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SLAVENS CODE OF CONDUCT

At Slavens we take the high road. We genuinely care about ourselves, each other and our school. We show and receive respect by using kind words and actions, listening thoughtfully, standing up for ourselves and others, and taking responsibility for our own behavior and learning. This is who we are even when no one is watching.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE



KURT SIEBOLD

"...the learning taking place in schools isn't the same today as it was 100 years ago...The delivery methods used are 21st Century based...these changes can propel us forward in better meeting the needs of our students."

2009: A NEW YEAR BRINGS NEW CHANGES

Here's a riddle: what is ever-changing but always the same? One answer—Education. While it seems education doesn't ever really change, the learning taking place in schools isn't the same today as it was 100 years ago. Kids are still learning, but the process of imparting that learning isn't the same. The delivery methods used are 21st Century based and align with research around Best Practices. While change in education is inevitable, these changes can propel us forward in better meeting the needs of our students.

Listed below are some of the changes in our education work. Though these first two changes are district level adjustments, it seemed worthy to mention these as well.

- Superintendent Michael Bennet has made a change as he accepted appointment to the U.S. Senate. Michael Bennet has been instrumental in bringing about positive changes to the learning taking place in DPS. I believe his leading has positively impacted the principals, teachers and support staff in our schools. His efforts have also translated into an increase in student achievement.
- The Board of Education has named Tom Boasberg as the finalist for DPS Superintendent. Theresa Peña, President of the Board has said, "Tom is by far the leader best qualified to take on the mission of the Denver Plan and move the

District faster toward its goal of leading the nation's big city schools. He is a talented, visionary, committed leader..."

- Based on a parent request brought to our Collaborative School Committee (CSC) and through school and PTA support, we have hired a Reading Specialist to assist our young students who are struggling to read proficiently. We are fortunate to have Jackie Tidd working at Slavens as of January 5th. According to Sally Shaywitz, MD, "Reading is the most important work of childhood and yet as many as one in five children struggle to learn to read, with consequences extending beyond childhood into adult life." Sally Shaywitz is the author of the book *Overcoming Dyslexia*.
- Thanks to Friends of Slavens School (FOSS) and a dedicated donation, Promethean Interactive White Boards will be installed in four of our Slavens classrooms. More information is provided by Robin Kuhlman on the following pages in this newsletter.
- Denver Public Schools (DPS) is pleased to announce the new Center for Early Education at Merrill Community Campus, located at 1551 S. Monroe St. (the "Center"). This new tuition-based early learning concept for children aged

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11TH ANNUAL DINNER AND AUCTION

BY ANNE FRANKLIN

Did you know that the annual Dinner and Auction is the largest fundraiser of the year for Slavens? The money raised goes toward salaries and other essentials—things that make the Slavens community such an amazing one! We need YOU to come and make this night a success!

Show your school spirit by planning to attend this fun event! Retro-themed food and drinks and live music will create the perfect, casual atmosphere for you to bid on lots of fabulous items during the Silent and Live Auctions. Invite your friends and neighbors, too! Invitations will be available for pick up at the Pep Rally on April 3rd.

Want to do more than just attend the auction? Grab a donation form outside of the office and ask your favorite restaurant, salon or retailer to donate an item. Are acquisitions not your thing? Help is still needed for set up and clean up, check out, decorate and more! Contact Anne Franklin scanfrans5@msn.com or Amy Leonard amy.leonard@comcast.net for more details.

Slavens...together in education...WE ARE THE STORM!

JOIN US AT THE AUCTION

Join us April 25, 2009 for the 11th Annual Dinner and Auction at the DU Cable Center.

IF I COULD BE PRESIDENT

BY ARIEL SHUNNESON, 3RD GRADE REPORTER

While I was watching the inauguration of President Barack Obama, I began to think about what I would do if I could be President of the United States of America. I would begin by reading the newspaper every day and trying to stop the bad things that are going on. I would stop war and make sure everyone felt safe to go to their homes. I would make sure that homeless people had a house and food on their tables. For kids who cannot go to school, I would make sure that they have a chance to go. I would not allow people to kill animals anymore and protect the forests that they live in. I would lower taxes so that people have more money in the bank, but they would still have to pay some taxes so that the government has money too. I would make all cars run on batteries so that we could stop global warming and save our planet. I would make sure that people all around the planet have the right to be able to make their own

decisions about what stuff to do. Lastly, I would have a get-away weekend with my family because I would be very tired and need some rest after getting all of these things done.

