

Spanish Update

Seven Hills Classical Academy January 11, 2010

Kindergarten:

During the weeks before winter break the kindergarten students had a lot of fun learning new things in Spanish class! We learned how to say good morning (buenos días, good afternoon (buenas tardes), goodnight (buenas noches) and good-bye (adios) in a song called “Buenos dias a ti”. You may hear your child singing it from time to time, as it has a catchy tune!

We continued working on our colors, while adding a few more challenging ones such as white (blanco), grey (gris), purple (morado) and orange (anaranjado). One of our favorite ways to begin class is to have one or two friends hide our puppet friend, Kermit, somewhere in the room. They then give the class two color options as clues to where he is hiding. Two other friends in the class then get to search for Kermit, using their Spanish colors. The kids love this! Another game we have played during class is telephone. This game has been used to practice colors, as well as other basic phrases we have learned thus far.

Besides colors, we have spent a lot of time learning parts of the body in Spanish. We learned a song called “cabeza, cintura, rodillas, y pies,” which means head, waist, knees and toes, very similar to the popular song “head, shoulders, knees and toes”. We learned to point to all the body parts mentioned in the song and label them on a poster board of our friend Jose. After becoming really good at these parts and feeling confident with the first part of the song we moved on to the second part which says “cara, ojos, nariz y boca.” This part helps us identify our face, eyes, nose and mouth, again using them in the song and pointing them out on Jose.

Right before the break we learned how to sing Frosty the Snowman in Spanish! The lyrics went home with your child, with a snowman or “hombre de nieve” that they drew on the back. We used this as another opportunity to recall the body parts.

For the month of January, we will begin to learn vocabulary for farm animals, “animales de la finca” and be introduced to a unit on food, concentrating mostly on fruits, vegetables and a few basic foods/beverages. Overall, Spanish class has been going great in kindergarten and I am looking forward to an exciting New Year during Spanish class!

First and Second Graders:

Since our last newsletter the first and second graders have been very busy in Spanish class! They began by practicing the objects you can find in a classroom and doing a few worksheets to help them practice writing and using those words. Then they got to pick the words they wanted to know in Spanish and practice those also.

School- la escuela	Student-el estudiante	white board-la pizarra
Pencil-el lápiz	Class-la clase	Table-la mesa
Map-la mapa	Window-la ventana	Globe-el globo

They also worked on learning the countries in South America (América del Sur). Each student got to make their own map with all the countries and choose a different color for every country to help them remember. Now they know which countries in South America speak Spanish and where they are!

When it was closer to winter break time the students began learning about Christmas traditions in Mexico. To have a little fun while learning about the holiday the classes learned the song Frosty the Snowman (Mi Hombre

de Nieve) in Spanish and even got to dance all the motions to the song! They made a huge snowman on the board and practiced pointing out all the different parts of the snowman's body in Spanish, and then pointing out the same places on their own bodies.

Mi hombre de Nieve- My snowman
Está feliz y está muy gordo- He is happy and very fat
Con la boca, la nariz- With a mouth and nose
Dos ojos y en- Two eyes and on
La cabeza un sombrero.- his head a hat.

The first and second graders have been doing a great job in Spanish! They are having fun, singing, and learning all at once!

Third and Fourth Graders:

The students in third and fourth grade had a geography filled month of December! The students learned about the geography and the colors of the flags in South America (*sudamerica*) and Central America (*centroamerica*). The students got practice saying where each country is located and which colors, in Spanish, are on which flag. They also learned new direction words while playing games which practice putting the correct country name on the correct part of the map.

Arriba- Up
Abajo-Down
Derecha- Right
Izquierda- Left

Once the classes seemed comfortable with the geography of both *sudamerica* and *centroamerica* we began our geography group project! The class was split into groups of 4 or 5 and each group was assigned a different country. The countries were Nicaragua, Mexico, Argentina, Bolivia, Cuba and Chile. Each student was assigned a different piece of information to research in the library books provided. The students had a lot of fun researching the typical foods of the country, tourist attractions, the capital or the flag. They then, as a group, created a poster to be shared with the class. They gave their group presentations and did a fantastic job!

We were very impressed with the interest and dedication each person had to learn about their country. The students listening to the projects and received passports to record the new and exciting information they learned about the countries they "visited" in class! Ask your child about what countries they have new found knowledge about, maybe it will inspire a trip!

To finish up the month the students learned fun songs about winter in Spanish. Although a quick one, it was a learning filled month! We look forward to the New Year and the new units in Spanish class!

Señorita Jen Bradley
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