



Charlottesville Catholic School Specialist Newsletter

Important Upcoming Reminders

Date **Event**

Library - Mrs. Banaszak m.banaszak@cvillecatholic.org

We are celebrating Black History month in the library by reading several biographies of famous and sometimes overlooked Americans like Matthew Henson who was the first Black man to reach the North Pole and Besse Coleman, the first woman of African descent to earn her aviator license!

JK-Kindergarten explored the rainforest this month, acted like rainforest animals and checked out several animal books!

First and 2nd graders enjoyed stories about unicorns and monster trucks... What a juxtaposition! There's something for everyone in our CCS library!

Third graders began a new novel, Have a Hot Time Hades by Kate McMullen. We are learning about Ancient Greece!

Fourth graders are starting a new read aloud as well, No Talking by Andrew Clements. Towards the end of the book I will challenge the two classes to a "No Talking " contest... only 3 word sentences allowed!



Fifth graders are working on their "Tunetastic" book talks! As they finish, the children will present to their classmates and hopefully talk their peers into reading the book that they present.

PE - Mr. Frazier a.frazier@cvillecatholic.org

K-2: Striking - We have been working with different implements and exploring many ways we can use different types of equipment. We often relate pieces of equipment to real life situations and practice over and over to excel our understanding and ability. For example, we might use a hockey stick and pretend as if we are sweeping in order to make solid contact. Before we can

move with a ball, we have to “start our engines,” this teaches dribbling control. Once we have our engine fired up and ready to go, we can now “travel the highway” and dribble while moving.

3-5: This group has been exploring with implements as well. The difference here is using the equipment and applying it into small game settings. Either working with a single partner or working in groups. Here are a few students playing Target tennis:



MS: Middle school recently finished a hockey unit. We covered some basic hockey rules throughout the unit and made sure we applied offensive and defensive concepts into our active play. We were able to finish with a modified tournament in the end. It was a lot of fun to see these groups work together and manage their own activities. We are currently underway with a small Tennis unit.

Athletics: Congratulations to both the boys and girls basketball teams, they had incredible seasons! It was a pleasure to watch these students get back on the court. Thank you to all the students who volunteered and provided service hours to help us run our events. We had many students all season long support our teams by running the game clock and scoreboard. Thank you parents for supporting this as well and making this happen. Coming up, we have girls soccer which is currently trying out. Lastly, we have our first ever Track and Field team set to begin on March 7th. Go Archangels!

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

As we look ahead, it is time to begin planning for the return of our annual Art Show (in person!) If you are interested in assisting with any aspect of this program, please contact me at the email above. I will need many hands to help make this beloved May event a success.

“The person who is making the decisions is the person who is learning” - Christine Marme Thompson

As I continue to refine the choice-based model being used in my classroom, I am encouraged by the level of engagement I see as students become more confident in their abilities in the Art

Room. "I wish I could live in the Art Room" was recently heard from a Second Grade student. I am so pleased that the studio space is feeling like a home to many of our students.

Some of the Art Reproductions we have studied over the past month have included a focus on Black American artists Clementine Hunter, Faith Ringgold, Ekow Nimako, Bisa Butler and Ekua Holmes. Kindergarten students have painted, used tempera paint sticks, drawn, sculpted and used text in art.

First grade students have worked diligently painting story quilt canvases inspired by the story "Tar Beach". One of my favorites involves flying over Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream factory!

Second grade students are working on chosen themed pieces for the Art Show. Some students are painting, sculpting, sewing, knitting and it has become a true constructivist studio environment with shared learning experiences.

Third grade students are happily creating masks that are part of a cross-curricular unit involving Social Studies and ELA. Currently, some are using plaster strips to build up their mask forms and others are painting.

Fourth grade is beginning an exploration into the methods and techniques used to create abstract Art. Each class has chosen a theme to follow as a springboard for their pieces. (Galaxy Quest and Food!)

Fifth grade students just wrapped up a unit introducing Linear Perspective and are now embarking on a venture into Surrealism.

Let me close with a few photos of Middle School students working independently on their projects inspired by the theme of "Layers".



Music - Ms. Howard s.howard@cvillecatholic.org

Hello all,

Things have been quite busy in the music room for all of our classes. It has been so much fun exploring different elements of music in many ways.

K-5 created a wonderful piece all about SNOW using our mallet instruments. We have started talking about some instruments of the orchestra including what a conductor does and seeing how string and brass instruments work and sound. We also talked a little bit about some

jazz artists such as Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, and we even threw in some ragtime by Scott Joplin to see what other kind of music was created a hundred years ago. They loved seeing how a Player Piano works!

Middle school has been exploring different pieces of music using a line rider creation. Students have done a great job trying to see how they can make a piece of music match a visual representation. We have also been exploring music genres and articulating what each student likes or dislikes about a piece of music...after all, we have our own unique opinions and personalities. Lastly, we will begin exploring instruments and music making starting with steady beat and some ukuleles!

Lots of things are starting to take shape for music in this next month or two, and I couldn't be more excited! Stay tuned for the next adventure...

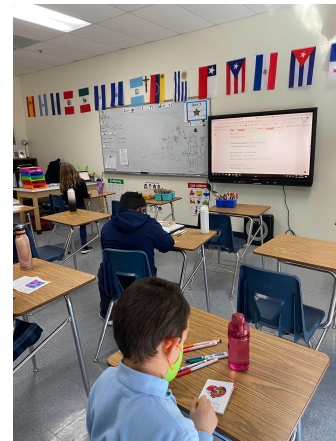
Spanish - Mrs. Osteen j.osteen@cvillecatholic.org

We have been having so much fun in Spanish class!

In second and third grade we spent time working on the alphabet and how to correctly pronounce each letter in Spanish. The students worked on spelling basic vocabulary out loud and perfecting the pronunciation. We then began our unit on family. Students have learned the words for immediate and extended family, as well as some pets! Currently students are working on identifying the different family members using a family tree and the vocabulary.

In fourth and fifth grade we have also been learning about family. Students then also began to learn how to describe family members using basic adjectives. We even began to write complete sentences in Spanish. Although we only have class once a week, the students are advancing quickly and are doing a wonderful job!

Last week, all grade levels had fun making Valentines Day Cards to send to residents of the Commonwealth Senior Center and Our Lady of Peace. Each card was crafted with love and I am sure they brought a smile to each recipient!



If you would like to practice the family vocabulary with your student here is a [link](#) to fun games and activities.