

# PS 198 – Sciences and Arts Corner



September - October 2016



## Technology



### Attention Families:

The specialists are in need of paper. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. ☺

Welcome back to another great year in technology! I look forward to working with the students in the media lab, learning about computers, the Internet, digital citizenship, coding, and much more.

On your child's first visit to the media lab (K-5th grade), they will receive a copy of our school's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP). PS 198's AUP is adapted from the NYCDOE's AUP and outlines appropriate behaviors and expectations when working on a school computer. Please read, discuss, and sign the AUP with your child. It should then be returned to your child's classroom teacher.

During the months of September and October the students through out all the grades are working on computer operations and procedures. These skills are essential for future computer and technology use throughout the school year.

For PK and Kindergarten, this means learning how to correctly use the mouse and keyboard. Through various games and activities the students will learn how to Click, Double Click, and Click and Drag. As adults this can seem simple, but for the youngest students can be a challenge. After mastering the mouse the students will learn beginning keyboard skills which will allow them to eventually log-in to the computers independently.

In 1st and 2nd grade the students will begin by reviewing basic typing skills. The goal for this age group is to use two hands when typing. Always remembering to keep our right hand on the right side and left hand on the left.

Through out the year, a focus for 3rd grade will be developing correct keyboarding skills and positive typing habits. The students will begin by reviewing the homerow and taking the September Typing Assessment. This will provide us with a beginning measurement and allow us to track growth. The students will become familiar with Type to Learn 4. A program they will use through out the year. Always encourage "2 Hands, 10 fingers" on the keyboard at home too!

In 4th and 5th grade the students begin the year with computer procedures and word processing skills. This includes correctly opening and saving documents, typing, formatting text, spelling and grammar check, inserting pictures and much more. This helps the

students be prepared to use the laptops for different projects in their classrooms in the future. The 5th grade students also began the year with a lesson on digital etiquette and citizenship.

**Follow P.S. 198 Technology on Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/mrs.massari.technology](http://www.facebook.com/mrs.massari.technology).

**Check out the Technology Amazon Wish List:** <https://amzn.com/w/KKSFL0E2R5H3>

Sincerely,

Danielle Massari  
[mrsmassari.teach@gmail.com](mailto:mrsmassari.teach@gmail.com)



## Art



**Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten:** Students are learning about line, shape, color, and pattern. They will make shape collages with a variety of materials such as foam, buttons, and construction paper. Through these activities students will learn and practice their scissor and gluing skills. They will also explore types of lines by looking at artwork with a variety of shapes and lines such as Paul Klee's paintings.

**First Grade:** Students in first grade will learn how to create a still life. They will learn about Vincent Van Gogh and Henri Matisse. Students will create their own art that shows knowledge of line, pattern, and design.

**Second Grade and Third Grade:** Students will learn about the artwork of William Wegman. They will make their own painting that shows creative use of paint media. Their artwork will be inspired by the photography and anthropomorphic art that Wegman creates. Students will also create an imaginative response to their artwork.

**Fifth Grade:** Fifth graders will begin their study of self-portraits. Through the examination of self-portraits of famous artists, we will discuss mood, expression, and color. Students will also learn how to make a self portrait through the use of symmetry and measurement.

Sincerely,

Amy Smith  
[Asmith95@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:Asmith95@schools.nyc.gov)

# Physical Education



Dear P.S. 198 Families,

Welcome back to school. I hope you had a fun summer filled with lots of different activities! Spending time with family and friends is important and makes you feel good about yourself. Enjoying healthy food, getting plenty of sleep and exercise will keep that smile on your face and the bounce in your step!

It is imperative that on your PE day, you wear athletic footwear and comfortable, appropriate attire for fitness. Sport style rubber soled sneakers are recommended for safe play in physical education class. I recommend comfortable clothing like sweatpants, leggings or shorts to be worn as well. Girls should tie back long hair and limit their jewelry.

Good sportsmanship and teamwork are important not only in the gymnasium or the yard, but in real-life situations as well. Good sportsmanship and trying your best is always required in physical education class! Please help your children learn and reinforce healthy habits that will last a lifetime.

During September and October our focus in physical education class is to improve our cardiovascular endurance with aerobic exercise. We are working on sustaining activity for an extended period of time. This is done through a variety of activities including a daily warm up, tag games and training for the PACER test for the NYC Fitnessgram. All students in grades K-5 will have their BMI (body mass index) measured through taking their height and weight in September. Soccer is the first main sport unit that will be focused on during physical education class this school year.

Yours truly,  
Mrs. Lazarus  
Physical Education Specialist  
[Flazarus@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:Flazarus@schools.nyc.gov)

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION RESOURCES

To learn more about Fitnessgram you can go to: [www.schools.nyc.gov/fitness](http://www.schools.nyc.gov/fitness)

To learn more about healthy nutritious suggestions you can go to:  
[www.choosemyplate.gov](http://www.choosemyplate.gov)

# Music

Hello Bulldogs and welcome back to P.S. 198M! I am so excited to see everyone and to get back into the groove of the school year.

