



Cluster News Grade 1 2019

## Technology with Mr. Jacobson



During the month of January, we will begin working on our Animal Books in *Pixie*. The students have learned how to change text boxes into speech bubbles, which indicates that a character is speaking. This month, they will learn how to customize their speech bubbles, and will also learn how to change the size, style and color of their words. Please remember to check the Portaportal as we update it often with links to different websites.

## Music with Ms. Saunier

Welcome back and Happy New Year! For the month of January, students will be continuing to develop their understanding of musical pitch, which are the high and low sounds we hear in music. They are now able to sing a musical scale using “Do Re Mi Fa Sol La Ti Do,” and will learn how to use these musical notes to play melodies and songs. We will be experimenting with fun instruments such as the xylophone, colorful boomwhackers and jingle bells!



## Art with Ms. Ally-Khan

First graders will learn about giraffes during the month of January! Students will work on paintings of giraffes in their habitat using watercolor paints. Our students will also learn art vocabulary such as background, middle ground and foreground, and they will apply these terms to their artwork.

### Suggested Art Books

*National Geographic KIDS Giraffes*, by Laura Marsh

*George The Generous Giraffe*, by Kam Trumbo



## Art with Ms. Parisi

In January, class 1-319 will participate in an artist study about artist Frida Kahlo. Frida Kahlo de Rivera, who is a Mexican painter, mostly painted self-portraits. Inspired by Mexican popular culture, she employed a folk art style to explore questions of identity, gender, class and race in Mexican society. Her paintings often had strong autobiographical elements and mixed realism with fantasy.

During this unit students will read *Frida* by Jonah Winters, and will learn about the life and struggles of the artist. Students will also view and critique two self-portraits painted by Kahlo called the *Self-Portrait with Necklace of Thorns*, and *Hummingbird and Me and My Parrots*. Students will then develop a multi-media self-portrait inspired by the life and work of Frida Kahlo.

Check out Mrs. Parisi's teacher page on the P.S. 108 website. Please be sure to look at the menu of extra credit assignment that can be completed and handed in to Mrs. Parisi for extra credit in art.



## Art Tips

1. Re-create what we have been working on in art class at home! Gather your own art supplies and create a drawing or painting at home of giraffes in their habitats.
2. Check out #metkids by The Metropolitan Museum of Art for an interactive children's guide to the museum.

<http://www.metmuseum.org/art/online-features/metkids/>

## Musical Theater with Ms. Lodescar

January is here! For this month, the students will begin their first drama performance of "The Three Little Kittens". This classic nursery rhyme will be turned into a theatrical experience as the students become different characters and take on the roles of the "mama cat" and "baby kittens." They will use their actor's tools to portray these characters and will then take their performances to different classrooms in order to showcase their skills. They will continue to acquire skills to help them build confidence independently, while learning to work together to build ensemble. It is indeed an exciting time for our students!



## Physical Education with Ms. Klein, Ms Acquaviva and Mr. Veltre



During the month of January, the focus for first grade students will be the Cooperative Games Unit. The purpose of a Cooperative Games Unit is to foster teamwork and cooperation and to incorporate sports skills in a novel way. In addition, Cooperative Games also gives the students a chance to work cooperatively with a group toward a common goal, which is to develop a positive relationship and learn to respect fellow students. Cooperative Games reinforce spatial awareness, direction awareness, which is the ability to move in a variety of directions such as forward, backward, and sideward, and awareness of pathways, which is the route one would take to get from one point to another. Some of the games we'll be playing include Freeze Tag, Duck, Duck, Goose, Builders and Bulldozers, Hungry Hungry Hippo, Shark Tag and possibly a few others. Finally, a Cooperative Games Unit improves communication and decision making skills, challenges students to think of and use strategies, and incorporates skills such as leadership, teamwork, and trust. Most importantly, it emphasizes participation and challenges the student to think outside the box.

## Physical Education FYI

\*\*\*Important note to parents

On the day your child has Physical Education, please send an extra bottle of water with them on that day. The children need to drink plenty of liquids so they can stay hydrated while doing physical activities. Thank you.

## Dance with Ms. Charles

In January, the first grade students will use what they learned in ballet to choreograph a dance sequence that is either adagio, slow, or allegro, fast. After classifying ballet steps as fast or slow, the children will use reference sheets to make a dance that includes only adagio movements or only allegro movements. They will start and end their dance still and put movements in the middle. They will then rehearse their dances with a partner and perform the dance for the class.

Supporting Dance Education at Home: Ask your child to share the dance they choreographed with you.

Suggested Website: [www.dance-kids.org](http://www.dance-kids.org)

## STEM with Ms. Schock



For the month of January, first grade engineers will help Mr. Frost transport jingle bells without anyone hearing them. They will begin by researching packaging devices and design a prototype that can transport a jingle bell while muting the sound. Finally, they will construct and test their designs!