



Special Report 1st Quarter 2011 - 2012



Nurse's Office

Another school year has begun and I've had the pleasure of seeing many of your children in my office for the usual cuts and scrapes-----and a few injuries and illnesses. Strep throat and conjunctivitis (pink eye) seem to be making the rounds in several classrooms. I am reminding everyone once again this year to keep your child home if they are running a temperature of 100 degrees or above, have nasal secretions that are yellow or green in color, or if they have vomiting or diarrhea. Children are unable to concentrate in class when they are ill and the virus or bacteria they have is easily spread to their classmates. Let's try to keep our school environment healthy this year. A note needs to accompany your child when they return from an illness. If your child is absent due to an illness for more than three days, please send a Doctor's note for their return to school.

It is also time to start thinking about getting your flu shot. Influenza vaccinations are recommended for everyone six months of age and older. Talk to your Doctor about the benefit of the flu vaccine for you and your children.

Remember to have your children eat breakfast before coming to school in the morning. Research has proven that children who eat breakfast get better grades, pay more attention in class, and behave better. It's up to you to help your children start the day off right.

**Stay healthy,
MaryAnn McManus, RN**



Library

ACCELERATED READER IS READY FOR ANOTHER EXCITING YEAR. LAST YEAR WE HAD MANY READERS IN FIRST THROUGH EIGHTH BECOME GREAT READERS. I HOPE THIS YEAR INCARNATION STUDENTS WILL READ AND TAKE MORE QUIZZES THAN EVER.

ACCELERATED READERS WILL START OFF READING THE FIRST QUARTER. GRADES 2 & 3 WILL BE CHALLENGED TO READ AS MANY BOOKS AS POSSIBLE.

THE STUDENTS TAKE A STAR READING TEST AT THE BEGINNING OF THE QUARTER TO DETERMINE THEIR READING LEVEL. THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE LINE FOR THEM TO DETERMINE WHAT BOOKS THEY CAN READ. THE STUDENTS ARE ABLE TO READ UNDER THEIR LEVEL AS LONG AS THEY ASK FOR APPROVAL.

STUDENTS WILL PROVE THEY READ THESE BOOKS BY TAKING AND PASSING AN AR QUIZ. IF AN AR QUIZ IS NOT AVAILABLE THE STUDENT MAY WRITE A BOOK REPORT AS LONG AS THE BOOK IS APPROVED BY ME.

STUDENTS EARN POINTS FOR EVERY BOOK THEY READ. IN TURN, THE STUDENTS CAN USE THESE POINTS FOR DRESS DOWN DAYS OR PARTIES IN THE LIBRARY.

*****REMINDER: FOLLOW THE LINKS ON THE SCHOOL WEB SITE FOR A LIST OF ACCELERATED READER BOOKS******

**Happy reading!
Mrs. Quick**



Technology News



The students at Incarnation always enjoy coming to the computer lab each week. Since computers are always their first class of the day, they are full of energy and eager to get started.

Our Kindergarten and 1st grade students are so enthusiastic about coming to the computer lab. I have introduced them to the "Tux Paint" program. Recently they have been having fun learning to create their own Halloween pictures. It is quite a challenge for them as it requires following directions, using the mouse properly, being creative, using clip art, the magic button, and the color wheel. In the second quarter, I plan on introducing both classes to the KidPix Program.

The 2nd grade class also started out with Tux Paint. However, since they have already used this program, we started learning about text boxes, font size, font color, and font alignment. They created a Halloween picture, but it also contained Halloween words.

The 3rd grade students started out the year with the Microsoft Office Publisher program. I decided to start with this program as it has many of the same features of Word and PowerPoint. Also, students are able to use templates to create documents of a wide variety. For example, the 3rd graders created their own calendars for the month of October. Recently, we have switched to Microsoft Word. This is the program they will be using for classroom assignments.

Finally, the 4th grade class is kept very busy in the computer lab working on assignments from their teacher, Mrs. Watson. In the first quarter, they have used the Wordle Web Site to create a collage of words for a religion project. Also, they used Publisher to create a document that contains a picture and text that goes with the picture.

The Tux Paint program is a free download from the Internet. Simply search "Tux Paint Download" and you will find the instructions. The only tricky part is that you have to download the program first, and then you need to download the clip art.

Mrs. Miritello



Music & All That Jazz



Now that we're back for the 2011-12 school year, which seems to be moving along rapidly, these are my general goals for all the students. 1) To instill in them a deeper understanding and appreciation of music. 2) To help them become better sight readers by being able to scan written music for its two basic elements—rhythm and pitch. 3) To experience and enjoy performing.

In Pre-K and Kindergarten, we have been learning about rhythm, using some very basic percussion instruments, body movements and hand puppets. We also will be learning some Halloween songs, just in time for the big day.

First and second graders also are learning about rhythm, along with differentiating rhythm and pitch. First graders are briefly getting written music as they learn some basic music symbols, while second graders are reviewing these basic symbols and being introduced to some others. Both grades are working on music from the Wizard of Oz and Halloween songs.

In third grade, the kids are learning about note and rest values, while fourth graders are reviewing these values. Both grades have been singing some simple harmony, while learning music from the Rock & Roll era. They too, will be singing some Halloween music.

