

# Specials' Spotlight

Chauncey H. Duker School

February/March 2017

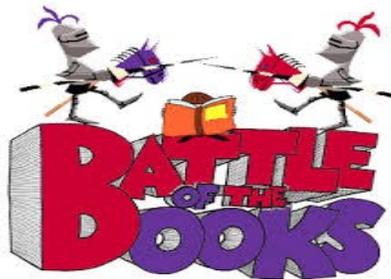
Edition 1, Volume 1

*Welcome to the first Duker Specials' team newsletter. The classes that will be highlighted in this newsletter will be Art, Learning Center, Music, and Physical Education (PE). Every two months, the Specials' team will be sending an update on what your students are learning/working on in our classes. We will also provide you with important upcoming dates specific to each content area.*

## Spotlight on Learning Center-Battle of the Books

The Duker Learning Center is very excited to announce the start of our first ever Battle of the Books!

This is a friendly, **optional** contest that we hope will encourage the students' love of reading and will also introduce them to some new books.



The students have selected teams of 2-4 individuals. Those teams will have until March 13th to read 12 books, which include a variety of genres and reading levels. The competition will be held in four rounds ending in a quiz show format. All rounds will be completed during the school day, either during Learning Center or RTI. Our Semi-Final and Championship Round will be as an all school assembly on May 12th at 9:15.

We are very excited about this fun new way of introducing the students of Duker School to some great books!

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## Dates to Know:

Battle of the Books Round  
#1 — March 13-17th

Celebration of the Arts  
@MMS—March 15 4-7pm

4th Grade Gold Musical—  
March 21st @ 6:15pm

4th Grade Red Musical—  
March 23rd @ 6:15pm

Battle of the Books Round  
#2 — April 3rd-7th

## Spotlight on Music—4th Grade Concerts

Exploration! In their Social Studies classes, students are learning about world expansion and European explorers. To tie in and get some cross-disciplinary education, I wanted to program a concert that deals with expansion and exploration. The concert will feature a total of seven songs: three songs that are whole-grade level, and four songs that are individual class songs. The concert dates are as follows: **4th Grade Gold Team** (Rockers, Justen, Prater, Kittl, and Shrum) is on **Tuesday, March 21 at 6:15 pm**; **4th Grade Red Team** (Raube, L. Nellessen, Vallianatos, Sullivan-Petty, Mesnard, and Miner) is on **Thursday, March 23 at 6:15 pm**. Please note: the concerts are part of your students' grade in music; we are only working on concert material right now during class, so the students are graded on their participation and attendance at the concert. Thank you for being a partner in your child's musical education!!

## **ART**

The **4th grade students** have been working on radial designed paper folding and their artwork is wonderful. They are also finishing up an art project where they had to compose a picture using only one shape. A clay project is on the agenda for February as well as painting a tree in one-point perspective with snow falling.

The **5th grade students** have been working on perspective in drawing themselves falling. Zentangle quilts, optical illusions and Peter Maxx influenced profiles are also in the making. Soon we will be making pipe cleaner/tin foil people sculptures.

## **Learning Center**

The **4th Grade classes** have been working on research skills and researching nondomestic animals. With the research completed in the Learning Center, we will be creating a technology project and presenting to our classmates. The research will also be used to write a research essay for their classroom teacher.

The **5th grade classes** have been working on a biography timeline research project. The students researched an individual who has made an impact in history. They had to use two different sources, an online encyclopedia and a website, to find the necessary information to create a timeline through World Book Online-Timelines. We will be doing a St. Baldrick's internet scavenger hunt and learning how to evaluate good and bad online resources.

## **Music Notes**

Hi parents, and welcome to the first volume of Music Notes for the Specials Spotlight! For those of you who don't know me, my name is Kevin Rowlett, and I'm the music specialist here at Duker School. There are a lot of exciting things happening in music. Recently, the **5th grade classes** finished up their Bass Clef unit, and took their test. I am very proud to say that all classes did a very nice job with it! Currently, students are working individually on a melodic composition. In music, learning how to compose is both fun and important! In class, the students are working to compose an 4-measure melody using Half, Quarter and Eighth Notes, along with Quarter Rests and several letters of the musical alphabet. The goal is to perform these for the class so the students can share what they have created. That's right: your student is going to write their own recorder melody! Looking even further ahead, the students will be starting to learn piano, which is great for brain development; learning to play an instrument activates multiple brain areas all at the same time! The **4th grade students** are hard at work preparing for their upcoming concert!

## **Physical Education**

Starting in second quarter all students participated in a teambuilding unit focusing on the development of teamwork skills through physical challenges. Following teambuilding, all students were engaged in a floor hockey unit, stressing basic skills and modified games. Currently your child is involved in a physical fitness unit. Students will be exposed to many fitness concepts such as the components of fitness, skeletal and muscular anatomy. Several different games will be played to stress these concepts. Also included in this unit is the new state mandated Fitness Gram Test. This test includes a pacer run to evaluate cardiovascular endurance, a push-up test to evaluate upper body strength, a curl-up test to evaluate abdominal strength/endurance, and a sit & reach test to evaluate flexibility in the hamstring muscles. Detailed results of this test will be in your child's second semester report card envelope. Following fitness testing your child will be involved in a basketball skills unit. This unit will also focus on the basic skills, strategies, and rules of the game.

It may seem a ways off, but spring is approaching fast. The Duker field day schedule is as follows: Monday, May 8th—4th gold; Tuesday, May 9th—4th Red; Wednesday, May 10th—5th Gold; and Thursday, May 11th—5th Red. If you would like to volunteer early for your child's field day please contact me. More specific information will be forthcoming in the next Specials Spotlight.

In closing, my invitation is always open to anyone to come and observe your child during any class throughout the year. Keep encouraging your child to exercise outside of physical education classes.