



The Special Area Teachers'

Fall Newsletter

Spanish

In Grade 3 we have been busy answering questions about our name, feelings, language and age in Spanish. We have been enjoying greeting each other in Spanish as well.

In Grade 4, it's all about celebrating! In Spanish we have been talking about what we might find and do at a celebration. Feel free to practice talking about your "cumpleaños" at home (date and month). Our daily routine includes discussing the date, weather, and how we are feeling.

In Grade 5 Spanish we have been exploring how to describe common items you might in a classroom as well as school transportation. Students have just begun talking about different school subjects as well. Our daily routine includes discussing the date, weather, and how we are feeling.

-Senora Mwambulukutu

Music

We have had a great beginning to the school year. K-5 classes are singing, moving, and dancing. We are exploring with musical games and activities as well as learning the Solfege Syllables and Hand Signs. Our music literacy emphasis has been on the treble staff lines and spaces, steps and skips, as well as the many musical symbols. The Music Rug which was purchased a few years ago by the Riverfield PTA continues to be a wonderful tool for learning! Ask your child which "musical symbol" he/she sits on!

Our first significant musical event for this year will take place on November 8 during the Veteran's Day Honor Assembly. The 5th grade Chorus will lead the Riverfield Community in the *Star Spangled Banner* and the *Armed Forces Medley*. This is a special time to give praise and honor to our Veterans. Please encourage your child to invite a guest who has served or is serving our Country.

In addition to our K-5 General Music classes, the 4th and 5th grade Orchestras and the 5th grade Band are in full swing. We are looking forward to hearing them perform at our upcoming Winter and Spring Concerts under the direction of Mrs. Eckhardt and Mr. Borrelli.

-Mrs. Beatty



Band

The Riverfield Band has had a very strong start to the school year! Not only does Riverfield have the largest elementary band in town, but students have been sounding fantastic! It's obvious that students are putting in a lot of work and practice at home, during lessons, and in morning rehearsals. Students have recently learned their 4th and 5th note on their instrument (about 15 more notes to go ☺), and the music is only getting more fun! Keep up the good work everyone!!

– Mr. Borrelli

S.T.E.A.M

K-2 Students have been experiencing the engineering design process while establishing routines, utilizing STEAM notebooks and becoming comfortable with a variety of building materials. They have worked in small groups to tackle challenges and celebrate successes and failures. Coding Bee Bot robots through Keva Plank mazes has been a highlight for our youngest engineers.

Grade 3 students have also been engaging in similar collaborative and routine building activities. The students have recently moved on to a coding program called code.org. This program allows students to individually move through playful, computer science lessons at their own pace. Partner projects and unplugged coding events help to decrease screen time while making this pertinent information enjoyable and relatable.

Grade 4 students began the year questioning the differences between discoveries, inventions, innovations, and contraptions (elaborate systems). The children learned about Rube Goldberg's complicated and humorous ideas. They planned and built "machines" with a cause and effect theme. Currently, all 4th grade students are preparing ideas and making plans for Riverfield's highly anticipated Cardboard Challenge on November 4th.

Grade 5 has been engaging in inquiry activities related to renewable energy sources. The engineering design process has been used to plan creative energy efficient incentives and prototypes are emerging. As Riverfield's oldest leaders, the fifth grade students will be challenged throughout the year to push their thinking and consider the needs of local and global communities.

All Riverfield Families are invited to attend STEAM night on November 14th.

-Mrs. Ferrara



LLT

The Riverfield Library is a very busy place! Kindergarten students are learning how to locate and check out books and they are also learning how to use a mouse and a keyboard. Soon Kindergarten students will learn how to use our K-2 e-publishing application, Wixie.

Grade 1 students are working on their keyboarding skills in order to use our digital learning tools via Classlink. Next, Grade 1 students will learn how to take notes on important information they learn.

Grade 2 students are independently logging in to Classlink and using it to access digital resources like Typing Agent, BookFlix, and PebbleGo, among many others. Grade 2 students will soon be using Wixie to share their learning.

Grade 3 students are participating in the Global Read Aloud picture book study, which is featuring books by Mexican-American author and illustrator Yuyi Morales. These books feature beautiful illustrations, as well as many Spanish words and Mexican cultural traditions. In the coming weeks, Grade 3 students will begin a cross-curricular project that combines art, Spanish, and technology! Senora, Mr. Matarazza, and I are so excited to work together!