I decided to ask some of my 3rd Grade classmates what they would do if they were President and here is what they said:

Ellie Simpson says that she would make better lunches in the Slavens School cafeteria, make more playgrounds and let any animal come into the school.

Conner Side says that he would stop all CSAP testing and stop war.

Kyle Moe says that he would stop war and lower taxes.

Grace Leonard says that she would lower taxes.

That is what some of my classmates and I would do if any of us were President of the United States of America. ✎

FIRST ANNUAL FALL SPORTS BANQUET

BY SUZANNE MOUNTFORT

On November 13th, the first annual Slavens Fall Sports Banquet was held. Rather than an extended pot-luck banquet celebrating all of the year's sports as had been held in years past, this night focused on the accomplishments of just Slavens' fall sports teams. These fall teams included flag football, girls softball, boys soccer, girls volleyball, and co-ed cross-country. The one hour banquet allowed the coaches to celebrate the accomplishments of each player, and gave the athletes the opportunity to say, "Thank you," to their coaches. Everyone was treated to slide show of each team's season to showcase their memorable moments.

Slavens is fortunate to have 11 sports teams for a relatively smaller sized DPS middle school of 150 students. The large number of sports teams gives middle school students a greater chance for making the teams on which they want to compete. Many former Slavens middle schoolers highlight this fact as a huge plus for Slavens versus

other DPS middle schools. In addition, Slavens is proud of the academic achievement of its athletes as poor academics leads to a student's ineligibility to play on his/her team. Rarely is this the case at Slavens. Many of Slavens athletic teams have also made it to the semi-final or championship rounds. Trophies showcased in the school lobby celebrate these accomplishments.

In the first week of May, another Sports Banquet in the same format will take place to recognize the accomplishments of the winter and spring teams. The winter season is winding down now. Those teams include 7th and 8th grade boys and girls basketball teams. The spring season includes 6th grade boys and girls basketball, girls soccer, and boys baseball. We look forward to another great celebration of Slavens sports this spring! ✎

"Slavens is fortunate to have 11 sports teams for a relatively smaller DPS Middle School—the large number of sports teams gives students a greater chance for making the teams on which they want to compete"

FIRST GRADE POEMS

WINTER, WINTER, WINTER SNOW

BY ADAM SESSIONS

Snow falling down
like sky divers.

Tracks on the streets,
melted water.

Bushes are white,
no more green.

They look like mini-balls
floating down.

Cars are covered in
a blanket of snow.

SNOW

BY LUCY LOJACONO

Snowflakes dancing
through the wind.

Looking like diamonds
through the sky.

Landing on trees.

Looking like little sweet things.

Looking like diamonds
in the branches.

PLUTO

BY JOE FAMBRINI

Pluto is a big blue ball
floating through space.

It will not go near
any of the planets.

It is bluish-purplish
put together

to make that color.

Colder than dry ice.

Farthest from the sun.

Pluto.

So quiet.

Not making a sound.

SNOW MOON

BY JENNA CERASO

Snow is like a little blanket
on the moon

sparkling from the sky.

Shaped like a big, big star.

When it's dark out
it sparkles.

It looks like

the biggest

moon ever!

MEXICO

BY OLIVIA LANDERS

Hard waves
in the ocean.

Sand castles
with real gates
and trenches.

To capture
the waves.

To protect
the castle
from waves.

And soak
up water
under gates.

SABER TOOTH CAT

BY BEN FITZPATRICK

Roar!

I pounce
at my prey.

I am evil.

I pounce
on my prey.

I am mean
and evil!

Roar!

Roar!

Roar!



Fourth Graders:
Trevor Knauf
and Connor
Hobbs.

INAUGURAL SLAVENS PEP RALLY!

BY LEAH SCOTT

SAVE THE DATE — April
3rd 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Show your school spirit and
come out for a night of fun at
Slavens. The Auction Commit-
tee is hosting a Pep Rally in
conjunction with this year's
Auction. The rally will be held
in the gym and on the play-
ground. All are welcome!

