

Pearl Rhodes Elementary

Weekly News

May 24, 2018



Music News

It was great to see you at our concert Wednesday night. The students provided a wonderful demonstration of the skills they've been learning in their music classes.

PreK/K students had lots of fun practicing their songs. They moved to the beat while they sang, clapped on the accents, and timed their jumps and other movements. Music helps young children in many areas of life; in the concert, they demonstrated their ability to focus their attention and work together as a group.

1st & 2nd grade students showed how they can transfer rhythmic movements to musical instruments as they move and play to the beat while singing. They've participated in lots of music and movement activities this spring to practice rhythm, coordination and group readiness. They've enjoyed exploring the different sounds made by small percussion instruments.

3rd - 6th graders are all experienced singers by now, so they were ready to give a strong performance of their two beautiful contemporary songs. They worked hard at memorizing lyrics, singing on pitch, blending their voices, and keeping a beat. Plus, they had to practice good posture and mental focus. Now that the concert is over, we will work on a song for 6th grade graduation.

Recorders in grades 3-6

We have a combination of beginning recorder players, some who played a lot last year, and some with a little experience. It's worthwhile to learn recorder because it allows children to take responsibility for their own learning. They learn some notes and songs together at school, but true success only comes when they practice at home. They played together beautifully in the concert; a small group of the students worked at learning the more challenging parts of their songs, which was a great addition.

STUDENTS SHOULD CONTINUE TO KEEP THEIR RECORDERS IN THEIR BACKPACKS AND BRING THEM TO SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAYS!

Nancy Nesheim

Save the Date!

Our artist in residence, John Porcino, will be hosting a family night at PRES on Wednesday, June 6th at 6:30^{PM}. PRES students will be performing on persuasive writing, storytelling and other topics. More details to come!

Upcoming Events

May 28

Memorial Day, No School

May 30

5/6 gr. field trip to Boston w/ BES

June 5

Dist. Elementary Band Concert, 7:00 @ PVRS

June 6

Family Night, 6:30 – 7:30PM

June 8

7th gr. Orientation @ PVRS

June 12

Field Day



June 13

All school walking fieldtrip to Robertson Memorial Library, 9:00AM

6th gr. Parent Night at PVRS

June 14

All school field trip to Montshire Museum of Science

June 20

6th grade Graduation, 6:00

June 21

Last Day of School, 12:15 Release, no lunch served

First and Second Grade News

First and second grade are soaring to new heights as we approach the end of the school year! They have really put their all into this year's literacy focus. We have learned to read and write words with consonant blends, "r-controlled" vowels, and even some with two syllables! Now that they can read so many more words, they are able to pick out books of interest to them and read independently for longer periods of time and ENJOY it. We have changed our arrival routine to include partner reading at the rug almost every day before Morning Meeting, and it is wonderful to watch friends side by side exploring books like *What If You Had Animal Feet?* or the latest *Pete the Cat*. In writing, students finished their animal book projects-- they made beautiful books all about an animal and its adaptations, complete with illustrations, diagrams, and fun facts, and Mrs. Leyden helped us make a portion of the book online, too, which we will be setting to music next week. We hope to share them soon with other classes and families. For the remainder of the year, we will be focusing on opinion writing and some poetry. We especially hope to get outside and create some poems about the nature around Pearl Rhodes.

In math, first and second graders are developing excellent number sense around our base ten system, including place value concepts, addition, and subtraction. Second grade has worked hard at learning basic geometry, telling time, adding and subtracting multi-digit numbers, and most recently, plotting and interpreting data in picture graphs and bar graphs. Their last unit of the year will focus on some of the foundations of multiplication, including arrays, which will help prepare them for third grade. First grade has been working on adding and subtracting up to 20, comparing numbers, adding and subtracting tens within 120, and solving story problems. Before the end of the year, first grade will also get to do some work with geometry, data, and measurement to get them ready for second grade.

Our last science unit of the year is all about light and sound. This week, students learned about how sound effects are made for some of their favorite movies (like *Finding Dory*), and we made our own rainstorm in the classroom! We are very fortunate to have John Porcino doing a residency in our school right now in storytelling. He is helping our class learn folktales (part of our social studies learning) and the art of storytelling through drawing and performing. Every day that he comes, he enchants us with some kind of music, storytelling, or magic trick, and he also gives us "school play" and "home play" assignments. I bet all families have gotten to be the audience for a child's joke, trick, or story already, and if not, start looking forward to it!

We are excited for the fun events coming up as the year draws to a close. In June, we will get to enjoy Field Day and field trips to Turners Falls and Montshire Museum with the whole school, but we are also going to Shelburne Falls. We will walk the Bridge of Flowers and see the Glacial Potholes, drawing our favorite spots. We will also go candlepin bowling at the Shelburne Falls Bowling Alley and put our math skills to use when we keep score! We have had a super year together, and I can't wait to see what adventures in learning and fun my friends will find next.

-Ms. Haskins

Spring Concert

