

SPANISH

Our year in the Spanish class is progressing beautifully. since our December newsletter, students have been engaged in a variety of activities with great enthusiasm. What follows is a brief description of those activities by grade level:

FIRST GRADE

First graders have learned quite a bit of Spanish since the beginning of the year. They have done a great job with some basic conversational greetings and questions, numbers 0-15, colors and animals. They are now incorporating the days of the week, months of the year and calendar questions into every class. The students know quite a few songs; “Hola”, “Los Colores”, “Diez Amigos”, and “Los Días de la Semana” to name a few.

SECOND GRADE

The second graders have done a masterful job completing the topics of weather, vowels and clothing. They now volunteer weekly to do Spanish “trabajos” (jobs) either reporting on “el calendario” or dressing our friend “Jorge”. Students have just completed the unit on “las frutas” and are able to discuss their “frutas favoritas”.

THIRD GRADE

The third graders have covered the entire “alfabeto español” with particular concentration on the vowels, which greatly facilitate pronunciation of all Spanish words. The students have concluded their study of clothing. We enjoyed watching “La Ropa”, a video about a young American man buying clothing in some Mexican shops (en español, of course!). The children also learned “los deportes” (sports). They have been discussing likes and dislikes and speaking about their favorite sports.

FOURTH GRADE

The fourth grade classes have been investigating the Spanish-speaking world. Recently, students finalized their research on one of the 21 Spanish-speaking countries. They worked with partners preparing informational presentations which included country flags and interesting facts. The question of the week

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(pregunta de la semana) has received a lot of student participation. At the conclusion of this activity in May, we will honor the students who have a high level of participation. Currently we are beginning our unit on foods.

FIFTH GRADE

January and February found our fifth graders expanding their repertoire of clothing vocabulary and learning about gender as it pertains to Spanish nouns. We also had a visit from Mrs. Martha Soper, a French teacher at the Curtis Middle School. Mrs. Soper and six of her eighth grade French students have provided the children with some exposure to the French language prior to making a foreign language selection for their 6th grade year. The students were able to pick French names. They also learned how to express likes and dislikes. The students had a wonderful time experiencing another romance language! In mid February our 5th graders had an opportunity to spend their hard-earned pesetas on Mexican and Guatemalan realia at our “Día del Mercado” (market day). Bravo!!