stack cups. Mr. Schadt started the year teaching soccer skills (dribbling, trapping, passing, and shooting) and playing related games with grades 1-5. In recent weeks, classes have been playing a variety of games requiring cooperation and teamwork. We are including aspects of the four components of fitness inside every lesson, as we want the students to be physically fit and have fun moving!