

# Broomfield Academy

## Specialty Class Newsletter December 2008



### Espanol

It has been a great new year in Espanol class. I have been pleased at how much the kids remembered over the summer and how much they are advancing this year. With the Explorers we started on our basic *Buenos Dias* (good morning) song and we have been really learning our colors and numbers and days of the week in Spanish. We also learned some words for things in the classroom and the word for house and school, casa and escuela. In JK we have spent the some time going over colors, numbers, days of the week, seasons, good morning, good afternoon and good night. They have learned things in the classroom and how to say where is....? They also have learned some house words and to say, *Estoy en la escuela* (I am in or at school). They are learning small phrases and lots of vocabulary. Kindergarten Mountain and Kindergarten Hansen have been working on lots of vocabulary and small phrases as well such as *donde esta*.... (Where is). We play Simon says in Spanish and they have learned parts of the body as well as family names and words. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> have been doing Spanish packets with a textbook and CD. They have taken packets chapters' 1-4 home and can practice at home with these. I am hoping to get copies of the cd out so that they can take them home to practice with as well. They are really learning a lot of Spanish. 3-6<sup>th</sup> have started working on verbs, subject pronouns, phrases, and lots and lots of vocabulary. Everyone is doing a wonderful job keeping up. I look forward to next semester.

I am going to be out of the country for the three weeks in December. Miss Honor will be my substitute. I have left her detailed plans and supplies for things to do in Spanish. She is looking forward to having the classes. I will be back after Christmas break. I will also have information in January for those interested in Spanish club. Keep it in mind it really has been a great reinforcement for students. *Hasta luego amigos!*

Ms. Varani

### Mandarin Chinese

Hello Parents,

I am very happy to report that your children have made great progress in learning Chinese.

**EX, JK and K** – They learned greetings, numbers, family members and animals. They can sing the song “I love my family”, “ten fingers” and the song of duck. They also learned a poem about a cat and a dog. They have made their first Chinese book (family members). We will continue working on animals and we are going to make the second Chinese book. (animal book)

**1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade** - They just learned school supplies (book, backpack, pencil, eraser, scissors, rock, paper). They play rock, paper, and scissors in Chinese, and made a Chinese book of school supplies. They are starting to learn how to write a Chinese character now. They also can count Chinese numbers 0-100. They are very good on the colors, animals, and family members. They have learned a couple of Chinese songs and poems.

**Grade 3-6** – They continue to work on speaking, writing, reading and listening. They work very hard and much more advanced. They can introduce themselves in both ways (speaking and writing): “*my name is \_\_\_; I am \_\_\_ years old; and I was born the year of \_\_\_; I am American; I am not Chinese; I go to the Broomfield Academy; He or she also goes to Broomfield Academy, etc.*” We started working on the family members this week.

Happy Holidays!  
Ms Li

### **All the News in the Art World at Broomfield Academy**

All of the students have been busy this year. The Art and Technology departments decided that it would be great to create a Student Art Calendar. Every student’s art is displayed in this calendar.

**Junior Kindergarten** – The junior kindergarten has been busy learning and using a variety of art techniques in conjunction with the Land of the Letter People curriculum.

**Kindergarten** – The kindergarten classes have been working with oil pastels and paint as well as improving their simple cutting techniques.

**First Grade** – The first grade has studied the life and art of Van Gogh. They have also worked on various techniques and studied abstract art. The next unit they will study will be a unit on Cave Art. They will be creating their own cave wall to be displayed in the hall outside of the Computer Room and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

**Second Grade** – The second grade has studied the life and art of Paul Klee. They have also created and studied still lifes and optical illusions.

**Third & Fourth Grade** – These two classes have created their own color wheels that are displayed in the hall. They have studied line, color, and pattern theory. And most recently, they are working on Chinese landscapes.

**Sixth Grade** – The sixth grade has studied Greece and as a result created drywall friezes. They are currently working on perspective drawing.

Khristina Dean  
Art Teacher



### **Technology News from Broomfield Academy**

All of the students have been busy this year. The Art and Technology departments decided that it would be great to create a Student Art Calendar. Every student’s art is displayed in this calendar.

**Junior Kindergarten** – The junior kindergarten has been busy working on projects in conjunction with the Land of the Letter People curriculum. The students have also been getting familiar with Millie’s Math, Sammy’s Science, etc.

**Kindergarten & First Grade** – These two classes recently finished the *Log On* unit and will be starting the *World’s Fair Unit*.

Second Grade – The second grade has been studying Westward Expansion in class. To reinforce the curriculum, the students created a Power Point slide show that was displayed at the Winter Festival. Next the second grade will be studying simple machines and will learn all about them visiting the website [www.edheads.org](http://www.edheads.org).

