



# Charlottesville Catholic School

## December Specialist Newsletter 2022

### Announcements

12/14 at 6:15 in the Gym – Christmas Concert and Art Display

We can't wait to see you all for the Christmas concert. Please follow these procedures for dropping off and picking up your child:

- Plan on arriving by 5 :45 pm, so students can be in their classroom at 6 pm, ready to go.

- Students need to be in their "Christmas best". Please have them bring their water bottles.

- Parents can head straight to the gym for the concert.

- Feel free to look around the main hallway by the gym, as students have created artwork that goes with the songs we are singing during our art classes this semester.

- Once the concert is over, students will be taken back to their classrooms for pick up. Be sure to sign them out in their classroom. Looking forward to sharing the Christmas joy through music and art!

Library - Jennifer Furin/ [j.furin@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:j.furin@cvillecatholic.org)



We read so many great books in October and November! There were books from Hispanic/American authors like Yuyi Morales and Margarita Engle. We also read some really fun Halloween and Thanksgiving stories. We are now reading Christmas stories.

Second graders finished the story Cam Jansen and the Ghostly Mystery. We are studying the components of the Mystery genre. Currently we are reading The Chameleon Wore Chartreuse, it is a Chet Gecko Mystery and so much fun. We will also read some Christmas stories for December.

Third graders finished The Chocolate Touch. It was a fun story to read. There is a movie with the same title that you might enjoy watching with your student. We are now reading science fiction stories. We found that

science fiction can have many different themes and they can be serious or humorous like the books we are reading. 3A is reading Frank Einstein and the Antimatter Motor written by Jon Scieszka and 3B is reading Monster Manor Von Skalpel's Experiment written by Paul Martin.

Fourth and fifth graders continue to select books for their assignments in LA class. Fourth grade will study realistic fiction next. We will finish reading the classic story The Voyages of Dr. Dolittle today. Fifth grade is still reading Schooled by Gordon Korman which is a good book to show characters point of view. We will be moving into the classics next.

### Library days

K: Thursday/Friday

1st: Monday/Thursday

2nd grade: Monday/Thursday

3rd grade: Tuesday

4th grade: Friday

5th grade: Monday

Physical Education - **Andrew Frazier** [a.frazier@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:a.frazier@cvillecatholic.org)

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### **K-2 / 3-5: Kicking & Striking with the Foot / Independent and collaborative Kicking Activities**

-We used the month of November to introduce and implement kicking skills. The objectives measured were Technique, Accuracy, and Power. My common cues used when teaching progressions are "Step, Swing, and kick." Once we can grasp the technique and progress to accuracy, we talk about squaring our body and our bodies to our target. Lastly, we progress to power and explore the speed of our body movements through the techniques previously learned in order to control the speed of the ball. The 3rd through 5th graders were able to practice their skills individually, in small sided games, and in larger cognitive and communal games. They often used the soccer balls as they move with greater speed. The K-2 often used the softer and lighter gator skin balls and had opportunities to use the soccer balls as well. The major difference between k-2 and 3-5 has been the type of activities used to assess skills. The 3-5 students have played in larger more complex games as my younger group has participated in smaller skill focused activities individually, or with partners, or small groups. We continue to focus on fitness and introducing new exercises!

### **6-8: Pickleball**

-Unit Objectives: Psychomotor - Racquet Skills / Cognitive - Game Rules / Affective - Applying game skills and playing with sportsmanship

-The game of pickleball was started in 1965 and has become widely accepted and played as one of the most popular racquet sports in the U.S. Pickleball is a game for all age levels and all skill levels. Competitive and casual play are both used and can be a great form of social fitness. Our middle school students have slowly been learning the skills and rules of the game and we are leading up to a tournament finish. We started with individual skills and progressed into smaller games. We are at the point of playing and applying almost all rules. My goal and hope is that these students will continue to play recreational games like this on their own time.

**Athletics:** Basketball season is officially underway. We played and completed our first game on 12/1. Both boys and girls started out with huge wins, congrats! We play a total of 18 games and will have at least 10 home games for boys and girls - It has been wonderful to see the many faces in attendance at our events, please continue to support us as we embark on the winter season and the beloved basketball teams. Go Archangels!!!

Art - Vanessa Devlin [v.devlin@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:v.devlin@cvillecatholic.org)  [@ccsarchangelsarts](https://www.instagram.com/ccsarchangelsarts)

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The three weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks are always busy as we try to pack in as much learning and seasonal celebrations as we can! We are so excited to share in your children's creativity, hard work and talents December 14th. Within each grade level we listened to the lyrics of the carols which students are singing in the concert. We discussed their meaning and how students felt when listening to the words and melody. Students were invited to suggest ways in which they could respond visually to the songs, and I designed a collaborative project using their input.

Here is a sneak peak at the work you will see hanging in and around the Gym during the concert. Please feel free to return to the Gym with your child after the concert is over to see the art and retrieve their individual contributions.

