



Charlottesville Catholic School Specialist

Library - *Mrs. Anne Carbone* a.carbone@cvillecatholic.org

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and fun extended break!

Some of the students believe that the snowflakes they created to decorate the Library before break is the reason why we had snow days. Sooooo "When life gives you" snow...you just go with it. 😊 In the lower grades we are celebrating the snowy theme, in addition to exploring the JrF (Junior Fiction) chapter books.

In the upper grades we are beginning the New Year by diving into the Fantasy genre.

We are reading:

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo in third grade,

Crenshaw* by Katherine Applegate in fourth grade, and

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle in fifth grade.

*Crenshaw was one of the selections for last year's Battle of the Books competition. This year's competition will be held in May and is open to all 3-5 and Middle Schoolers. Mrs. Devane will be talking to the students about the competition. Basically, the students are part of a team and they each read some of the selected books. On competition day, the teams travel to Richmond to compete against other schools in the Diocese. The teams are asked questions about the books and get points for correct answers. One 3-5 team and one MS team is then declared the winner. I hear that it is a lot of fun. If you have an avid reader in your house, this may be right up their alley!

P.E. - *Ms. Madison Varney* m.varney@cvillecatholic.org

January was an exciting month as all grades enjoyed our basketball unit! Students had a blast learning new skills, playing games, and building teamwork. As we head into February, we're shifting our focus to heart health and jump roping. Here's what each grade level is up to:

K-2:

Our youngest students practiced dribbling and shooting form through fun games like Dribbling

Tag and Oscar's Trashcan. In February, they'll work on hopping, jumping, and an introduction to jump roping as we promote heart health in a fun and active way!

3-5:

These grades focused on more advanced dribbling techniques and shooting skills, playing games like the ever-popular Locker Room Knockout (a 4th-grade favorite!). This month, students are learning about heart health and creating their own jump rope routines with partners.

6-8:

Older students participated in 3v3 games, learned defensive strategies, and enjoyed a full-court basketball tournament. Now we're moving on to health education and jump roping for fitness, with plenty of fun games and competitions to keep the energy high!

We're excited to continue building skills, teamwork, and heart health awareness this month. Thanks for your continued support!



Art - Ms. Vanessa Devlin v.devlin@cvillecatholic.org

Time seems to be flying faster in the Art Room. Look for Art Show Prep volunteer opportunities for parents to come out in the next month. We will need help mounting art in advance of the school wide art show this May.

We are quickly approaching clay season, one of my favorite mediums to teach students about. Students will be completing instructional units and independent projects in the next few weeks before moving onto exploring what we can do with ceramics in the studio. This month gives us an opportunity to highlight the work of African American artists, such as Faith Ringgold and Aaron Douglas. We will continue to learn about them and the many contributions of African American artists throughout the year.

Kindergarten has already had a little taste of clay when we spent a day on 3D forms. Students learned how to use their hands as tools to roll, pinch, flatten, and smooth clay into spheres, cubes, pyramids, cylinders and other forms. We have also been finishing up a unit on the

connection between music, color, line and mood in visual art.

Fiber Arts has been a popular station in the rest of lower elementary as weaving and sewing have been highlighted. Many students in First Grade have moved from paper weaving to using yarn on cardboard looms - a wonderful skill for them to improve finger dexterity and perseverance.

Upper elementary students are utilizing choice in broad, open-ended assignments. 3rd grade is exploring the differences between realistic, abstract and non-objective art. 4th grade students have nearly all finished their landscapes showing depth and non-linear perspective, and 5th grade students are in the midst of using their new knowledge about linear perspective and creating examples of one-point perspective in art.

The spring semester Middle Schoolers are fully involved in the creative process. After discussing how artists get started in different ways, conceptualizing, experimenting and investigating, students jumped into their first independent project. Many students have chosen to try their hand at the potter's wheel. I apologize for any extra laundry this creates - I promise that they are required to tuck in ties, push up sleeves and wear large potter's aprons when at work in an attempt to keep the mud off of their clothes and in the room.



Music- *Ms. Annie Keller* a.keller@cvillecatholic.org

Parents and guardians,

Hello! My name is Annie Keller, and I'm delighted to return to the CCS community as the interim music teacher. A little about me- I grew up in Charlottesville and actually attended CCS, graduating in 2009. My bachelor's degree is in music and theater from UNC Chapel Hill, and I have a MEd from Columbia University in NYC. Following school, I performed professionally within the US and Europe, both in the opera and musical theater genres. My English Cocker Spaniel, Wallace, will be joining me at school every Tuesday and select other days. Wallace is a trained therapy dog and visits UVA hospitals, nursing homes, and now CCS. The students have loved having Wallace in the classroom, and he has already brought smiles and comfort and allowed for the students to connect and feel more at ease with me, during this mid-year music transition. Please know any listed allergies have been noted from the nurse, and he will not be present in any classes with pet allergies.



So far in music, the JK-3rd grades are doing some music exploration with instruments, learning about instrument families, and learning different antiphon songs that will be sung at mass. 4th-8th graders started a unit on beat making and music technology. They will be doing a study of music beat making, learning about rhythm/tempo/music layering.

Graduating from CCS in 2009, so much has changed, but at the same time, the spirit of faith, hope, and love remains and inspires learning through these halls. Please feel free to pop into the music room and introduce yourself, or send me an email a.keller@cvillecatholic.org to connect with any inquiries/thoughts.

Peace-
Annie Keller (and Wallace)

S.E.L. - Ms. Marie Decker m.decker@cvillecatholic.org

We have jumped into many different concepts in our classroom SEL lessons across elementary school.

Junior Kindergarten – These classes have been exploring concepts related to emotional regulation and got to make their own “calm down bottles” with middle school buddies at the end of January. Next, we’ll be moving toward interactive lessons where we can engage in emotional regulation, problem-solving, and turn-taking as we collaborate with one another.

Kindergarten and First Grade – While snow days, early dismissals and holidays have impacted some of these classes, both of these grade levels are starting some lessons related to friendship skills. We will be identifying ways we build, maintain, and repair our friendships in the classroom.

Second Grade – Second grade has continued to explore concepts related to conflict resolution. Currently, we are learning strategies that we can use to ensure that our bodies and minds are

ready to solve a conflict safely and respectfully. So far, we have learned various deep breathing techniques, as well as a unique way to count backwards from 10.

Third Grade – Third grade ended December by focusing on non-material gifts that they can give and receive everyday. Now, third graders are exploring concepts related to their own uniqueness and celebrating the uniqueness of others. In February, third grade students will expand this into learning about inclusion and practice ways that they can be inclusive of others, despite commonalities or differences that may be evident.

Fourth Grade – Fourth grade has been learning about their emotional reactions and how it might impact their ability to problem-solve and resolve conflicts. In January, fourth graders made simple models of the brain, highlighting key parts of the brain that are involved in processing our emotional experiences. Now, fourth graders are learning strategies they can use to intentionally activate the parts of the brain that allow us to be the most effective problem-solvers.

Fifth Grade – In January, fifth grade began exploring how their emotional states can be scaled into more and less intense. As a part of understanding how to measure this, fifth graders are beginning to practice some simple mindfulness techniques (intentionally tuning into various senses and sensations) as a tool for measuring one's emotional state.

Middle School – Mrs. Decker continues to be available to middle school students for individual and group skill development. Mrs. Decker and the administrative SEL team are currently working on more established and consistent SEL opportunities for all middle school students.