We will be raffling off the
opportunity to spend a day
with Principal Siebold, and all
teacher outings will also be up
for bid.

We are also looking for any
student musicians who would
like to play their instruments or
for cheerleaders who would like
to lead us in cheers. This is a
great way for all of our students to
have some fun, highlight their
talents and show some spirit.

We look forward to seeing
everyone there!

If you are interested in
helping or want to show off
your musical or cheering talents,
please contact Leah Scott at
hileah20@aol.com.

PEACE ACTION CLUB HOSTS SPEAKERS

BY MEG GEHL

In December we hosted a member of the Slow Food Movement. Slow food is an idea, a way of living and a way of eating. It is a global grassroots movement with thousands of members around the world that links the pleasure of food with a commitment to community and the environment. It was very exciting, and we have put together a small task force to help spearhead the current community garden and consider future growth potential within the classrooms.

In celebration of Martin Luther King Day and the inauguration of Barack Obama, we hosted Arthur McFarlane III, the great grandson of W.E.B. Du Bois. Mr. McFarlane presented a fascinating slideshow presentation discussing the civil rights work of his grandfather and how that work helped pave the way for civil rights in America.

Join us for future activities and learning!

BOOK FAIR UPDATE

BY AMY LEONARD, PETRA FRAZIER & CHERYL BADGER

Thank you to everyone who attended this year's Scholastic Book Fair. We hope you enjoyed our new location in the library. The fair was a great success, and we reached 99% of our goal. The final sales were \$9,913.80 which is actually the same as last year! For more details, visit <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/slavens>

WHITE BOARD TECHNOLOGY COMES TO SLAVENS

BY ROBYN KUHLMANN

Soon Slavens teachers and students will experience the cutting-edge technology of interactive white boards in the classroom. This opportunity was made possible by a large designated contribution to FOSS to help expand technology opportunities at Slavens.

Four Promethean Interactive White Boards will be installed by the end of January: three in eighth-grade classrooms, and one in a fifth-grade classroom. These classes were selected based on teacher input and a willingness to put in 30 to 40 hours of professional development. Teachers will receive training on how to use the new boards, thanks to Mary Ann Hogsett, a former Slavens parent and a Promethean Trainer.

The touch-sensitive boards allow teachers and students to interact with an image on the board, whether it be text, pictures or video. Auditory learners benefit from activities that might include listening to music, speech repetition or poetry recitation — all illustrated on the board.

In addition, students can physically interact with the board by writing and manipulating answers directly on it; and by using a unique software program, teachers can assess how well the students are

understanding the material. Promethean Interactive Whiteboards create a motivating classroom, engage students and positively impact their learning.

Kurt Siebold, Slavens Principal commented, "We believe the Promethean Interactive Whiteboards will enrich the learning environment in these classes, and we look forward to adding more of these boards as time and resources permit."

If funding is made possible, Slavens hopes to purchase more of these boards in the future. A demonstration night will be held in the Fall for parents to come see this unique technology in action. To take a look at this innovative product online, go to <http://www.prometheanworld.com/server.php?show=nav.15>

DONATE TO THE EVERY FAMILY COUNTS CAMPAIGN

Your contribution to FOSS brings big opportunities to our kids! If you haven't had a chance, we'd love your participation.

PTA HAS MANY SUCCESSSES

BY AMY SOLTES

The first semester at Slavens has been very busy and successful for the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) thanks to the support of the fabulous parents and teachers at Slavens.

On behalf of the teachers, we would like to thank those of you who responded to our request for donations. Your generosity helped the teachers get classroom items such as: vacuum cleaners, digital cameras, printers and power drills.

The events that the PTA has hosted have been well attended by our families. For instance, we had nearly 300 people at the DU Basketball game on January 29th. It was fun to see the families cheer on DU when they hosted South Alabama at Magness Arena.

There is much more to look forward to for the rest of the year. PTA will host another family event: "Story Night" on March 13. The kids will be encouraged to come to school that day dressed in their pajamas. Then, they can wear their pajamas

that night as they head back to school where they will listen to stories read in the various classrooms and enjoy snacks. Story Night will coincide with the National Education Association's Read Across America 2009 and Dr. Seuss's birthday!

