

WHAT'S HAPPENING
AT ELM THIS MONTH

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Panther Tracks

FEBRUARY 2017

Get informed of ELM News



Mision

Prepare students to become ethical global leaders who are effective communicators committed to lifelong learning in the 21st century.

Vision

To provide a challenging academic program that engages students through individualized instruction and blended learning, which empowers them to reach their full

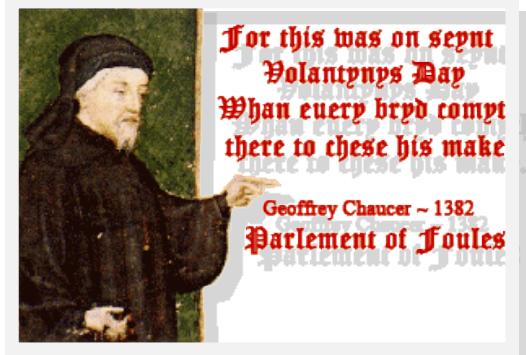


Message from the director

Dear ELM Community,

As soon as February gets closer we automatically start thinking about chocolate and friendship or love cards. But how did this celebration start? Well, there are several versions to explain this holiday, but it is said that St. Valentine, a Roman Priest, started it.

Apparently he fell in love and on February 14, he sent a love letter to a woman, signed "from your Valentine." Geoffrey Chaucer seems to be the first author who connects St. Valentine's day with romance. However until the 18th century exchanging card became common in England.



Three centuries later we keep celebrating this holiday and STUCO helped ELM by continuing this tradition. Our students sold candy grams, chocolates, and had a Cupid's Wall where students could put a heart with a special note. Both students and teachers had a great time on Valentine's Day!

During this month we had another fun event! The PTO organized an incredible Bingo Night! Parents played for hours, and students played and ate delicious snacks! It was great to see whole families together on a Friday night enjoying themselves.

The PTO also had amazing prizes to give out and the lucky winners went thrilled not to go empty handed. The little ones had a blast in the jumping castle and being with their friends on the playground. Thank you for coming to an event that promoted creating a fun community among the ELM family.



Message from the director

Next month we will have the NWEA tests. Students from second grade to twelfth grade will be evaluated in Reading Comprehension, Language Arts, and Mathematics. Remember that it is not a competition among classmates, the goal is to increase their own score, and see what are their strengths and weaknesses as students.



It is important to try their best as the results are compared with other schools accredited by AdvancED and other international certifications. Parents, make sure that students sleep well and come to school with breakfast, especially if they have the test first thing in the morning. Their brains will need energy to do well on these tests.

Next month the third quarter will finish and report cards will go home. We will also have Parent-Teacher conferences. It is important to attend as teachers will let you know how each student is doing and what they will need to work on to end the school year successfully. It is important to ask questions to the teachers so that they can work together with you, as parents, in making sure that students receive the best education possible with help both at school and at home.

To finish up, this month we have changed the format of Student of the Month. We went back to having only a winner, or winners, if there is a tie. We won't give out certificates to nominees. We want to make sure our winners and their parents more special. This month, the character trait that our ELM students worked hard on was Effective Communicators. This is an important trait because it takes time to learn how to communicate respectfully to their peers and to adults. **Congratulations Sara Cordero, Angelina Chango, Carla Mosquera, and Davide Mezzanote!**



Let's see who will be the best at cooperating next month!

Ms. Ercel Mireles

Students of the month - Effective Communication

Communicating is part of everyone's lives. For our students, it is very important to communicate with teachers and classmates correctly in order to achieve a nice performance in class and at school in general. Effective communication is the trait that was evaluated this month. Congratulations to all the winners!



**ECE student
of the month:
Sara Cordero**

**Lower School student
of the month:
Angelina Chango**



Students of the month - Effective Communication

**Middle School student
of the month:
Carla Mosquera**



**High School student
of the month:
Davide Mezzanotte**



Congratulations to our students who are the best at communicating!

