

September

Cluster News 2nd Grade 2019-2020

Music with Ms. Saunier

Welcome to Music class! The September goals for music class are to establish both classroom routines and positive relationships with the students. We will learn how to sing welcome songs, which will include the students' names so we can say hello to each person in the class and get to know each other. Welcome songs will be followed by a rhythm activity (clapping, tapping and speaking rhythms in a call-response format). The main activities of our class will include listening to music and responding to it by singing, using body movements, drawing and/or playing instruments to depict both musical knowledge and an emotional connection to music. The ability to both recognize the steady beat/pulse of a song, and to learn new rhythmic patterns, will be our learning targets for this month. To end class, we will review and discuss our experiences, followed by singing a goodbye song. These activities will serve as a fun jump start to our year! Please enjoy this article written about the benefits of music in our schools. Thank you for your continued support of music education at P.S 108Q!
<http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/music-arts/the-benefits-of-music-education/>

Stem with Ms. Schock

Welcome back to the 2019-2020 school year! I'm looking forward to working with your children as we dive deeper into the STEM world! Throughout September, we will begin to learn about QR codes and how we can use them in our classroom. For more information about QR codes, check out the following website:

<https://www.unitag.io/qrcode/what-is-a-qrcode>

Technology with Mr. Jacobson or Ms. Fornataro

Welcome back to another great school year! In order to set the groundwork for a successful year, second graders will begin with computer basics. For second grade, these basics include opening and closing computer applications, creation of folders and saving their work. This month, the students will also begin creating slides in *Pixie*, based on the theme of friendship.

From time to time, whether in the classroom or in the computer lab, students will be working on the Internet. Many of the websites that your students will be using can be found on our Portaportal websites noted below. These sites will be changing throughout the year and contain many educational activities that can enhance your child's education.

<https://guest.portaportal.com/jacobsond>
<https://guest.portaportal.com/tformat>

Art with Ms. Ally-Khan

Welcome back to school! Our year ahead will be filled with a lot of fun art activities. Students will participate in activities in drawing, painting, collage, sculpture and printmaking. I will be visiting classes 206, 209 and 313 once a week for art and we will be using many types of art materials over the course of the year.

During the month of September, we will review art class rules and students will begin working on their first art project. In addition, during the year I will be posting links to different art museums and art events that are taking place in New York City that you and your child can take part in. I look forward to a great year filled with a lot of fun art projects!

Suggested Websites:

www.crayola.com (includes art activities that you can work on at home)

Art with Ms. Parisi

This year the second grade is looking forward to an exciting year in art. During the course of the year, we will be experimenting with various materials and techniques in drawing, painting, collage, sculpture, printmaking and two-dimensional design. We will be developing art literacy by looking at and discussing art, developing a visual arts vocabulary, reading and writing about art, and interpreting and analyzing art. We will explore how art is connected to other disciplines and learn to recognize how art influences our observations and interpretations of the world around us.

To begin our year in art, students will be reviewing art rules and procedures. Students will also critique the artwork of Dutch artist Corneille. Students will then develop an animal drawing using oil pastels. Please make sure that your child comes to art class equipped with the necessary tools. All students should have pencils, erasers, rulers, crayons, a scissor and a glue stick. Students should also bring in an old large shirt clearly labeled with their name to be used as a smock. Please help keep the classroom clean. Please have your child bring in a roll of paper towels and a box of baby wipes to be used during art.

Art Tip

Queens Museum - Free Drop In Art Workshops

Queens Museum of Art: Flushing Meadows Corona Park
Queens NY 11368

Telephone: (718) 592-9700

info@queensmuseum.org

Sundays 1:30pm - 4:30pm

Children 5 and up with their adult companions.

Dance with Ms. Charles

September is National Yoga Month! As students learn and practice their routines and procedures for dance class, they will begin their study of Yoga. This series of stretches began in India thousands of years ago and will be used in a secular way to promote healthy living. The word YOGA means: "unite," which refers to how the body, brain and breath must work together in harmony to maintain balance and strength. Students will use breathing and stretching to focus their attention on controlling their body. They will learn a modified "sun salutation" or "good morning stretch" as a warm-up sequence. Students will explore various poses, or held positions, using kid friendly flashcards.

Remember on dance days, students must wear uniform clothes that they can move in and sneakers. Any student not dressed appropriately will not be allowed to participate in class. *Please bring in ONE box of tissues for the dance space in the auditorium.

Supporting Dance Education at Home:

Students love to pretend to be teachers. Allow your student to teach you the "sun salutation" or his or her own warm-up sequence of poses.

Yoga is a great way to energize our bodies. Taking deep breaths brings needed oxygen to our brain and muscles. Doing yoga first thing in the morning is a great way to start the day. Make it a routine in your home to start each day with a few stretches or yoga poses and watch how energized you are all day!

Yoga can even be done with a partner. There are classes designed specifically for a family yoga experience. Check your local YMCA or yoga studio for more information.

Physical Education with Ms. Klein, Ms. Acquaviva or Mr. Veltre

Welcome back to school and Physical Education! The Physical Education curriculum will be focusing on developing skills in various sports and staying fit and healthy through fitness. In addition to skill development, the curriculum strives to develop positive student habits, attitudes and knowledge so that each child can realize his/her own potential. Students will be assessed during each instructional unit, will also be assessed in the NYC Fitnessgram, and will be weighed and measured to determine their Body Mass Index (BMI). Parents will be able to review their child's NYC Fitnessgram report online by setting up a NYC Schools Account and checking it later on in the Spring. Most Physical Education classes meet once a week. Please check with your child to see which day(s) they may have gym. On that day(s), please have them wear sneakers to school. **Sneakers are the only requirement and the sneakers should have laces or velcro.** Please no slip-ons. For safety reasons, students are asked to refrain from wearing jewelry on their gym day(s).

Students unable to participate in a Physical Education class due to illness or injury, must submit written notification to the Physical Education teacher from either a parent or physician. If a student is excused from Physical Education by a physician, the student is required to have a note from the physician when they are ready to return to regular physical activities.

If your child has **Asthma** or any medical condition that you feel we should be aware of, please let us know. Also, please get in contact with the school nurse to make sure your child's medical record is up to date.

Musical Theater with Ms. Lodescar

Welcome to musical theater! For those who are new to the program, I'm excited to go with our students on this exciting journey of imagination and adventure.

I'm confident that it will not only yield many benefits for your child's overall artistic development, but mixed with musical concepts and singing, your child will experience a deeper appreciation for the arts and will have a lot of fun in the process. For this month, students will build on the foundational skills in theatre. They will focus on theatrical vocabulary and expand their knowledge on the elements of theatre. They will explore how characters use their "actor's tools" to embody different characters and scenes of a play while working with their peers to solve problems.

They will also 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!

Please note that students will be engaging in a lot of movement activities, therefore comfortable clothing and shoes are suggested for that day.