

**Our Fun Music Class** By Emily (grade 6)

This term, BBS has three new classes, Robotics, Spanish, and Music. I'll be telling you all about our music class. The upper graders are playing guitars this year, and the lower graders are playing ukuleles. We have a new music teacher, Justin Veloso. He's from Sisters and grew up with music. He really got into it when he was a part of the Americana Project in Sisters, which is a music education program funded by the Sisters Folk Festival. Then he went on to play music professionally. Most of us have never played guitar before, or haven't remembered the chords yet, so doing this is really fun.



Justin Veloso



On our first and second days of music class, we learned how to tune our guitars using digital tuners. It was pretty difficult to do, but our teacher taught us how and then helped us be successful. I thought it was really interesting to see the way it works.

Of course, when playing a song on a guitar, you have to remember which chords to play to make the song flow. Currently we are working on the D chord, G chord, and the A minor chord. The reason these are important to learn is because we are playing "Yellow Submarine" by The Beatles and these are the chords in the song. We really like the song and we worked on it last year, but didn't end up playing it for our families. Everyone's glad to play it again this year.

When our class begins, we always listen to a song or two before we start playing. Whether it be a calm jazz piece, or a chaotic trumpet piece. After the songs are over, we discuss which instruments we heard, and what the song made us think of. I think it's a good method to calm everyone down before we start, and get our minds focused.

Music class has been really fun so far. I look forward to it every Tuesday and Thursday and playing our songs to people I know. I'm glad we get to do this every year, and I like the instruments we get to play. Music is really cool.

Lego Robotics By Ilya (grade 8)

Our Lego robotics class, taught by Mr.B, shows how different machines and systems work. We use Lego technic and Lego education pieces. We put together these bricks to make cool creations. We are borrowing these expensive Lego kits from Sylvan Learning Center and are so grateful for their help in making this class happen.

In this class we have done many things, but we aren't done yet. For the first portion of the class we worked with gears, we learned how to use driving gears to control speed, crown gears to make angles, and we even made a carousel with these skills. The second portion focused on gears, we made a cart and a go-kart in this part.

For the next part we will make creations that use simple code to work. We will use a program called WeDo 2.0, made by Lego, that connects to the brain brick, through bluetooth. Using the kits we can make stuff like ferris wheels. This class is just one of our many fun classes at BBS.

**Learning Language** By Cody (grade 8)

This year we have been learning Spanish with Mr. Sharp. Why learn another language you might ask? Well, it helps brains make connections that haven't been there before. These connections can make it easier to learn new ideas and ways of thinking. Also, if we ever go to a Spanish speaking country we can have conversations with other people and know if we're going to get ripped off by clerks.



We learn about items, names, greetings, words, etc in the first part of the week. Then are quizzed in the second part of the week. But even though we work hard, we have a fun time together. There are lots of moments in class where there is laughter and jokes. Like when we played a game where we raced to dress up in clothing when Mr. Sharp said the word of the item in Spanish.

Hopefully this will start us off to be fluent in another language and help us learn to be respectful to other cultures.

Black Butte School is a K-8, two room schoolhouse nestled in the small community of Camp Sherman, OR.

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