The annual auction is just around the corner on April 25th, and we still need donations. This is our largest fundraiser of the year and the monies we raise help keep Slavens the terrific school that it is. Anything you can donate or get from a local vendor or restaurant will make the event more successful.

For those interested, PTA meetings are on the second Tuesday of every month at 5:30. They are usually less than an hour, and all are welcome and encouraged to attend. If you would like to get more involved in the PTA next year, there are many opportunities. Contact me at 303-561-3491 or soltes@q.com

SCHOOL CULTURE AT SLAVENS

BY TAMARA BARRON

Since its opening in 1995, Slavens has been widely regarded as a shining star in DPS. Several years later, Slavens was one of eight schools in the country recognized as a National School of Character. This award acknowledged the school's commitment to create an environment that fosters ethical, responsible, and caring young people in a school with high academic achievement.

After thirteen years, Slavens has lost some of its founding families, and we have had a number of changes in teachers and administrators and, of course, added many new parents! We are also now a full-fledged K-8 School. With so many changes, the CSC determined that this would be a good time to revisit our school culture. To be effective, school culture must be an intentional, proactive effort. To be effective, our culture must include the entire school community and must be infused throughout the school curriculum and associated activities.

Since the CSC just reaffirmed our school's mission and vision statement, we are in a good position to explore the concept of intentional culture and assess how we as a community are achieving our mission. Our mission statement reads: "At Slavens K-8 School, we provide a rich academic experience that builds a foundation for every student to become a compassionate, ethical, and productive global citizen."

A CSC Subcommittee headed by parent Ashley Kilroy and teacher Barb Smith will spearhead our

efforts here. This subcommittee will consult with parents (both new and long term), teachers and administrators for this project. Any parents and teachers who have some comments can contact one of the co-chairs, who will be reaching out to the community.

SOME OF THE QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED INCLUDE:

1. What is Slavens' culture?
2. How do we educate new parents/ teachers to our culture?
3. How does school culture permeate our daily activities?
4. How do school traditions fit in with our school mission/culture?
5. How does Character Education fit in with school culture?
6. How do you make an intentional culture come alive at Slavens?

Finally, following up on our discussion on school priorities and the pending monies from the 3A Bond, the Facilities Subcommittee of the CSC is formulating a Slavens Master Plan. We hope to leverage the bond money with monies we raise to get additional classroom space. This subcommittee will also consider how the school mission and culture fit into the structural plan. ✎

PRINCIPAL FROM PAGE 1

4 and 5 will open its doors for the 2009/2010 school year. Slavens is one of four schools joining together to provide Early Childhood Education (ECE) classes at Merrill.

- On January 6th, Slavens hosted Kelley King who provided training on the topic "Boys & Girls Learn Differently." Kelley's presentation was informative, practical and gave our teachers some ideas they could implement to better meet the needs of all learners here at Slavens.

We anticipate positive results from these changes. Thanks for your support of our work here at Slavens!

MSPA FROM LEFT

- The Peace Action Club sponsored the Slavens Adopt-a-family holiday project. Many students participated in the wrapping of the gifts, including the entire girls basketball team. Good job girls!
- Slavens athletics had another wonderful year. Participation this year was at an all-time high with more than 30 middle school students participating! Many thanks to Mr. Framke for leading this effort.

If you'd like to learn more about the MSPA or how you can be involved please contact me at arowe@rppublishing.com or 303-929-1681. The Next MSPA meeting is Wednesday, February 11th at 8:15 in the upstairs teacher's lounge. All are welcome to attend.

NEWS FROM THE MSPA

BY ANNE ROWE, MSPA CHAIR

Life continues to be busy at Slavens Middle School and for the MSPA (Middle School Parents' Association). A few highlights since the last newsletter:

- Representatives from the MSPA and the middle school faculty met in November to discuss future activities, ideas and plans for middle school students. The purpose of the meeting was to enhance communication and discuss how the MSPA could best support the faculty and these great activities. The meeting was productive and regular meetings are being scheduled.
- One suggestion was the need to create grade level liaisons/volunteer coordinators to help with a variety of activities/programs. The following parents have volunteered (thank you!)
8th—Kathy Gile/ Shelley Hook

7th—Eva Mendaz/ Suzanne Mountfort
6th—Holly Boren/ Sabra Knauf/ Ashley Kilroy

- The Fall Harvest Dance was a huge success and the students had a great time. Thanks to all the parent volunteers and to the MSPA social chairs: Holly Boren, Ashley Kilroy, Jena Graff and Allison Hartman. The Valentine's dance is just around the corner on Friday, February 13th, so if you'd like to help, just let one of the chairs know or you can contact me.
- The 7th/8th grade Salt/Gold trading activity created by Mr. Framke and Ms. Stoddard (a huge undertaking!) was a lively learning event for everyone! Thanks to the many parents who helped, I think we all have a new appreciation for the challenges of saran wrap.

