

~ WELLS ROAD INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL ~

Spring Term United Arts Narratives, 2016-2017

TECHNOLOGY

Students in grade 5 spent the final term of this year learning about the different kinds of technology used in our MakerSpace. While SBAC testing took place in our computer lab, we set up STEAM centers in the library so that students could fully explore different kinds of technology.

Students in centers programmed Ozobots, built bridges with Keva Planks, deconstructed computers, learned about fractals and made a collaborative Sierpinski pyramid, practiced Newton's law on an iPad with Osmo, used colorful towers to design mazes in Gravity Maze, completed circuits in Snap Circuits, and combined sensor, power and action Cubelets to make robots that could perform various tasks.

Not only did this exploration prepare our students to use the MakerSpace resources independently, the work they did will help them approach new technology in and out of school with logical questions about how it works, what it can do, and how we can control it.

Good luck to all of our fifth graders on their continued technology journey. They are well prepared to take risks, stay safe, explore and ask questions.

Laura Smith, LMS

SPANISH

Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 have all completed a novel in Spanish! Over the course of the year, students have improved their literacy skills by practicing reading, writing, speaking and listening in Spanish. Fifth graders have focused particularly on writing in the target language, adding descriptive language to their sentences. A tremendous improvement can be seen from their October writing to their May writing. I wish all of my students a fun summer and fantastic school year next year. ¡Espero que tengan buenas vacaciones!

Doña Sarah Urso

Español 3-6

GENERAL MUSIC

The third graders spent more time playing the recorders this term and also learned about their optional instrument choices for 4th grade. It was a very exciting end to our school year.

In fourth grade, we briefly took a break from "traveling around the world" to learn about the instruments of the orchestra in preparation for our fantastic field trip to the Hartford Symphony Orchestra. During this time, we explored the different families of instruments and even created a fact card on an instrument of our choice.

We concluded the year by returning to our "travels." We briefly visited the continent of Asia learning mostly about the Chinese culture to coordinate with our amazing author visit from Grace Lin.

The students documented our journeys in a passport that was sent home to share with you. We enjoyed learning about the different music, cultures and instruments in these countries!

In fifth grade we concluded the school year with an exciting unit about the blues. Students had the opportunity to listen to various blues styles and learn where the blues originated. We even had the chance to improvise on the xylophones to a 12-bar blues pattern!

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Congratulations on a fantastic band concert! Our concert in June really showcased all our hard work this year. Throughout the last few months of school, we continued to see growth and excitement from our 4th grade instrumentalists. Here are some concepts we have covered in most lessons:

- The importance of practicing and developing good habits.
- Music reading including:
 - whole, half, quarter and eighth note rhythms
 - note recognition on staff including the B-flat concert scale
 - steady beat
 - musical terms (time signature, bar line, measure, repeat signs, dynamics.)

We highly recommend that your child continue to play over the summer as the students are still building muscles and technique and consistent practice is their best avenue to success. Summer band camp is a great way to continue this. Please visit Granby's Parks and Recreation website for more information. Have a safe and happy summer!

If you have any questions or concerns about General Music or Instrumental Music, please feel free to contact us!

- Sarah Warner
warners@granby.k12.ct.us
- Nicole Lucas
lucasn@granby.k12.ct.us

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

I hope this letter finds you all well and ready to enjoy the summer months. This past school year brought many changes to all involved but everyone handled them with great success! As usual, I would like to take this opportunity to fill you in on what has been going on in PE during the last few months.

We began the marking period completing our cup-stacking unit. Cup stacking is an activity that enhances hand-eye coordination, dexterity, focus, hand speed, and concentration, just to name a few.

Students also got the chance to compete in some fun relays and get their name on the “wall of fame” by getting the best times

Upon completion of cup-stacking all classes enjoyed a short Wii fitness unit. Classes participated in Just dance, Wii Zumba and some outdoor adventure games. Some students were a little unsure at first but in the end, they all enjoyed trying something new!

The last unit of the year students participated in our annual track and field activities. Classes try to score points for their group by finishing in the top 10 for different activities. Classrooms come up with their own posters or “flags” to be hung up on the wall and used for a type of scoreboard, where classes come into the gym and see how they are doing. Due to some poor weather, we did not get out as much as we would have liked to do some traditional track and field activities. However, students did enjoy some other events, such as speed jumping, hot shot and the 70-yard cup dash. Students have done a great job showing off their different athletic skills and the battle for most points among the classes is coming right down to the wire!

I would also like to take one last opportunity to thank all of the people that were involved in our annual Field Day yesterday. The weather was perfect and that had a lot to do with the great time had by all the students. However, Field Day would not be possible without the help of all the parents who come and enjoy the day with their students. Thanks again!

As progress reports go home please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. (860) 844 3048 (Ext 6340). Or migneaults@granby.k12.ct.us

Thanks and I hope you have a great summer! See you in the fall! Fifth graders please come back and visit!

Steve Migneault
Physical Education Teacher
Wells Road Intermediate School

Kellie Saunders
Physical Education Teacher
Wells Road Intermediate School