

SPRING 2016 MUSIC & ART NEWSLETTER

P.S. 124 THE SILAS DUTCHER SCHOOL

MARCH-APRIL 2016

ARTS IN THE PS 124 COMMUNITY



Ms. Truppi and Mr. Conrad,

Ms. Truppi has been hosting work on our **Mosaic Mural Project on Tuesday afternoons from 2:45 to 5:00pm**, with parents and caregivers and children and Judy Hoffman, a local artist from Arts Connection. Everyone enjoys snacks and works on panels of the great mosaic project for our entryway.

The finished work will be on permanent view inside the Fourth Avenue entrance on the left wall, following an unveiling ceremony this spring, around the time of our Spring Festival. The project is funded in part by the grant program for Arts for English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities thanks to the NYCDOE Office of Arts and Special Projects.

There are still openings for families who want to join in the mosaic project: the second session is starting on March 15. Send an e-mail ps124pta@gmail.com or speak to Ms. Truppi or Ms. Maxil if you want to participate.

Just before the Presidents Week break, students in all grades enjoyed a special concert of **live classical music** in the gym space, when P.S. 124 hosted a recital of cello and piano, courtesy of the Foundation for the Revival of Classical Culture. Performers Kevin Mills on cello and Rita Rovenskaya on piano performed pieces by Edward Grieg's cello sonata, and Beethoven's first cello and piano sonata in F major. After each set, they took questions (and comments) from children of all ages.

Shakespeare for Sprites: Students in first grade have just started to work next door to the school at Gallery Players on a version of Shakespeare's tragedy known as "the Scottish Play" (M*cbeth). The children will have multiple speaking parts, learn stage language, practice stage presence and work collaboratively to present an engaging production in May. This P.S. 124's fifth year with the Bard.

In the Art Studio 308:

Pre-K Students are working as architects and designers, first drawing their plans and now starting to build the wood sculptures based on their designs.

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K and 1st graders have both been doing a deep study of animals: the kindergartners spent time with Eric Carle's *The Artist Who Painted a Blue Horse* and then went to work on their own animals with watercolors and oil pastels on paper. The first graders studied an amazing book called *Alphabeasties* but they are working as printmakers, creating relief prints of animals.

Second Graders are painting head-to-toe self-portraits, showing themselves doing their favorite activities.

Third Graders recently finished large whole-class collaborations on huge dragons made with painted paper collage. The dragons can both be seen on the 3rd floor near the Library.

Fourth Graders have just completed 3-D painted sculptures inspired by Frank Stella, following their visits to the new Whitney Museum and the Museum of Modern Art.

Fifth grade: Mr. Marsano's and Mr. Tandarich's students have been working as toy designers, creating incredible toys for all ages, along with the tasteful packaging that sets off the toy to its best advantage.

Music at P.S. 124 In music classes, **Pre-Kindergarten** students have been learning Call-and-Response songs like "Down by the Bay", "Bill Grogan's Goat" and "My Aunt Came Back" and the latest addition, "The Other Day, I Met a Bear." They're working on bringing together different hand-held percussion instruments in one "mix" with the rhythm sticks and egg shakers.

Kindergarten children have been learning a fast-paced folk song about a Frog who wants to marry a Mouse (!) and mastering a

rapid series of nonsense words in the chorus ("rocks drop, penny-winkle, flannel-doodle, yellow-buggy"). Instrumental work now involves four groups of students taking turns on different sets of percussion, under the direction of a classmate who "conducts" with hand gestures.

The **First graders** have begun to work seriously with simple notated rhythms of familiar songs and playing the singing game "Wild Birds". New repertoire includes "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" and getting ready to sing rounds. Students in Ms. Contreras' dual-language class have started learning the song "Yo Quiero" by the Afro-Uruguayan *candombe* star Rubén Rada.

In the **Second grade**, students learning to play the Flutophone are working on a challenging song with an expanded tone-set: "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star." They can also play a fast-moving "play-party" singing game called "Frog in a Bucket."

Third graders have pressed ahead with more complex songs on the soprano recorder, including "Happy Birthday." They're using standard music notation with supports to remember the fingering for difficult passages. In the spring both third grades plan to demonstrate their circle dances with the singing games "Turn the Glasses Over" and "I'se the B'ye." Stay tuned.

Fourth graders in the Little Kids Rock guitar program have pretty much mastered playing and singing the Elvis Presley song "Blue Suede Shoes" and are taking a look at "Beat It" by Michael Jackson. Watch for both these songs in performance in the spring.