PTO - Parents Teachers Organization

En este pasado mes de febrero tuvimos muchas actividades buenas y positivas para el colegio! El mes comenzó con nuestro primer bingo night patrocinado por PTO donde logramos conseguir apoyo de varios comercios de la ciudad y regalar premios a los ganadores. Agradecemos a toda la gente que de alguna manera colaboraron con el éxito de este evento, y esperamos que el próximo bingo que tenemos planificados para el dia de las madres tenga mayor recepción.

Continuamos con el mes del amor y de la amistad y llega 14 de febrero donde los integrantes de stuco realizaron los famosos candy grams, que era una tradición que se había olvidado en el colegio, y fue retomado este año, y sinceramente fue un éxito total con todos los estudiantes! Este día también fue ayudado por PTO apoyando con el material e ideas para que ellos pudiesen hacer un lindo evento!

Ahora esperamos que en este mes de marzo celebremos St. Patrick's day por todo lo alto, para retomar esta tradición con la ayuda de nuestra maestra Ms. Frances que es mitad irlandesa, para que este 17 de marzo no solo nos vistamos de verde sino que hagamos tradiciones irlandesas que a los chicos le gusten!!



PTO - Parents Teachers Organization

Bingo Night - Feb. 10th



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Spelling Bee

On March 10th, we are going to have our Second Annual Spelling Bee Contest here at ELM. Although, It is not necessary to be part of the Spelling Bee ASAP, but Alyssa Tortolani our only ECE III student, Luis Williams, Sofia Camila Medina from Second Grade and Emmanuel Madrid from Third Grade are definitely sharpening their spelling skills every Thursday afternoon in order to be ready for this event.

Indeed, the students who are willing to participate in the Contest have accepted the challenge. Way to go, Kids!!! Those students come from Second Grade up to 5th Grade and they have already received the Spelling Word list adapted to their Grade Level. They are getting ready to have fun and to show their best at the Contest!!! Hope you parents can stop by, support and enjoy to see your child performing in this ASAP activity.



March 10

ECE 1 - Miss Adriana Sopracase

This month our love for learning grows and grows! ECE 1 students had great time together sharing love and affection, also counting up to 20, reviewing colors and doing some tracings. They have improved their gross motricity by representing scenes with construction blocks such as a house where they even cooked and shared a cup of tea.

They also have improved their fine motricity by playing with dough, puzzles, cutting, pasting and drawing. They are growing not only in knowledge; they are growing in love and passion about what they do every day.



ECE 2 - Miss Mariana Cabrera

This month ECE students learned about high frequency words, they worked hard on identify, blend and build sentences with them. Math was focused on Measure the objects that they were able to found in the classroom. On Science students were learning about five senses and they reviewed body parts. On Social studies they learned about community workers. On the pictures below you will see students wearing costumes of their favorite community worker. They are also developing their fine motor skills and imagination by creating their own big structures with recycle materials.



ECE 3 - Miss Frances Cable

Love filled the air for ECE 3. During February they wrote about Valentine's Bears. They used Proper Nouns & pronouns giving each bear an individual personality. They worked very hard in Language Arts. They made predictions from Fantasy texts and placed information in sequences. As well, they mastered the ability to subtract. They learned a variety of subtraction strategies and all students got full marks on Unit 6 math test. Great Work ECE 3!



1st Grade - Miss Cecilia Hernandez

February was the time to look up for the moon! Children learned about the Phases of the Moon and why it looks different every day. They did nice models about this topic.

Of course, was the month where they expressed friendship and love. They shared kind thoughts and reinforce their respect and loyalty. February 14th was a great day to enjoy goodies and candy grams, having a wonderful opportunity to interact with the rest of ELM students.

They worked hard making Tens and Ones, understanding the value of numbers with 2 digits, and modeling numbers up to 120. They enjoyed a lot reading funny books from Dr. Seuss and they had an intense work combining simple present and present progressive in their writing job. They made their "animal piggy banks" and they are filling them up with colorful tokens that they receive when they participate in class. This will last until the end of the year.



