



# Stafford Elementary School

## The Specials Scoop

November/December 2023

### **ART** Mrs. Veilleux

Winter months are great times to visit art museums or any kind of museum. When you have a Stafford Public Library card, you are eligible to request museum passes for free or at a reduced price. You can visit the library's website for more information: [Museum Passes](#). As a Stafford Library card holder, you can also access passes from surrounding towns, like Ellington and Somers, who offer more passes, like the Springfield, Eric Carle and Norman Rockwell Museums. Museums create a way for children to explore interests and cultures through authentic objects, hands-on experiences and activities.

### **BAND** Ms. Sayles

Beginning and advanced bands are currently preparing for their winter concert on **Thursday, Dec. 14th at Stafford High School. Band students must arrive at 5:30pm. Concert start time is 6:30pm.** Also, beginning and advanced bands are performing during 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade lunches as a part of the Stafford Elementary Serenade the weeks of Dec. 11th and Dec. 18th!

### **HEALTH** Mr. Schadt & Mr. Terry

Mr. Schadt's classes concluded their units on alcohol and other drugs in November and will complete grade-appropriate units on tobacco right before the winter break. Students are also learning about how the respiratory and circulatory systems function and how the use of tobacco has negative effects on both of these systems, as well as other harmful bodily effects. Mr. Terry's classes will be starting 2024 off in a positively healthy way by reflecting on some concepts students have learned about thus far. Students in grades 1-3 will create door knob hangers on which they will write down healthy habits they have put into practice and/or look forward to using in the future. Students in grades 4-5 will create a "Me Tree" on which they will practice reflecting about themselves for the purpose of self awareness and future goal setting. We hope to have some amazing final creations!

### **LIBRARY** Mrs. Funk

Grades 4-5 are bustling with research! The 4th graders have been introduced to using our district database called [Scholastic Go](#) and are learning why it is a reliable resource for facts and information. They will be using the database to find articles that relate to the weather topics they are studying in their classrooms. Working individually or in pairs, 5th graders took advantage of our temporary free access to the [PebbleGoNext](#) database to conduct research that complemented their classroom study of Indigenous Nations. Grades 1-3 were engaged in read-alouds relating to Native American Heritage Month in Nov. and are now enjoying a sampling of holiday-themed read-alouds. In addition, grades 3-5 explored the [Hour of Code](#) during Computer Science Education Week, Dec. 4th-10th.

### **MUSIC** Mrs. Bienvenu

Students in 1st grade have continued to practice rhythms with both pictures and notes. We recently read the story *The Napping House* and added instruments for the characters. Students in 2nd grade have been playing games where they have to guess who they hear singing without looking. They also recently started learning about the half note. Students in 3rd and 4th grade are continuing to learn the recorder. Students in 3rd grade also learned the singing game "Button You Must Wander," while students in 4th grade started learning about sixteenth notes. Students in 5th grade have begun learning to play the ukulele. They have been learning to read tablature and will soon be learning to play chords. They also listened to the song "In the Hall of the Mountain King."

### **P. E.** Mr. Schadt & Mr. Terry

Mr. Schadt's classes have been busy with a few different skill focused activities. All grades participated in a short unit using the parachute, participating in a variety of cooperative and fun activities. Students in grades 3-5 learned the playground game of four-square and students in grades 1-2 learned a modified version called two-square. Classes then began their unit on throwing and catching. Students are practicing and utilizing their underhand and overhand throwing in several games leading up to the winter break. All students in Mr. Terry's classes have been focusing on their foot/eye coordination. Students in grades 1-3 have been working on skill development, such as dribbling, trapping and passing, while students in grade 4-5 have focused more on positions and strategy.