Pre-K and Kindergarten students are building a repertoire of shared songs, rhymes, chants, and musical games. They are working to echo sounds and good singing. They will be working with materials and instruments like scarves, tambourines, rhythm sticks, and sand blocks from now through the end of the year. By the end of October, we will start our unit on identifying loud and soft sounds in music.

First Grade students begin the year with a review of the Kindergarten musical concepts (contrasts: loud/soft, high/low, fast/slow, long/short) and also review known songs, chants, and games. In September, we focus on discovering the difference between the steady beat and the rhythm (the way the words go). In October, they will begin to study rhythmic notation for quarter notes and paired eighth notes through movement, songs, and instruments.

Second Grade students are reviewing all the notes and rhythms they know through reading, writing, and improvisation. They will play singing games and instruments to review and explore these concepts in different ways. In late October, they will begin to learn their next new note to complete the do pentatonic scale.

Fourth Grade students are reviewing the notes and rhythms they know through singing games and classroom percussion instruments. In October, they will begin to study an very popular elementary school instrument: the recorder! More information will go home in a separate letter to Fourth Grade parents.

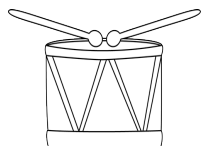
Fifth Grade students are reviewing elements of music literacy and properties of acoustics through box drumming - a loud but exciting way to make music. They are also studying the varying purposes of music in our everyday life and thinking on why music is important. After reviewing known music literacy concepts, we will begin our unit on guitar performance.

Follow P.S. 198M Music on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ps198music](https://www.facebook.com/ps198music)

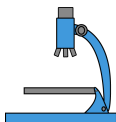
Check out the PS 198M Music Amazon wishlist:  
<https://amzn.com/w/1LUTENJXNP6KR>

The specialists are always in need of general supplies for our rooms. If you are able to donate computer paper, tissues, or paper towels, it would be greatly appreciated!

Musically yours,  
Janelle Fisk  
[jfisk@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:jfisk@schools.nyc.gov)



# Science



Dear Families,

It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself as the science teacher (grades 2-5) for this upcoming school year. My name is Liana Comens and this is my first year teaching at PS 198. Here you can check out what your child will be learning for the months of September and October:

## Second Grade:

Unit 1 will focus on Earth and its Resources. We will be discussing changes that can occur to Earth's surface and how people need Earth resources like rock, plants and water. To reinforce what we are doing, try this activity with your child.

Your child is learning that plants are natural resources people use. Find out how you're using plants at home by taking a Plant Survey.

- With your child, go from room to room and survey the different ways plants and plant products are being used.
- Examples include wood furniture, cotton sheets, wool clothing, and foods, such as fruits and vegetables.
- If you like, carry out the Survey as a collaborative game. How long a list can you make in five minutes? Seven minutes? Ten minutes?

Challenge other family members to see if they can come up with lists as long as yours!

## Third Grade:

In unit one, we will be studying matter, the material everything is made from. We're exploring properties of matter that can be observed, such as its temperature and volume. We are also exploring different ways matter changes, including solutions and mixtures. To reinforce what we're doing, try this activity with your child.

Your child is learning about changes in matter, many of which can be found in your kitchen.

- Invite your child to explain physical and chemical changes. Then go on a hunt for them.
- Do family members drink tea? Coffee? Orange juice from concentrate? Carbonated drinks? All these beverages are solutions, a physical change.
- With your child, see how many mixtures and solutions you can find in the kitchen. Using the ingredients list on a food container, discover what is in each mixture or solution.

At dinnertime, invite family members to name the parts of the meal that represent physical change and the parts that represent chemical change. (Hint: Cooking food is a chemical change.)

#### Fourth Grade:

During unit 1, we are studying plants and animals, including how they reproduce. We are also exploring adaptations that enable living things to survive in their environment. To reinforce what we are doing, try this activity with your child.

Your child is learning important vocabulary associated with plants and animals. Have fun with word riddles.

- Take turns giving intriguing clues that challenge the other to discover the word you're thinking of.
- The clues can be about the meaning of the word. Or, they can be about spelling, number of syllables, or key word parts.
- Once the word is guessed, talk about what it means and how it is connected to ideas in the unit.
- Your child should be familiar with these additional words as well as those listed above: chlorophyll, fertilization, maturity, spore, nymph, and environment.

Invite the whole family to join in!

#### Fifth Grade:

We will begin unit 1 by focusing on what science is and how scientists answer questions through careful observations and investigations. We will take a look at different tools scientists use along with different types of investigations. To reinforce what we're doing, try this activity with your child.

Your child is learning the importance of controlling variables in science experiments.

- With your child, design an experiment to answer this question: Which freezes faster—warm water or cold water?
- Begin by predicting the answer. Then plan the experiment.
- Talk about relevant variables, such as the amount of water; the size, shape, and material of the container; the temperature of the freezer; and the temperature of the water in each container.
- Decide which variables must be controlled and which one will vary. Then carry out the experiment.

Surprise the whole family with the results!

You can always email me at [Lcomens@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:Lcomens@schools.nyc.gov) or call the school at (212) 289-3702 on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. I look forward to meeting all of you!

Sincerely,  
Ms. Comens

[Lcomens@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:Lcomens@schools.nyc.gov)