2nd Grade - Mr. Jesus Velazquez

The most important thing is that these children have achieved confidence and discipline, they are faster in writing, and also they are using their logic thought and their analytic part in reading, making breakdowns and complete use of situations to explain different processes in writing, reading and math.



Their improvement is incredible, their organization have been increasing and also their math knowledge regarding measure, time, money, multiplication (1 and 2 digits), additions and subtractions (2 and 3 digits).

3rd Grade - Miss Sharlene Smith

Third graders have been doing many things this past month. They have been reading Charlotte's Web, doing summaries, plots and settings. Each student will have a different summery to present, which they choose according to their preferences, to demonstrate their creativity and love for reading.

In Math, they have been analyzing data through different kinds of graphs, and multiplications. First they started organizing the information with the help of building blocks. Now, they are able to interpret information through such as the line plot, pictograph, and bar graph, multiply by 0, 1 ,2,3, 4, 5,6,7,8,9 ,10, 11 and 12.

Science, has been fun too! We learned all about Matter. Social Studies, we have been studying People move place to place such as, Settlers in St. Louis, Moving West , Coming to America and the Worlds connection : Brazil



4th Grade - Miss Karen Gaddis



Grade 4 students are researching their American Heroes on their laptops and iPads. We will have our yearly exhibition in May, and more information will be coming your way. Look forward to meeting Martin Luther King, Jane Goodall, Helen Keller, Amelia Earhart, Susan Anderson, Sally Ride, Audrey Hepburn, and a surprise visit from Ole Kirk Christiansen.

5th Grade - Miss Gabriela Cabrera

This February it was a month where the 5th graders definitely put their hearts and minds into writing; they did an incredible job with their Valentine's narratives. Where students were able to show their opinions about this famous holiday, describe a memorable moment, or write a dedication to a special person in their lives.

At the end each of them took the right decision, writing about what they didn't have the opportunity to express before, and they found out this it was a great opportunity to do it, and guess what?. They did it tremendously. I'm so proud the work they did this month in their Grammar class, and how Samuel and the girls are getting better day-by-day in their writing skills. Keep it up guys!

Miss Gabby.



ESL & Music - Miss Lily Muñoz

It is great to hear the positive feedback from the Upper School English Teacher Ms. Lauren Breton expressing her amazed of how Taimur from Second Grade is really using his English Language skills to actually converse with people around the school. That's very satisfying to hear. It is obvious this has been a team work between the Second Grade Teacher Mr. Jesus and me Taimur's ESL Teacher. Thank you Ms. Lauren for letting us know that whatever we are doing in our classroom is working for the benefit of our ESL students. Cheers to us!!! Yay!!! Indeed, my ESL students are growing in confidence in terms of speaking and writing. They continuously show excitement in everything activity they are involved in. I am encouraging them every day to read, write, spell words to know, practice phonics and most importantly to communicate in English among themselves and others their thoughts and wonders...

The classes continue to be spiced with laughter and fun things to do. Next month we are going to start using Smartys Ants a game that is going to help them to improve even more their English skills. When I stop by to pick them from their classrooms, they are even more ready to use their English and to greet me and now they are expanding their language by establishing conversations related to things they do at home or in class. Their English is becoming everyday stronger. I am feeling very pleased to see how far my students have gone in the acquisition of the English Language. Surely always they are excited to work in class in the different activities related to the themes from the variety of Journeys reading stories. I continue to be delighted to see their attitude and motivation; they are doing their classwork, activities and even to turn in homework.



ESL & Music - Miss Lily Muñoz

My Music students continue to learn a lot of new Musical Concepts and to enjoy even more their Music class, as always, they are getting to know and to learn new concepts each class, and putting it into practice. From ECE to Lower School they are having a great time in getting to know about Pulse, Duration, Tempo, Pitch, Dynamics, Song Structure and Timbre, so far, all of them are engaged with the activities developed in class to improve both Music language and English as well and yes!!! They love to actively participate in class at all times. In general they continue to explore sounds from the immediate environment, learning how to listen and respond to Music in a variety of ways. And we kept adding more Musical Concepts to expand the knowledge of Music Theory.



