



Stafford Elementary School

The Specials Scoop January/February 2024

ART Mrs. Veilleux

Grade 1 has just finished a unit on Paul Klee. They made Ice Castles utilizing printmaking that was inspired by his Castle and Sun painting. Grade 2 is making hearts inspired by Keith Haring and Vincent van Gogh. Grade 3 just finished a portrait unit inspired by Henri Matisse's Fauve, or Wild Beast paintings. Grade 4 is working on Graphic Novel book covers, which are covering sketchbooks the PTO purchased for each student. The PTO also supplied the game cases that grade 5 used to design their video game character covers. Thank you to the PTO for providing these extra supplies to the students!

HEALTH Mr. Schadt & Mr. Terry

Mr. Schadt's 1st, 3rd and 5th grade classes are currently in the Injury Prevention unit, while 2nd and 4th grade classes are in the Nutrition unit. Mr. Terry's 5th and 3rd grade classes have been making connections between their P.E. classes and the concepts behind such physical activities, while 4th and 2nd grade classes have been making progress on their Nutrition concepts and 1st grade classes have been learning how to stay safe in their Injury Prevention unit.

LIBRARY Mrs. Funk

Grade 5 has been putting their research prowess to work by learning about an animal of their choice. They'll showcase their knowledge by creating a Google slide that includes facts, pictures, citations and possibly audio or video clips. Grade 4 is broadening their research skills by learning how to assess websites using the [5 Ws of Website Evaluation](#). Grade 3 listened to two versions of the folktale *The Mitten* and then used a Venn diagram to make comparisons of the two. They're now enjoying a read-aloud of *cornbread & poppy*, one of the [Nutmeg Nominees](#) they'll be voting on in April, as is grade 2. Grade 1 listened to several snowman-themed read-alouds in January and in February, will hear read-alouds connected to Black History Month and Kindness Month, as will grades 2 and 3.

MUSIC Mrs. Bienvenu

Grade 1 learned the song "Snowman Joe" and played the pitches of the song on boomwhackers and xylophones. They also began learning about instrument families and the orchestra. Grade 2 began reviewing instruments and instrument families. Grade 3 learned note "G" on the recorder and have begun to learn the song "BAG-O-Saurus." Grades 1, 2 and 3 have also been learning folk dances. Grade 4 listened to "Flight of the Bumblebee" and wrote about what they heard in the music. They also continue to learn songs on the recorder. **Just a reminder, students in grades 3 and 4 should be bringing their recorders and music to class every week.** Grades 3 and 4 have also been singing some rounds. Grade 5 continues to learn the ukulele. They know chords C7 and F and will soon be adding C and G. We also spent some lessons talking about tempo and learning the cup game. Fantastic job to all students who participated in the winter concert! We are now beginning a new session of chorus. Information about concerts will be sent home soon.

P. E. Mr. Schadt & Mr. Terry

Mr. Schadt's classes worked on basketball skills and principles in January and are now starting the unit on striking with a long implement, namely hockey-related skills. Mr. Terry's classes worked on their striking skills in January. Now, the 3rd, 4th and 5th graders are working on their hand/eye coordination through basketball skills, while the 1st and 2nd graders are building muscle endurance and the concepts of levels, pathways and directions through their scooter activities. We hope that you and your child will utilize the digital fitness calendar for physical activity ideas at home that you should have recently received. Future months will also be in digital format. **Lastly, for 4th grade students and parents, please note that the 4th Grade CT Physical Fitness Assessments will take place in April. Please encourage your child to increase their physical activity levels in order to be as successful as possible.**