



Spencer Borden
Fall River Public Schools

Specialist Newsletter
January, 2017

Specialist Newsletter

Computer Class

Typing is a very important skill that each student must develop to support their classroom learning and assignments.

Many of our upper grade classroom teachers have begun to utilize the chromebook computers present in their classes for student assignments, and some have plans in the near future to begin using web-based quizzes for student assessment.

The ability to type with speed and accuracy allows our children to rapidly put their thoughts and words down, and will help them into high school, college, and far beyond.



To further this ability, we use www.typing.com for our third through fifth graders; every student in these grades has been assigned an individual

username and password, and these students can access this at any time from any computer with Internet access.

We have also been working (in grades 2-5) on logging in to student Google accounts. Please have your student show you how they do this!

After school computer day for this month:
January 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th

Parents who wish to have their children stay after school on those Thursdays should send a note in with their child. This will notify both the office and me which students will be staying after school.

Have a great month! If you have any questions, please contact me at cgreen@fallriverschools.org.

Artistic Flair

K- Students will be learning about artist James Rizzi and his fun happy New York City skyscrapers and the quirky birds that he became most famous for.

1- Students will be creating a variety of patterns using lines and shapes combined. They will also be using different color patterns within their designs.

2- Students will be designing their own fantasy castle using simple and more complex shapes for details. Students will also get a chance to use watercolor paints to finish their castles.

3- Students will be learning about artist Pablo Picasso and his style of Cubism. Students will also learn about why Picasso had a Blue Period and a Rose Period. They will be creating a life size guitar using Picasso's style and choosing a color period for their guitar.

4- Students will be checking out the art of artist M.C. Escher and how he created art using tessellations. They will be creating their own slide tessellation and use it to create an original tile pattern design.

5- Students will be learning to mix colors with paint, to fill in a color wheel. They will be using primary, secondary and intermediate/tertiary colors. They will use these color schemes to create a sculpture out of Model Magic clay.

Thank you, and Happy New Year!!!
Ms. Arruda



Important Websites

Dreambox

<https://play.dreambox.com/login/7yrf/spencerbes>

HeadSprout

<http://www.fallriverschools.org/sbheadsprout.cfm>

Prodigy

<https://www.prodigygame.com/Play/>

Typing

<https://www.typing.com/>

Spencer Borden Home Page

<http://www.fallriverschools.org/spencer.cfm>

Musical Notes:

At this time all students in grades 3-5 have received a soprano recorder and begun in class instruction in playing. This program is funded through a generous grant and provides you student the opportunity to gain skill and confidence in music literacy through applied performance. This is a fun activity and most students seem to enjoy playing. School recorders are not allowed to go home at this time, however students will progress more quickly if they are able to practice outside of class. While purchasing a recorder for your child is not necessary, they are frequently available at the Dollar Store or online at Amazon.com. One that I have found adequate is the Lyons Soprano Recorder available for \$2.99 with free shipping from Amazon.com.

Students in the primary grades (grades K-2) are continuing with a developmentally appropriate program of singing games, movement and rhythmic activities. First and second grade students are continuing reading basic rhythmic notation and explore rudimentary pitch notation

If you have any questions, please contact me at vmartin@fallriverschools.org.



PE Class

The K through 2nd grade classes will be participating in a unit based on Motor Skills and Ball Skills. The motor skills practiced in this unit consist of

- Walking forward, backwards and sideward
- Jumping on two feet
- Hopping on one foot then the other, Galloping
- Skipping
- Walking on toes and heels
- Leaping

The ball skills practiced are:

- Bouncing with two hands, left then right,
- Throwing to self and catching
- Throwing and letting the ball bounce once then catching
- Throwing to a partner
- Bouncing to a partner
- Throwing to a specific target

The 3rd-5th grades will be participating in a volleyball unit. These skills will consist of

- Bumping/forearm pass
- Setting/overhead pass
- Underhand or overhand serve
- Practicing or in a game like situation.

The Jump Rope for Heart for k-2 and Hoops for Heart for 3-5 will be kicking off in February. The students will have a meeting with the coordinator of The American Heart Association. The information will be sent home the end of January. If you have any questions please call or email me.

Thank you,
John Harrington

