

**From the Desk of Mr. Collins...
News and Happenings of Room 22
September 9, 2013**



artwork by Jim Hunt

A Good Start

Last week, we started with introductions and “get to know you” type activities. After introductions, I asked the students to come up with some good classroom rules that we could use all school year long. They brainstormed a long list of possible rules and then voted on their favorites. Here are the five essential agreements that we all agreed upon:

- #1 Be respectful of everyone and everything at school.
- #2 Be curious and be willing to take risks!
- #3 Have a “can-do” attitude and do your personal best.
- #4 Be a bucket filler.
- #5 If it doesn’t have wings, it doesn’t fly in our class.

As far as the first rule, we discussed that students should be respectful to everyone in school. (It also implies that we shouldn’t waste our school supplies.) In regards to rule number two, I want students to be active participants in their learning and be curious rather than “bumps on a log”. Our classroom should also be a place where students feel safe to take risks and make mistakes. Rule number three is based on the popular adage that “I CAN’s are more important than IQ’s”.

Our fourth rule relates to a book we read in class entitled, Have You Filled A Bucket Today? by local author Carol McCloud. The bucket represents a child’s mental and emotional health. When we say kind words and do kind acts, we fill other people’s emotional buckets. Conversely, when we say hurtful words or do mean things, we empty other’s buckets. The last rule is just a fun one. I don’t like things thrown in class. Hence, *if it doesn’t have wings, it doesn’t fly with me.*

Our Lunch and Specials Schedule

Below is our lunch and specials schedule. At some point in time, we’ll have a Spanish time too.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:40-9:35AM					
9:35-10:20AM	MUSIC	GYM	MUSIC	GYM	
10:25-11:10AM		ART	COMPUTERS		ART
11:10-11:55AM					
12:00-12:30PM					
12:32-1:15PM	LUNCH & RECESS	LUNCH & RECESS	LUNCH & RECESS	LUNCH & RECESS	LUNCH & RECESS
1:15-1:30PM					
1:30-2:00PM				LIBRARY	
2:00-2:30PM					
2:30-3:30PM					

Class Dojo

This year, I’ll be using a fun online teacher tool to help build your child’s learning habits and boost classroom engagement. It’s called Class Dojo and it allows me to track every child’s behavior and learning skills throughout the day! I’ve linked the positive behavior and skills to the qualities of the IB learner profile. Negative behaviors and areas that your child has room for improvement will also be notated. If you’d like to see how your child is behaving in the classroom, just go to the website and enter in the code listed on the attached half sheet. Plus, your child can create their very own avatar to go along with this program. Good stuff!