Third & Fourth Grade – These two classes created their own Wanted & Hero posters using Word. Next they will be “generating” a report on energy. Each student will pick which method they would like to use to write this report.

Sixth Grade – The sixth grade is working on Power Point presentations on “What’s happening in our World” which will be shown at the Award Program. They are also working on various projects within the school. They have been getting familiar with Excel, table charts, pie charts, and graphs.

Michele Horn  
Computer Teacher



## Music News

In EX/JK and Kindergarten, we've been doing a lot of fun call-and-response songs- some silly, some to help with learning ABC's, counting, or parts of the body. We emphasize finding the "steady beat", and often we will either take turns playing the steady beat on different percussion instruments and/or demonstrating the steady beat, different tempos, and different styles by walking, hopping, running, crawling, etc. We've also been listening to songs that tell a story and then students are asked questions to see if they understand the words and comprehend the story. We've had a brief introduction to identifying the different families of instruments and will spend more time with this later in the year. Students have also started to learn to play the xylophone and mellaphone to accompany songs. The past few weeks have been largely focused on preparing for the winter program and I was really happy to see how well the younger students handled the “big stage.”

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders have been having a strong singing start to the year. It has been a pleasure to see their rapidly improving reading skills crossover into reading music as well. We have been learning how to follow along with written music, including identifying repeats, different sections of musical form, and distinguishing between verse-and-refrain. They have been picking up quickly on xylophone and mellaphone skills, playing arranged parts as well as improvising their own accompaniments to songs. It is very exciting to see these students develop as actors and singers on the stage- they did an excellent job as our Football team, cheerleaders and pilgrims in the winter program.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders started off the year with a little bit of call-and-response singing, especially using the “blues” and some African American spirituals. We quickly transitioned into an introduction to playing recorder. Students have begun to combine reading music skills with instrumental technique and have done a great job learning songs with the first four notes on recorder. We took a break from recorder as we focused on preparing for the winter program, but we will continue with our work on recorder in January. We are finishing out the year with some holiday “partner” songs, exploring how two songs can be sung simultaneously to create various harmonies and inter-locking rhythmic patterns. It is fun to have such an enthusiastic and talented group of musicians and actors to work with.

The 6<sup>th</sup> graders have been doing a great job on beginning instrumental music on the trombone, saxophone and trumpet. They have been steadily improving their tone quality and reading music skills and are starting to put together music with individual parts. We spent some time in the past month preparing for the winter program,

but we will return to the instruments full-time again in January. Our goal is to put on a brief instrumental performance in late January or early February.

Ms. Kleinsteiber

### PE News

We have had an exciting fall filled with many different activities. As winter approaches, just a reminder that the children are outside most days so please try to have them dress warmly and to come prepared for any kind of weather.

Each of the classes spent the first several weeks working on and talking about the importance of safety and appropriate ways to move while playing various movement and tag games. This will be consistently reviewed throughout the school year.

**Junior Kindergarten** have been doing different activities that reinforce the letters they are learning each week such as freeze tag for F, balance and balls for B, and tossing and throwing for T just to name a few. In November, they worked on learning how to jump a turning rope and then started on individual jump roping with a large part of the time being spent learning out to swing the rope over their heads so that they could step over it.

**Kindergarten** worked on soccer, learning skills such as kicking and trapping and dribbling the ball. Then they worked on tossing and throwing skills through playing different games and rotating through various stations, which focus on both of these things. The month of November was spent working on jumping both long and short ropes. It was fun to see their confidence grow as they learned how to figure out the timing needed to jump in rhythm.

**First and Second grades** also worked on soccer skills with the focus being on ball control and accuracy in kicking. They worked on tossing and throwing skills and then on to jump roping as well. They learned how to run into a turning rope using both the “front door and back door” techniques. This was exciting as they learned not to hesitate and were able to confidently run in and begin jumping. Then they progressed on to individual ropes and some of the students started on basic jump rope tricks.

**Third – Fifth grades** started on soccer skills playing many different lead-up games to teach or practice all of the basic skills. Next they worked on football skills, which focused on accurately passing, throwing and catching as well as learning some of the basic positions. Like the other classes, they worked on jumping ropes both in groups and individually starting with some of the more basic tricks and then moving on to more advanced ones.

January will begin with each of the classes doing Sport stacking with speed stack cups. They always enjoy this and have a fun time playing different games with the cups and trying to increase their stacking times to beat their existing records.

**February is Heart month and I would like to ask if there are any parents, family members or friends in the health field who would be able to come in to give a presentation for the children on the importance of nutrition and exercise, how the heart and lungs work, effects of smoking on the body, or anything that might be related to this. I would really appreciate it. Please let me know if you might be able to help out by sending an email or contacting me directly at 303-469-6314. Thank you!**

Have a wonderful break and a very Happy Holiday Season!

Mrs. Julie Shelley