ESL & Music - Miss Lily Muñoz



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Spanish - Mr. Jesuhane Tovar

En la clase de Español los estudiantes este mes, disfrutaron de una variedad de contenidos donde están obteniendo nuevos conocimientos que son de vital importancia para el desarrollo del proceso enseñanza – aprendizaje: lectura, escritura, razonamiento, gramática, entonación y pronunciación como factores primordiales, sumado a esto todo lo referido a: uso de la tilde en las palabras, la conjugación, verbos infinitivos, tiempos verbales, pronombres personales, sustantivos, adjetivos, calificativos, interrogativos también sobre la prosa, el verso, el poema, la leyenda, la fábula, el mito, los acrósticos, los trabalenguas, y las adivinanzas. Es muy importante destacar que los estudiantes realizaron actividades sobre el Día de la Amistad, luego se construyó una cartelera con todos los trabajos.



Art - Mr. Miguel Rivero

En este Periodo, comenzamos a estudiar el Arte Contemporáneo, Pintura de la llamada "Escuela de Nueva York" y sus representantes más importantes, desde la Pintora Helen Frankenthaler, Esteban Vicente, Frank kline, y otros artistas, que hicieron de la ciudad centro del arte mundial, en los años 50 y años posteriores, desplazando a ciudades como Paris, Roma, como centros del Arte Internacional.

Fue la pintura Abstracta lo que marca la pauta de este grupo. Los estudiantes están interpretando algunas obras, en técnica mixta para conocer la obra, de estos creadores, en su lenguaje personal. Hemos hecho varias prácticas, con el color como Tema a desarrollar, tomando como referencia el color de cada estación del año, como forma de descubrir, comparar e identificar la variación de los mismos y la percepción e impresión en el ojo del observador. La luminosidad y la atmósfera de cada estación, crea efectos interesantes para el arte.

