

Dear Parents,

We had such an exciting and productive week at Julian Curtiss. Our fifth grade students had an opportunity to connect with their art partners in Uganda this week. After sharing common lessons, students created art pieces that reflect their life and culture, and then exchanged their work with a partner class in Uganda. Students then participated in a videoconference in a live one-hour session in which students shared their insights with one another face-to-face in real time.

You can read more about this program below.

<https://creativeconnections.org/creative-connections-programs/artlink/>

5th graders participated in a video conference with fellow student artists in Uganda through Creative Connections.

<https://twitter.com/JCAsstPrincipal/status/965968926822854656>

All students in our school had an opportunity to experience a Dance Assembly performed by the dancers from the CT. Ballet on Tuesday of this week. The students were introduced to ballet, tap, and modern dance. All **fourth and fifth grade students** at Julian Curtiss will receive dance lessons from these professionals during PE classes for the next six weeks thanks to funds provided by the Greenwich Alliance for Education. We are so excited to provide our students with yet another way to create, perform, experience and learn alternate ways to express themselves through the arts. We encourage **fourth and fifth grade parents to save the date of the evening of April 6, 2018** when children will have the opportunity to perform all of the skills they learn. This is the Friday before our Spring Break so take note.

<https://twitter.com/JCAsstPrincipal/status/965976175326752768>

In addition to the proactive safety measures mentioned in Dr. Gildea's email last week, please know that we are always reviewing and practicing all of our drill procedures with staff and students. We run regular *shelter in place* and *lockdown* drills in addition to fire drills, sometimes with the police and fire departments, sometimes unilaterally. We have our second lockdown drill of the 2017-2018 school year scheduled for this week. This drill was scheduled in August and is not a reaction to recent events. Please know that you may see police presence at this time during the morning hours on Tuesday. We do not usually announce these drills but due to the current climate we want the parents to be aware of the reason for the police presence. As with fire drills and other safety programs, the hope is to acclimate students and teachers to a procedure that they will be able to follow quickly, effectively, and safely.

Maybe you will find this article helpful.

<https://www.verywellfamily.com/what-is-a-school-lockdown-drill-620548>

We are also reviewing our procedures around entry into the building. We have a single point of entry, the front door, which is under constant surveillance by our office staff via cameras. When buzzing in, please be prepared to answer questions that will include your name, your child's name and the purpose of your visit. Once entering, make your way to the office on your left. Do not let others enter with you. Some parents and community members grow impatient with these procedures, but it is extremely important that EVERYONE follows these procedures! Please go directly to the office and sign in each time you enter the building! We appreciate your cooperation on behalf of the safety of our school community.

Please follow us on Twitter:

@JCSprincipal

@JCSAsstPrincipal

There have been daily postings on the teaching and learning at JC.

Some additional information on this week's events:

Thank you to Mr. Ribeiro, father of Vincente in 4E and Mr. Tierney father of Kasey in 5S and Taylor in 1CS for sharing their expertise with some of our classes.

<https://twitter.com/JCAsstPrincipal/status/967083211116433411>

<https://twitter.com/JCAsstPrincipal/status/966698043939672065>

Regards,

Trish McGuire

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