CONTINUED RIGHT

SIXTH GRADE IS SUPER!

BY SOPHIE KNAUF & BIZ ROWE

Sixth grade has been good so far! These last couple of months have been very productive. We really have gotten better at each subject we have studied. Here is a small summary of what we have been doing in the sixth grade:

We have learned a lot about fractions, such as how to add, subtract, and multiply them. Science has been amazing too. The rocks and land forms study was fascinating! We learned so much about how landforms and how different types of rocks have formed. Ms. Hanna is a wonderful teacher! She guides us through things that don't make sense, and also helps us when we need it.

In Mrs. Miller's classes, we just finished working on our Latin America Study. We each had to find a problem in Latin America like dirty water, natural disasters, poverty, etc., and form a big question around it. A big question is a question that can't be answered directly from the text; it is not a yes or no question; and it is something you are passionate about. My big question was "How Do Hurricanes in Haiti Affect the Animal and Plant Life?" We all did a presentation in front of the class and ended up learning a lot about Latin America. We also have been working on grammar. Everyday we review grammar with the "DLI" or Daily Language Instruction. We have learned everything from nouns to plurals. I personally have seen a growth in my writing skills.

Overall, the start to middle school has been great! With all the amazing stuff we're learning we can't wait for the new experiences that are ahead of us.

GRADE LEVEL HAPPENINGS

KINDERGARTEN BY STACEY LISTER

In December, the Kindergarteners had a great time hosting their dads for Dads and Donuts. We also took a fun field trip to the Firefighters Museum where they dressed up like firefighters and got to "drive" the fire truck. Right now, we are studying penguins and learning a lot of interesting things about them. Soon, we will be starting our dinosaur unit and writing poetry. On February 6th, we will celebrate the 100th day of Kindergarten.

FIRST GRADE BY MINDY LUCERA

The first grade poets are preparing for their "Coffee House Poetry" on Feb. 24 for Mrs. Lucera's classes and on Feb. 27 for Mr. Wagner's class. In math, first graders are creating and solving their own number stories using pictures, numbers and words to help explain their thinking while they solve the problem. First graders are looking forward to joining their fourth grade reading buddies on a field trip to the Mizel Theater on Feb. 26th, and are headed to the Arvada Center on March 10th.

SECOND GRADE BY NATALIE FREI

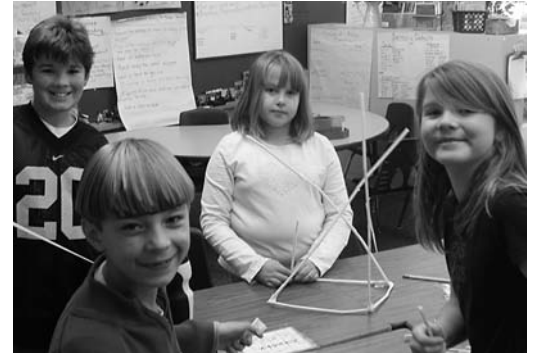
Right now, Second Graders are studying homonyms and how our ears hear sounds: two subjects that go well together! In math, they are continuing to work on addition and subtraction and are beginning to dabble in multiplication and division. Ms. Smith is reading "Little House in the Big Woods", by Laura Ingalls Wilder.