Miguel Rivero. Artes, ELM



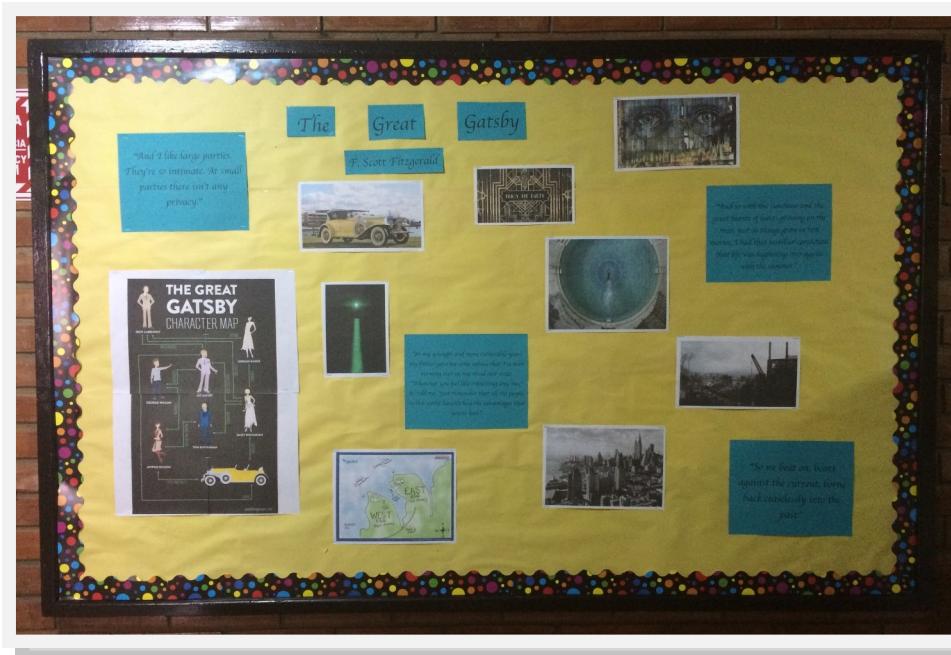
Helen Frankenthaler



English - Miss Lauren Breton

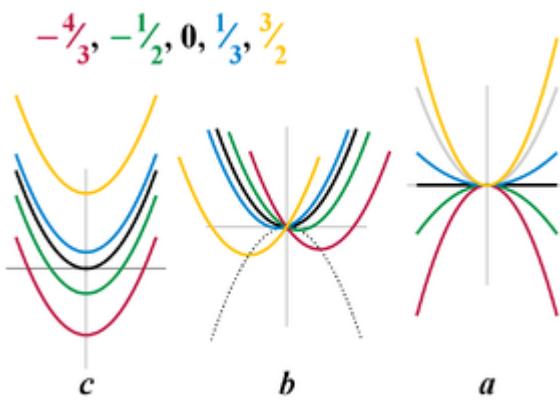
March is bringing many changes in the English classroom! The sixth and seventh graders are finishing their writing research papers. They have also just finished *Wonderstruck* and are completing that unit with memento boxes. Looking forward, they will be reading *The Wringer* by Jerry Spinelli. The eighth graders have completed their writing research papers and have completed their unit on *I'll Give You The Sun*. I couldn't be more excited for them to start their novel study of *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton! In ESL, students have completed working with nouns, verbs, and adjectives and will begin working with the other parts of speech.

In high school changes continue to abound as well! The ninth grade students have completed their unit on *To Kill a Mockingbird* and are very excited to begin reading *The Great Gatsby*. The tenth graders have just wrapped up their unit on *Macbeth* and are starting their unit on *The Canterbury Tales*. The eleventh and twelfth graders are simultaneously reading *The Power of One* and reading portions of the boxing unit from their green books. They have just reflected on what it means to have "the power of one".



Math - Miss Naira Trolle

During the month of February the Upper School students have been busy moving along the math curriculum. All the middle school grades are presently in the middle of their geometry unit. Sixth graders are beginning to calculate the area of parallelograms and triangles and the circumference and area of circles. Seventh graders are diligently learning about special angle pairs and calculating the sum of interior angles in polygons. The eight graders are exceeding expectations by mastering surface area and volume of 3-D figures.



The high schoolers have also been working very hard to build the foundation of their Algebra skills. Algebra 1 students are graphing linear equations, and working with the slope of a line. Algebra 2 students are working on quadratic relations and functions. They are graphing quadratic equations and finding the vertex and axis of symmetry to properly graph.

French - Mr. Alfredo Oquendo

"Le Mois de L'Amour" (The Month of Love) just finished, but our work in French keeps going. We have started working on simulating short conversations which will start getting longer and more fluent eventually. Since tongue-twisters are an important part of every French class at ELM, I would like to drop one of them here for your amusement: " Je suis ce que je suis, et si je suis ce que je suis, qu'est-ce que je suis? ". Ask your child to tell you how to pronounce it and have fun with your family while you try this interesting language.

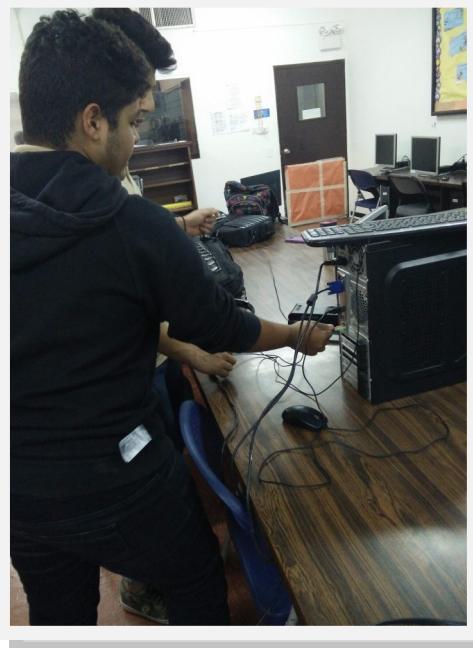
Mr. Oquendo



Technology - Mr. Alejandro Florian

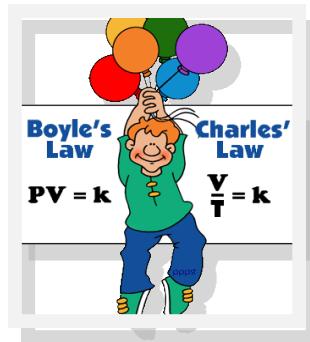
The little students from ECE continue to impress me! They are each week more interested in specifics ways to use computers and the internet. Lower schoolers are researching about wonderful places all around the world while they practice the making of documents about those places.

