

Specialist Spotlights

Bellevue
CHRISTIAN
School

Sept. 2009

Learning to think through life.



"Shout with joy to the Lord, O earth!
Worship the Lord with gladness.
Come before him, singing with joy.
Psalm 100:1-2



Hi, my name is Sue Johnson and I am the new classroom music teacher at Mack Elementary. My daughters both attended BCS and I am so excited to be a part of the BCS community and to be working with your children this year. In the music classroom your children are being taught using the Kodaly method which incorporates wonderful folk songs and quality music from around the world.

Kindergarten: This month we will continue to focus on vocal exploration. We will be using many different types of music to introduce the steady beat as well as preparing the students to learn the comparatives faster/slower and higher/lower.

First Grade: As we continue reviewing the comparatives faster/slower, higher/lower, louder/softer, same/different, we will begin to discuss beat and rhythm ("the way the words go") as well as the melodic elements of sol and mi.

Second Grade: Second graders will begin with a review of basic rhythmic (quarter note, eighth note, quarter rest) and melodic elements (sol, mi, la). Our class time will be filled with a variety of songs to reinforce these elements.

Third Grade: In addition to the review of rhythmic and melodic elements, the third graders have begun notation on white boards. We will practice reading these notes and rhythms on the staff based on the many new songs we will be learning.

Fourth Grade: After a review of rhythmic and melodic elements, the fourth graders have begun transferring these to the classroom instruments (xylophones, percussion instruments) as an accompaniment to the songs being learned.

Fifth and Sixth Grade: We have begun a Rhythm Unit in fifth and sixth grade as we have refreshed our understanding of concepts learned and transferred this to various instruments. We have begun experimenting with other possible "instruments" that may be used to create a junkyard percussion band, such as buckets or cups. The students will be working in small groups as they take simple rhythmic elements and combine them to create their own rhythmic compositions.



LIBRARY and READING RESOURCE NEWS

Library

Summer is always so lovely and it was especially relaxing this year. However, it is also good to be back in the routine and swing of school!

The library is now OPEN! All the classes have had several librarians by the time you read this. I love to see the books students gravitate towards the first few times they come.

Students frequently have a problem misplacing their books. If books are a part of “car time”, please have a box or a special place in the car that they can put their books. Please remind them as they get out of the car that they need to remember their book. At home, students need specific places to keep library books. The 1st and 2nd grade students were given a colorful plastic bag with their names on them which they may use to carry their library books while in transit or at home in a special place.

Some have been asking about Sally Foster gift wrap. We will send home information the beginning of October. The sale of wrapping paper will run October 5th through October 23rd, with delivery the middle of November.

We are also still collecting BOX TOP labels. Christy Loeber, the library assistant, does an amazing job of tracking these tiny labels and sending them off for \$. We are always grateful for how many come in and for how many books they buy. Thank you and keep collecting them.

Reading

All new 5th and 6th graders as well as all 2nd through 4th graders reading evaluations are completed. Letters detailing the reading evaluation results were recently sent home. Those parents whose students need a nudge in their phonetic analysis, vocabulary or comprehension are being notified.

It is a great joy to see the growth ALL of our students make in reading. And, I love helping those students who are just figuring out the whole “reading system” in their growth. We have great readers and library users!

Candi Donovan

Librarian and Reading Specialist

Physical Education

Bellevue Christian's Philosophy of Physical Education

Our bodies are marvelous gifts from God. Using these gifts wisely can bring honor to Him. Therefore, it seems right to enhance the body's effectiveness and improve the individual's personal potential through activity. These efforts are worthy in His sight as long as they honor Him and we give Him the glory for what is accomplished. In physical education students will grow physically and emotionally through a combination of physical fitness, skill improvement and social skills development. This will be accomplished with practice individually, in small groups and in larger game situations. All students will have an opportunity for equal levels of participation. Our measures of effectiveness will not involve comparing student's abilities but will encourage each student's level of personal improvement.



Meet Mr. Adams

Welcome to P.E. for the 2008-2009 school year. As many of you already know, my name is Paul Adams and this is my fifth full year as the P.E. teacher here at Mack. I graduated in June of 2003 with my B.A. in Physical Education. I have played sports and have been physically active all of my life and I'm excited to continue to pass this passion of mine on to my students. Right now the two sports I enjoy the most are soccer and golf. Not even our Seattle weather can keep me from the soccer field or golf course.

