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Appreciating the Arts (cont.)

assisting classroom teachers in putting an emphasis on Math. She stressed patterns and geometry while students created lithographs and tessellations. A tessellation is a pattern formed by shapes or images being repeated over and over again without overlapping one another. Students are currently making playdough to be used later in sculpture. Art students will be applying Math skills of measurement, fractions, and ratios as they read, alter, and follow recipes for the homemade playdough. Ms Carlin is extending her lesson to include questions and math problems on her website that are formatted like the types of questions students will see on the required state assessments. Crenshaw is expecting to see big gains in our Math scores and accomplishments this year!

Research has shown that students who excel in music and art also tend to excel in academic areas. Creative talents build self esteem and boost confidence; and these are both important for students to be academically successful. The goal at Crenshaw Elementary is to develop well-rounded citizens with confidence and enthusiasm and a life-long love of learning.

Measures of Success is a community publication produced by the CISD Administrative Services Division to inform students, parents, and community members about Channelview Schools. This publication is also available as an E-newsletter. If you are interested in receiving this newsletter electronically, please visit www.channelview.isd.esc4.net to subscribe.

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Measures of Success

New Classroom Technology Encourages Academic Growth

Alice Johnson Junior High has been known to bring in innovative technology in the classroom. For the past few years, the junior high has purchased multiple electronic whiteboards, or Smart Boards, for various classes. These devices allow students to interact with the lesson using a class LCD projector and software through the web. Students in the Social Studies, Math, and Science classes have enjoyed these electronic whiteboards for the past three years. This year, Smart Boards were introduced to some of the Special Education classrooms.

With the recent introduction of the Smart Board into the LIFE Skills classroom, student retention has improved. The board was introduced into the student's daily rotation in January 2009. The use of technology in instruction in the LIFE Skills classroom has been in place for many years and with the introduction of the Smart Board, students have a new way of gaining and maintaining skills interactively. Students can write, select answers, and draw on a Smart Board to solve a problem. They receive immediate feedback and get to practice math, science, writing, or other skills in a new and interesting

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Eddie uses the Smart Board to solve multiplication problems interactively. The Smart Board is similar to playing an electronic game which makes learning tedious skills more fun!

New Classroom Technology (cont.)

way. Many cognitive as well as functional skills are incorporated using this innovative technology. As a result, the LIFE Skills students have blossomed with a new found confidence and enjoyment for learning. This is truly an asset for their continued growth in this technology based society. At Alice Johnson Junior High, all students are encouraged and challenged to grow academically.

Striving For Success

The L.W. Kolarik campus had a successful first semester and looks forward to a great spring semester. The motto at Kolarik is, "Striving for Excellence." The students work hard every day to focus on their academics as they ready themselves for the transition to CHS. The advisory program has been very successful. The advisory class supports the practice of having an adult advocate for every student on campus. Each day during advisory, students interact with an employee where they focus on academics, personal growth, conflict resolution, and setting future goals.



Stephen, Austin, Mariah, Karen, and Raymundo pause for a photo in front of one of the many encouraging signs in the halls at the Kolarik 9th Grade Center.

Classrooms at Kolarik support technology integration by having smart boards and Elmo's available for instruction. To ready students for spring state testing, the Math and Reading departments are participating in a Rotating Review during the school day so EVERY student can attend review sessions.

Kolarik students will also complete their Spring Campus Service Projects they chose with their academy. Many will deliver Valentine's Day cards to area nursing homes, while others will give some time at the local grocery store to assist customers with placing groceries in the car. The service projects reinforce the importance of being an active part of the community.

Appreciating the Arts

Crenshaw Elementary continues to focus on academic instruction to improve student success. Performing well on benchmarks and state assessments are a priority, but there are other important skills and talents that need to be developed as well. Fine Arts education enhances the academic experience and encourages creativity in students.

The Fine Arts department at Crenshaw is doing great things. Early in December, the third, fourth, and fifth grade choir students performed *A Place In the Christmas Choir*, a Christmas musical. Kindergarten through second grade students are preparing for "Western Night" where they will share their square dancing and line dancing skills with parents and families later in March. Fourth grade students are learning about the symphony and will enjoy a live performance from the Houston Symphony in early March. Fifth grade students are learning to read music and play recorders in preparation for the sixth grade band.



Students use instruments to reinforce math skills during their music class with Ms. Carter.

Fine Arts skills can be applied to enhance other areas of academics. For example, all classes are learning about African American History month from a musical perspective. They will culminate this learning with a special drum performance in late February. In addition to the exciting performances and assemblies, the music teacher, Rosalyn Carter, is using music concepts such as notes and rhythm to support math skills in the regular classrooms.

The students are also very busy exploring new concepts and creating fabulous pieces in art class. So far this year students have worked with lithographs, wax resistance, scratch off art, tessellations, and more. Gladys Carlin, the Art teacher is

*Working Together For
Academic Success*