Overall, most interesting activity for upper schoolers this month was installing computers. This included the use of the knowledge of every cable, and the use of their logic to connect every part of the computers in place. Good job guys!



Science - Mr. Daniel Schriefer

Besides Valentine's Day this month saw the Middle School and High School students prepare their projects for the **Science Fair** in April. Some of the submitted experiments promise to be fun. In Chemistry we advanced into the magic world of gases, their properties, and the laws governing this state of matter. Again, lots of equations had to be exercised.



Our courses in Biology and Life Science led us into the world of vertebrates, from amphibians to reptiles and to birds, and finally mammals, our own species. In Earth Science students studied Earth's water resources, the atmosphere, and the weather which normally is very pleasant in Venezuela. Economics featured serious topics like unemployment and inflation, and students all had a tale to tell about how they are influenced personally by these issues.



In Business Math insurance schemes for life, health, and properties were at the core of numerous calculations repeatedly performed in class sessions.

Daniel Schriefer

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Social Studies - Mr. Jim Kelley

The Grade 6 and 7 students are currently studying the early history of the Arab world in their Ancient History course. They are learning a lot about the development, customs, and traditions of the Arab culture, including the many contributions the Arab world has made to learning. They are also gaining meaningful insights into the origin and development of the Muslim religion.



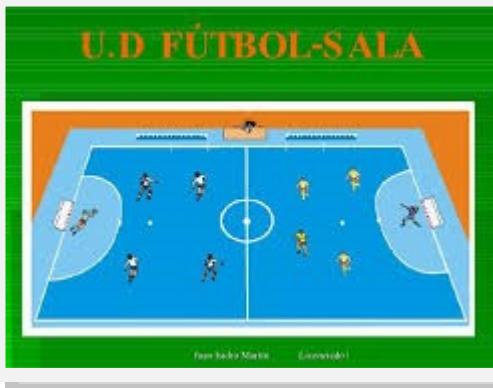
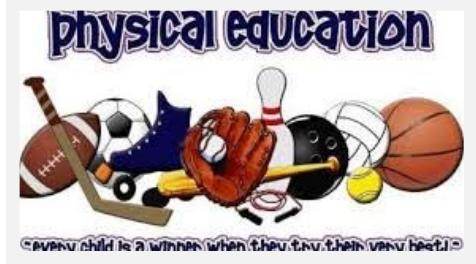
Spanish - Miss Sandra Estrada

Los estudiantes del 7º de español, se encuentran preparando una obra de teatro, basada en un cuento infantil adaptado, que muy pronto será presentada. Aún no se tiene una fecha exacta para la misma, pero los alumnos están muy entusiasmados esperando que sus padres y representantes puedan apreciarla y disfrutar de sus dotes histriónicas. Esperamos que así sea.



PE - Mr. Henry Villamizar

En este mes de febrero en el área de educación física deporte y recreación se realizaron diferentes circuitos de ejercicios para el mejoramiento y desarrollo de las cualidades físicas de los estudiantes tales como resistencia, potencia, velocidad, movilidad y agilidad. En los cuales también con unos trotes continuos y acompañados de algunas actividades recreativas. Con los estudiantes de ECE1, ECE2, ECE3, se realizaron circuitos para el mejoramiento de la psicomotricidad gruesa ejercicios tales como equilibrio, saltos y coordinación. En general se hizo un breve repaso de formaciones grupales, posiciones corporales de la educación física y de algunos deportes tales como el baloncesto y voleibol. Y como deporte colectivo estaremos estudiando el fútbol de sala la recepción, pases, chutes, circunducción, reglas, historia y dimensiones de la cancha.



February 2017



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



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