My goal in P.E. is to introduce as many activities as possible, to teach the skills necessary to be successful in these activities, and to make P.E. fun. By doing this I hope to encourage students to a life of physical activity outside the P.E. classroom. My desire is that every student here at Mack will love being physically active.

I will be coaching at the Junior High in the afternoons so I may be hard to reach at times. Feel free to email or call me if you have any questions or concerns, and you are always welcome to drop by just to say hello.

Paul Adams

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Physical Education Expectations

The BCS Physical Education Department has an extensive four-point evaluation system for the different levels of student participation. I will be evaluating students based on this system for their participation grade. Students in grades 1st - 6th will also receive a grade for their physical fitness and skill improvement throughout the year. Full participation is expected in my classroom, so unless the student has a signed note from home he/she must participate in all activities. I also would like to ask that parents and students learn the days their child/children have P.E. and help to remind them to wear appropriate clothing on those days.

Tennis shoes (no sandals, high heeled shoes or boots)
Pants or shorts (no dresses or skirts)

Essential Learning's

Cooperation
It's Hip to be Fit (Presidential Fitness testing)
Motor Learning
Balance and Coordination
Sending and Receiving
Power, Speed, Agility and Endurance

Sample of Activities

-Soccer
-Juggling
-Bowling
-Fitness Testing
-Basketball
-Lacrosse
-Volleyball
-Track and Field
-Frisbee
-Unicycle
-Hockey



Dear Mack Band Parents and Students,

This year is off to a high flying start! Our fifth graders are taking off in band. We are using Standard of Excellence book 1 for the course. Students are learning the basic fundamentals of instrumental performance including, putting the instrument together, taking it apart, cleaning and caring for the instrument, correct instrument holding position, proper breathing for playing an instrument, correct mouth formation, and oh yeah, how to actually read and understand music!

Our sixth grade students are building on all the above from last year and working on two pieces, Montego Bay and Regal March.

There will be a concert on **Tuesday, November 17th at 7 pm** for **BOTH** 5th and 6th grade students.

The concert will be at the BCS Clyde Hill Campus.

6th graders will report to Clyde Hill Campus at 6 pm for a brief practice.

5th graders will report to Clyde Hill Campus at 6:30 pm for a brief practice.

Parents, you'll be amazed at how far our students have come!

Love,

Mr. Ekpo



Macklab Happenings



It was great to see how much the returning Mack students had changed and grown over the summer and to meet the new students at Mack. Classes have settled in to a routine and things are going well.

All classes are beginning with a review of my expectations of the students.

2nd Graders will learn to find folders and open files in the lab. They will be reading interactive books and playing math games. In October, I will introduce them to home row and keyboarding.

The 3rd graders will begin by reading some interactive books. Then, they will be practicing their keyboarding skills and memorizing the proper fingering for home row. During the next few months, we will be doing some short writing assignments to practice keyboarding and to learn how to format documents.

The 4th graders began typing up interviews of parents about their parent's first day of school. They also wrote about their first day of school. Soon they will be drawing a picture of a barn that Charlotte and Wilbur would like to live in. Next, they will be writing a descriptive paragraph about their barns which we will practice formatting with. In October and November, we will be doing a lot of keyboarding.

The 5th graders and any new 6th graders at Mack started the year with a discussion of the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) for Internet Use at Bellevue Christian Schools. After passing a test on the AUP, they will be given student accounts at BCS that include an email account. We have discussed good uses of the email accounts (practice keyboarding, emailing in assignments typed at home...) and poor uses of email (sending rude messages...). We will continue to have discussions on Internet Safety. In the coming months we will be keyboarding and working on assignments that integrate in to their classroom work.

The 6th graders are starting the year with a review of the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) for Internet Use at Bellevue Christian Schools. We have discussed good uses of their email accounts (practicing keyboarding, emailing in assignments typed at home...) and poor uses of email (sending rude messages...). We will continue to have discussions on Internet Safety. In the coming months we will be keyboarding. You can help them become better keyboarders by encouraging them to type (lists, emails, thank you's) and then watching to see that they are using the proper fingering.