### **Kindergarten Responding to the African-American Spiritual "Mary Had a Baby"**



### **First Grade Responding to "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**



### **Second Grade Responding to "The Holly and the Ivy"**



### **Third Grade Responding to "Little Drummer Boy" and "O Christmas Tree"**



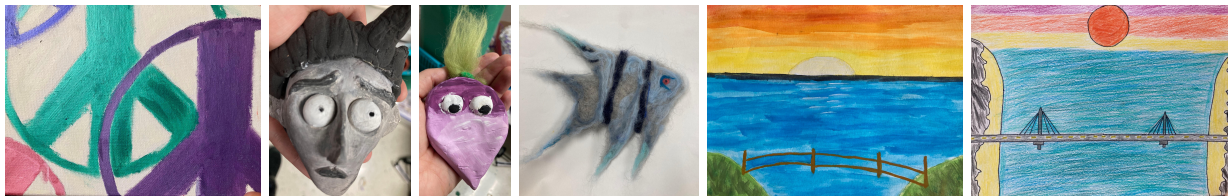
## **Fourth Grade Responding to “Once in Royal David’s City” and “Here We Go A-Caroling”**



## **Fifth Grade Responding to “Night of Silence/Silent Night” and “Good King Wenceslas”.**



## **Middle School Only 2 more Middle School classes until the Semester Swap! Here are a few works that have been recently completed:**



## **Music - Kate Wisbey [k.wisbey@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:k.wisbey@cvillecatholic.org)**

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Happy Advent and Merry December!

Already, it is time for our Christmas concert! As we prepare for the Christmas concert, please feel free to rehearse the songs at home, using the melody or the piano accompaniment from our google drive folder. I also have sent out a link with the lyrics and asked all our teachers to send the lyrics home to practice! If you would like to volunteer or help out as a parent during our Christmas concert, please email me at [k.wisbey@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:k.wisbey@cvillecatholic.org). Any help is appreciated! Please have your child wear their formal Christmas best and come ready for the concert at school at 6 pm. The concert will begin at 6:15 pm on December 14th. There will be an intermission, filled with wonderful artwork done by all our students based on the songs they are singing for the Christmas concert. Hope to see you all there!

In our K-2 classes, we have been busy preparing and memorizing our Christmas secular and nonsecular songs for our Christmas concert. For fun, we have been doing songs about winter, from polar bears to snowflakes and ending this month after our concert with a full day of Christmas caroling and games! Students have been learning using 2-3 body percussion parts, as well as learning how to use the non pitched percussion instruments in our classroom. We have also used scarves and movement to demonstrate different parts of a song, as well as dynamics and articulation. Our



students have been learning solfege from Do to La, as well as learning how to repeat back rhythms with triplets, eighth notes and sixteenth notes. We have done a lot of movement and dancing to feel the internal rhythm within each song.

In our 3-5 classes, we have been busy adding instruments both pitched and unpitched into our Christmas concert, as well as memorizing our lyrics for the concert. We have added some fun winter games and orff activities, as students learn different arrangements on the Orff instruments for fun winter musical games. We finished this month after the concert with a fun music day, filled with musical chairs, freeze dance, Christmas dance parties and Christmas caroling/charades with Christmas carols! Students have been learning ear training, being able to read notes through solfège and reading and creating rhythms in  $\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $\frac{4}{4}$ , and  $\frac{2}{4}$ . Students have also learned the terminology of common time vs. cut time, as well as articulation markings from crescendos, decrescendos to staccato notes. Our 5th graders got to enjoy a class from Ms. Lucy Stavers, a colonial woman from 1774, who taught them a traditional English dance from the colonial days, called the "Kings and Queens' ' dance.

In our middle school music classes, 6th and 7th graders have finished their unit on keyboard/piano for the semester, while 8th graders have been finishing their introduction to melodica. Students have completed their unit through performing for me a scale, a song or something they have learned on their instrument. In groups of 2, 3 or 4, they have performed a Christmas piece, or their favorite song to our class to end our unit on piano and melodica. We will be ending this month with a fun music day, filled with drum class, xylophone games and more!

In our middle school chorus elective, students have been preparing to sing songs for our Christmas concert, practicing with Mr. Garland and learning a new song to add to our repertoire- Dona Nobis Pacem. Our choir is practicing a few fun jazzy Christmas songs and adding some choreography to make things polished and ready!

Our middle school music improvisation group has been bringing Christmas to life, creating a new piece of "Carol of the Bells" for our Christmas concert! We are now adding in cellos, as well as violins, and bells! It is wonderful to watch teamwork come together and watch music come to life this semester! Hope to see you all at the Christmas concert on December 14th at 6:15 pm in the gym!



Spanish - Jasmine Osteen [j.osteen@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:j.osteen@cvillecatholic.org)

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We have been having a lot of fun in the Spanish classroom these past couple weeks!

3rd grade has been working on descriptions. They began by grouping together and creating a life size character. Then we learned different ways we could describe people and students took turns sharing what they thought about each character. The next class students then used simple sentences to further describe the characters. We then began to learn about parts of the body and label the characters.

In fourth grade we have been learning about family members. Students have learned to identify different members of the family and can understand how people are related to each other (la madre de mi madre es mi abuela). They have been working on creating

family trees and then describing the family members with descriptions vocabulary we covered earlier in class.

In fifth grade students have been designing dream homes. They are using their vocabulary knowledge to label the different rooms and items in each room. They will later present the projects to class once they are completed.

In sixth grade students have been learning about animals. They learned vocabulary for both domesticated and wild animals. We have been playing different games to reinforce the vocabulary and the students can understand simple descriptions of the animals.