THIRD GRADE BY KATIE FRANKLIN

We sure are busy in third grade! Here's some of the stuff we're up to: We're focusing on fictional stories in writing class and writing stories called *Archie Smith*, *Boy Wonder* and *Under the Rug*. We got these titles from the book *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick*, by Chris Van Allsburg. The book has illustrations and captions, so you can come up with a story. We're learning about geometry in math right now. Before that, it was numbers up to the millions, place value, and decimals. Our science unit is on electricity. We've been doing experiments with motors, wires, batteries, and light bulbs—either trying to make the light bulbs light, or the motor spin. In social studies we're working on our Denver History books. They're either about events or people in Denver a long time ago. We have also been taking Benchmark tests and are now preparing for Reading CSAP that we will be taking in a couple of weeks. The best news is that we have just received our scenes for our Shakespeare plays that we will perform at the Shakespeare Festival in May. Third grade is a very fun, exciting grade.

FOURTH GRADE BY NOAH RABINOWITZ

Now in Science, chemical reactions
For Math, dividing and fractions
Free verse poems don't rhyme
Similes and metaphors take time
Service learning about pollution, full of actions



Team building exercise using straws.

FIFTH GRADE BY JANET WILSON

The 5th graders have been studying the colonial period of American History and exploring the many dilemmas that faced Africans during the slave trading in the 1500s. In Writing, they have been working on poetry. They went to the Arvada Center in January for "Cowboy Poetry". In February they will be heading to the Denver Art Museum for "Exploring Japan" and "Perception Games" tours, and in the spring they will tour the State Capital building and participate in Young Ameritowne.

The fifth graders have been busy investigating heat and changes caused by heat. They have been learning the effects that heat flow has on freezing, melting and evaporation. In math they are looking forward to the Million Dollar Project.

SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADE BY MARCY STODDARD

The 7th and 8th graders of Slavens have been busy working on several activities. First, the 8th had the opportunity to visit several senior care centers in November. It was a great trip! We shared many experiences with these wonderful senior citizens. After the experience we decided to continue being involved and return to visit them during the rest of the school year. A few 8th graders took the holiday greetings we made and distributed them to the care centers. They were very grateful. The whole experience reminds us that there are older people who enjoy having teenagers to talk to. Very soon we will pass this opportunity on to the 7th grade. We are sure they will appreciate it as much as we do. In December we conducted the Salt/Gold trade

CONTINUED ON BACK COVER

ATHLETICS UPDATE

BY DAVID WEISS

Winter season began with a "Storm!" The boys and girls basketball teams got off to a great start. The boys had their best start ever in our ten year history in the prep league. As division play began, both teams have continued to work incredibly hard. We have just past the mid-point of the season and at this time, the boys are competing for a playoff spot and the girls have yet to drop a game. Thanks so much to Coach Rowe and Coach Skuce for all their hard work and motivation.

This spring we will add a boys sixth grade basketball team, and it is the inaugural season of the Broncos Futures tackle football program linked up with the DPS high schools. Those teams, in addition to sixth grade girls basketball, girls soccer and baseball round out the teams for the spring season. Make sure your physical is up to date if you plan on trying out for a team this spring. Contact Mr. Weiss with any questions, David_Weiss2@dpsk12.org. ✨

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

BY DAVID WEISS

As 2009 begins, we continue to focus on increasing our knowledge about fitness and also increasing our students' fitness levels. We have begun our basketball unit and also continue with our Marathon Days as weather permits. The challenge of the small gym on cold days slows us down a bit, but increases our time spent on cooperative games. We will soon begin our large elementary dance unit which will conclude with our class recital. The middle school classes are prepping for their basketball tournament.

Before we know it, our Fitnessgram Post Test will be upon us for grades 4-8. Help your child get outside and move everyday! Please continue to talk to your children about fitness, and how important it is to overall health. Staying active also helps them stay focused on the academic pursuits.

Thanks for all your support!

COMMUNITY ARTS NIGHT REVIEW

BY TIMI BIERMANN

Thanks to the Slavens School community for making "Celebrate Arts Community Night" a huge success! On January 20th, art, music and drama joined together for a spectacular evening. The Mobile Art Collection (presented by Cherry Creek Arts Festival and Janus) transformed the lobby into an art gallery, and student docent Sayna Ghaghchy was available to answer questions and give information about the art. The installation of the Mobile Art Collection was funded by the Alliance Grant and SCFD.