Please feel free to email me with any questions you might have at clafayette@bellevuechristian.org .

Spotlight on Art



Welcome Back!

As we begin a new school year we will explore together what it means to have Christ at the center of everything we do, how that affects our care for each other and the stories we tell with our art.

At all grade levels we are working with line in a variety of applications, from observing and identifying line families, to using line to create texture and three-dimensionality.

- Kindergarten:** These students have been identifying different types of line and using them to 'introduce' themselves to me through self-portrait.
- First Grade:** We are exploring lines found in our classroom and in God's creation, and using our discoveries to draw a favorite tree using a variety of lines.
- Second Grade:** Our focus has been on how artists plan things in their minds and on paper. We have been using this with review of lines to draw pictures of beautiful places.
- Third Grade:** Using thick and thin lines from all the line families, these students have been designing and creating sketchbook covers.
- Fourth Grade:** These students are using a variety of lines to design fish, focusing first on the main form of the fish, then moving to the addition of textured detail.
- Fifth Grade:** Fifth graders have been experiencing a variety of ways to use line in sketchbook exercises such as creating shadow and texture in still life and using a viewfinder to select an outdoor scene to capture.
- Sixth Grade:** Documenting ideas in their sketch books, and thinking about how to create a visual reminder in the classroom of keeping Christ at the center, these student are already flexing their collaborative muscles. They have also been creating a hand sampler of line used to create shadow, two-dimensional, and three-dimensional effects.

If you have any questions, or would like to visit class, please email me at nhazen@bcsmail.org. It's such a delight to be back this year with your students. I'm thanking you and our Lord Jesus for the privilege of working with your students!

God Bless You Richly,
Nancy Hazen

Counseling Corner

Wow! Fall is officially here but it feels more like summer. Welcome again to our new families. In addition to the new kindergarteners we have about 15 students joining Mack in grades 1-6. I encourage you to meet these families and help them feel welcome. We are off to a good start to the year and the excitement about Jog-A-Thon this week is building.

Here is what has been happening with counseling lessons so far this year.

My lessons in the Kindergarten through third grade classrooms began by building relationships through activities, stories and sharing. I also sought to remind students that they are uniquely created by God and therefore of great value. Helping students develop a better understanding of themselves and others can help prevent problems and improve our relationships.

½ day K- This year I will be going in the first Thursday of each month. We had our first lesson and introduced *DUSO* the dolphin and a story talking about the need for rules when working in a group. This is a storybook curriculum that focuses on “Developing an Understanding of Self and Others”. We also read a story titled, *When I care about others*.

Kindergarten- I will be visiting on Wednesdays this year. We covered the same stories as ½ and also read about *A New Friend* (from the same book) looking at a sea otter named Sophie and how each sea animal is unique and different. We then began discussing how God has made each person very different as well.

1st grade- We are meeting weekly on Wednesdays. We started with a People Hunt activity getting to know one another by looking for differences and qualities about a person. We then began looking at ourselves and students have been drawing themselves and naming some things about them: What they like, dislike, are good at, family, and when they grow up.

2nd grade- Has looked in closer detail at the many ways that God has made us unique and special, on both the outside (bodies) and inside (personality, likes, dislikes, etc). Students have been determining what characteristics are distinctive to them. Students have also been using drawing and writing to communicate these differences.

3rd grade- Had the opportunity to use their new Bibles that they received in chapel, to look more closely at Jesus response to the question, “What is the most important of all the commands, “To Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love your neighbor as yourself”. Students worked in groups to figure out what keeps us from doing that and how can we love God and others. We will be meeting every two weeks on Wed (Hitchcock) or Thursday (Schadler).

5th grade- I met with Ms. Gibbs’ class and students discussed getting along with others, We reviewed how to identify bullying behaviors and what to do if you see someone being treated badly or if happens to you.

6th grade- I helped Mrs. Dawson’s class learn more about the many ways people are smart by using the Multiple Intelligences model or “7 kinds of smart”. Students are challenged to discover ways in which they are smart.

If you have questions or concerns, or just want to talk please call me at ext. 434 or email gberge@bellevuechristian.org

Thanks,

Gene Berge