Grades five, six, seven and eight have been reviewing basic theory and sight-reading skills. They also are beginning to learn some of the music from the musical Oklahoma. And of course in eighth grade, we are working on the Christmas Program. This year, I am working with a small group of them who want to create their own story line and they are proving to be quite creative. Their story line centers on that famous video team of Mario & Luigi and although we yet do not have a title, I'm sure this short play will be most entertaining. Next month, we will begin to practice for the Christmas Program in all grades, with the first graders portraying the Nativity. Hope to see you all there, watching your children perform.

Mrs. Gilbert





Physical Education

We are off to a great start in Physical Education class.

In grades Pre-K through grade 2, we are working on basic locomotor skills like skipping, hopping, and galloping. We are also participating in some low-organized games which utilize these skills.

In grades 3 & 4, we are working on some throwing and catching skills in a football unit. We are also incorporating some lead-up games for football which utilize these skills. After this, we will be moving into a basketball unit.

In grades 5 through 8, we are also working on the skills of throwing and catching a football and working these into some lead-up games for football. After this, we will be moving into a basketball unit.

All in all, we are off to a great start in Physical Education.

Mr. Rocco



Art-icles

We're off to a great start in art! Pre through sixth participated in the Crestwood fire poster contest and did an amazing job! **Pre-school** is practicing their coloring, outlining, and going in one direction on different projects. We reviewed coloring, cutting, and gluing in **Kindergarten**, but they didn't know it, since the practice was disguised as pretty cool projects. **First Grade** started out with a poem project emphasizing everyone's artistic individuality, discovered some new marker techniques, and paid tribute to fall with a patterned leaf. We talked about Jesus as the light that guides us with a lighthouse painting in **Second Grade**. We went on to trees made of "Y's" and their colorful torn-paper falling leaves. **Third Grade** welcomed Labor Day with a patriotic wreath and went on to patterned and textured overlapping lizards. We are currently on our dinosaur drawings before embarking on Cave Art. The year was ushered in by a colorful toucan in **Fourth Grade**. We then started our Medieval year with cathedrals and stained glass windows. **Fifth Grade** created some robots that got into all sorts of situations and in the process learned about shading. We are starting our year long study of art in the Renaissance. Genre art in the baroque period started off **Sixth Grade** with a well-stocked kitchen. We will be going on to Francisco De Goya. **Seventh Grade** has been doing some work on perspective and then on to the Impressionists. We talked about Manet and then invented a machine a la the Industrial Revolution. We are starting Claude Monet. We ventured into church where the **Eighth Grade** did meticulous drawings of our beautiful stained glass windows. We then went on to an understanding of Modern Art and discussed the pro and cons. I must say, after fifteen years of teaching art, this is the first class that really liked modern art! I'm not sure what that means.....

Mrs. Marzalik





Spanish News

Kindergarten, First, Second, and Third Graders have been learning colors, numbers, greetings, and body parts through games, music, stories and movement! We meet every Monday afternoon for 30 minutes. Students love when Maria the oso polar visits their classrooms! Our Polar Bear puppet gets everyone singing to ¿Cómo te llamas? What's your name? In which they sing back their individual answers: Me llamo _____. We have also learned a fun rhyme that starts out: "Hola, hola, coca cola..." Ask your child to sing it for you! Learning body parts was interesting as we labeled our esqueleto and then played Simon dice (Simon Says). As you can see, we incorporate lots of games and music in Spanish class-you can play games with your children at home to practice their Spanish too. Some ideas include: as you're waiting in line have them count in Spanish (don't be surprised if they start singing!) or as you are driving, have them call out the colors they see. ¡Español es muy divertido! Spanish is very fun!

Fourth through Eighth Graders meet every Friday for 40 minutes. They have received colored folders to keep their Spanish work organized. I have strongly encouraged them to keep this folder in their accordion folders so they remember to bring them to class every Friday. We begin each Spanish class by praying La Señal de la Cruz and the Ave Maria. To kick off the 1st quarter we learned los numeros and greetings. Fourth graders worked on numbers up to 40 so far. Fifth-Sixth graders should know up to 100 and Seventh-Eighth graders worked on patterns in numbers greater than 100. Seventh-eighth graders also studied the continent of South America, its countries and their capital cities. The Spanish Alphabet was next on our "to-do list." We got lots of practice through online games, partner activities, and study sheets.

Next up, was learning about body parts-it was quite fun as we labeled the parts of a skeleton! We all totally enjoy rockin' out to our Spanish Rock N Learn DVD to learn various concepts! Music makes learning much more meaningful and memorable! Culture is also interesting to learn about and adds another dimension to learning any

language. Students were presented with information on Día de Los Muertos-Day of the Dead through a you-tube video and teacher slide show. Students in Grades Fifth-Eighth worked on projects specific to their abilities. Looking for extra Spanish practice for your child/children? Check out the following website we use in class: www.123teachme.com. It's a wonderful resource!

Senora Cunnea



ELS/MLS Lab

Our ELS/MLS Lab is open for business. We are fortunate to be able to purchase and staff these reading and math programs. They are part of Tier 3 of our Response to Intervention Program.

The students that attend this lab come for 20 to 40 minutes, 3 to 5 days a week, depending on grade level and schedules. The program is multisensory, using many senses to help train the brain to interlink information. We are proud of these great, hardworking students.

This year we won the Exemplary Lab Award for **both** ELS and MLS. This is a great honor, as only 10% of labs in the country receive this prestigious award. Great job Incarnation!

Cindy Mortimer (ELS/MLS aide)

Susan Cunnea (Inclusive Education Coordinator)



We hope you enjoyed this edition. We'll be back next year with more news. God Bless!