Ms. Barnett's 2nd grade students performed a selection of multi-cultural songs during a performance entitled "Music Helps Us Learn and Play!" The 2nd grade students augmented their angelic voices with instruments such as the wind chimes, bells, boomwhackers, and xylophones. Students' musical knowledge was also demonstrated through their hand signals indicating 3/4 time. The performance closed with an energetic, kinetic version of the American folk song "Here Comes Sally". Students utilized the entire auditorium for their rendition of this classic song. Additionally, select middle school students gave delightful recorder performances in the gallery.

All three of Mrs. Worthman's first grade classes adorably enacted "Elvira", a charming play adapted from the book Elvira by Margaret Shannon. Students wore creatively crafted dragon costumes while acting among fantastical trees and daisies, culminating in a visually stunning performance. The students' energy and enthusiasm carried the audience to a magical place of dragons, royalty, and princesses. Plus, an important message was embedded in the play: it's ok to be your unique self!

Thank you for participating in our Community Arts Night, and for your continued financial support through FOSS. The students love and deserve the support that you so kindly bestow. Art, music, and drama complete your child's whole education, inspire creativity, build confidence, and improve test scores. Also, studying these subjects is incredibly fun! ✨



Above: Heidi Frazer and Olivia Fambrini admire the Mobile Art Collection art. Below: First Graders playing scary dragons from the play "Elvira".



FOURTH GRADERS BRING HOLIDAY CHEER

BY SARA SOLTES

Right before winter break, the fourth graders worked on a holiday project instead of doing something like "Secret Santas". The class was divided into groups of three, and each group had to buy a present for a less fortunate kid. Each group of three was assigned a kid, and we got a card that said their age and the present they would like to get for the holidays, such as a CD or a Clue game. Then, each group had to go with their parents to buy the present and bring it to class before December 18.

On the 18th, instead of a regular holiday party, the fourth graders had a "present wrapping party". We wrapped all the presents and decorated cards

for the kids. Soon after the party the room moms delivered the presents. We all hoped that the kids liked them! All the fourth graders felt really good about doing something for those less fortunate rather than doing something for ourselves. ✎



Left to right: Emily Armstrong, Ashby Bell and Livvy Diddlebock

TOLERANCE

BY ANNALISE POWELL

Hold on...
 Be patient
 Stand up for others
 Lead the way
 Try not to judge
 Observe and respect
 We all have the right to choose
 What we feel is the best
 Differences exist
 Move beyond
 Don't criticize
 Be the one
 Who knows how to
 Listen, not judge and
 Simply learn to accept

CONTRIBUTE TO THE STORM NEWSLETTER

If you have an idea for a story, a comment or a suggestion please contact the publishers:

Lisa Lojaco
 lialojacono@hotmail.com
Amy Feiman
 amyfeiman@comcast.net

Thank you once again to the contributors to the newsletter. We appreciate all you do.



RECORDERS IN THE GALLERY

Kyla Sherap, Emily Gramer, Emily Bell and Caitlin Barron playing the recorder for the Community Arts Night Review.

GRADE LEVEL NEWS FROM PAGE 6

game, written by our math teacher, Mr. Framke. It was fun! We want all the parents to know that we are thankful for everything they gave so that the auction at the end of the game became the high point. In addition to this activity, we are preparing to write our first research paper, learning new math and science concepts, and writing scripts for social studies. The 7th grade has been busy with activities too. One of those is the African Pizza Box project. It has been fascinating to investigate the countries and use our creativity to make our presentations interesting.

In the coming months, both grades will take field trips, show our strength on CSAP and prepare for the end of the year. The best is yet to come!



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 Attendance.....(720) 424-4151
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<http://slavens.dpsk12.org>

MARK YOUR CALENDERS!

FEBRUARY

FEB 8Hearts for the Arts, 6pm
 FEB 10CSC, 3:15pm
 FEB 10PTA, 5:30pm
 FEB 10FOSS, 6:30pm
 FEB 11MSPA, 8:15am
 FEB 12Late Start Day
 FEB 13.....Middle School Valentine's Day Dance
 FEB 16NO SCHOOL
 FEB 17.....NO SCHOOL

MARCH

MAR 10CSC, 3:15pm
 MAR 10PTA, 5:30pm
 MAR 10FOSS, 6:30pm
 MAR 11MSPA, 8:15am
 MAR 13.....PTA Family Night, 6pm
 MAR 23-27 ..NO SCHOOL