

A word from two of our specialist...

Music Susan Wells-Souza

This week, we have added three new instruments to the collection in our music classroom. We now have 2 contrabass xylophone bars, an F and a C. They are very low in pitch and can substitute for timpani or string bass types of sounds. The contrabass xylophone bars are ideal for the younger students because they are large and easy to play, and they can provide a basis for good intonation in singing. The third instrument is a djembe/cajon, a solo drum with a very penetrating sound that will complement our congas and tubanos. You can look forward to seeing and hearing these new instruments at our Spring Concert.

Our third and fourth grade students are practicing recorder pieces for the LinkUp Concert with the St. Louis Symphony, one of the highlights of the school year. This year's theme is "Music Rocks," and workbooks and CDs have exposed students to some avant garde 21st-century compositional techniques. We will participate in pieces called "Drumlines," "Come to Play," and "Simple Melody." My only regret is that Powell Hall will be so full of young musicians that we cannot invite parents to come listen to us play there!

Notes from the Library Martha Brown

Attention: new books are on the library shelves, thanks to our hard-working volunteers and generous donors! New fiction and non-fiction titles span all reading levels.

Younger students can now check out Abby Klein's Max series, the Fancy Nancy Series by Jane O'Connor, and Mo Willems's Elephant and Piggie series. All of these books will make you laugh out loud, and our younger students will find them easy to read.



Independent readers might enjoy the newest Magic Tree House book, *Leprechaun in Late Winter*. We have also purchased the Allie Finkle Series by Meg Cabot and the Betsy-Tacy Series by Maud Hart Lovelace. New non-fiction books at this level include Patrick O'Brien's *You are the First Kid on Mars*, Robert M. L. Winston's *Evolution Revolution*, and Brian Floca's *Moonshot, the Flight of Apollo II*.

Our advanced readers can now read the Percy Jackson & the Olympians series by Rick Riordan and the Dragon Codices series by R. D. Henham. The first book of Riordan's series, *The Lightning Thief*, may be especially appealing to students who have studied Greek myths (second and fifth grades), since the protagonist is half Greek god and half human. Many students have seen the recently released movie of the same name.

Reading and discussing a book with friends can be a great experience. This quarter we have started a lunchtime book group for some of our students in the fourth and fifth grades.

One of the best ways to encourage your child to read is to lead by example. You may be interested in some of the books purchased by the library for parents and teachers: *Nurture Shock* by Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman, *Mountains Beyond Mountains* by Tracy Kidder, and *Super Freakonomics* by S. D. Levitt and S. J. Dubner are a few examples. Please come by the library to pick up a book for your child (and one for you, too!).

Thanks for helping to make City Academy a community of readers.



Next CAP meeting is
May 11
at 6 p.m.

Plan now
to join us!



Reminder

The School Health Fair on Saturday, April 24 is **CANCELLED**