Grade 4 students are using Google Docs and Google Drawing to create kindness cards to send to all of the other schools in Fairfield. This is also our first MakerCare activity of the year! MakerCare is a movement in school and public libraries to use MakerSpaces to benefit communities. Next, Grade 4 students will begin a research unit and learn how to evaluate online sources.

Grade 5 students are in the middle of their first research performance task of the year. Students are working collaboratively in groups to learn about a topic they think would make a good topic for an / *Survived* book. The author of this series, Lauren Tarshis, visited Riverfield on October 25th and discussed her writing process with our students. Finally, students will use their learning to create a WeVideo about their idea and we will celebrate with a Grade 5 Film Festival.

As always, thank you for your support!

-Mrs. Kilcourse



Art

Hi Riverfield community,

As we roll through fall this year, our young artists are hard at work. Kindergarten has had a super time getting acquainted with the art room. We have been practicing many of our routines and have done a fair bit of painting, cutting, and gluing.

First grade is working on filling out our work with background details and identifying the simple shapes that are found in complex objects. We are focused on thinking like artists.

Second grade is currently exploring different aspects of color including color mixing and some simple color theory. Printmaking is on the horizon for us as we tackle Gyutaku, the ancient Japanese art of fish printing.

Third grade has been flexing its creative muscles as we made fold out faces that viewers can interact with to reveal hidden surprises. Next up for us is designing and creating some colorful paper masks inspired by the Lucha Libre culture of Mexico.

Fourth grade is currently learning the importance of reference photos. They are learning how to incorporate them into art making in order to pull out important details and set proportions.

Fifth grade started the year with gorgeous graffiti names. Combining color and style to make some eye-catching art while also gaining some color mixing experience. We are now under way on our first of several perspective units where we learn about the various techniques artists use in order to create the illusion of depth and distance in our artwork.

-Mr. Matarazzo

P.E.

Hello Riverfield Community,

This year the students of Riverfield have been having fun in the world of physical education. The younger students are finding their way around the gym safely learning strategies during game play, while focusing on spatial awareness skills. The older students are working hard on preparing for the CT Physical Fitness Assessment.

All the students have learned/reviewed the rules and procedures of the gym and my motto of Having Fun, Working Hard and Learning. It has been an amazing beginning of the school year and I look forward to building on all the student's unique talents and abilities.

Below is my year at a glance which is a timeline of activities and units that the students will be participating in this school year.

-Mr. Gelsi

Riverfield PE Year at a Glance (2019-2020)				
<u>K</u>	<u>1st and 2nd</u>	<u>3rd and 5th</u>	<u>#classes:</u>	<u>Dates:</u>
Locomotor Skills/ Spatial Awareness Skills Fitness Assessment 16 (8/29-11/8) (Throwing and catching progression, parachute, jump roping, Keep away/Rugby skills, Spike ball, Recess games: 4 squares, 4 down football, knockout basketball) (Mile run: 10/25 rain 10/28)				
Hand Eye Coordination/Volleyball Skills	Volleyball	4		(11/12-11/27)
Thanksgiving Break (half day 11/27, off 28,29)				
Kicking for distance/ at a Target/soccer skills	Soccer	5		(12/2-12/20)
(Indoor/outdoor soccer/offense and defense/goalie skills) Christmas Vacation (12/23- 1/2)				
Aiming at a Target/Passing/Throwing/B-Ball	Basketball	5		(1/2-1/23)
Broomball	Floor hockey	5		(1/24-2/13)
Body Management Unit (Gymnastics & Parkour Skills) (Take equipment out 2/20)				
Cargo Net/ Balance Beam/ Intro to Spring Board		2		(2/21-2/28)
Climbing Ropes/Spring Board with Box/Balance Beam Tricks		2		(3/2-3/9)
Gymnastics Rolls/ Exercises/Cartwheels/Floor Stunts		2		(3/10-3/17)
Obstacle Course All Equipment Agility/Balance/Coordination (Put away gymnastics equipment 3/26-27)		2		(3/18-3/25)
Fun Dances (kanga lines, limbo, etc.)	Creative Dancing	2		(3/26-4/2)
Football Fundamental Skills/4 Down Football	Football	2		(4/3-4/20)
April Vacation (4/10-17)				
Tennis Skills/Games	Tennis	6		(4/21-5/15)
Wiffleball/Fielding/Hitting/Baserunning	Baseball	4		(5/18-6/9)
Frisbee Games/ Back Yard Game/ Kick Ball /Field Game		2		(6/10-6/16)
Students come to PE 2 times every six days for 40 minutes each class period. 30 Weeks or 60, 40-minute Classes				

Thanks so much for your support!
The Special Area Teachers