




Byram Hills School District

SPECTRUM

A COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

Founded 1961  Volume Forty-six, Number Two

An Encore for Encore

As far as Wampus kids are concerned, Encore gets an encore.

The daily period in which students rotate every 18 days through a series of varied classes usually tops students' lists of favorite subject – right along with recess!

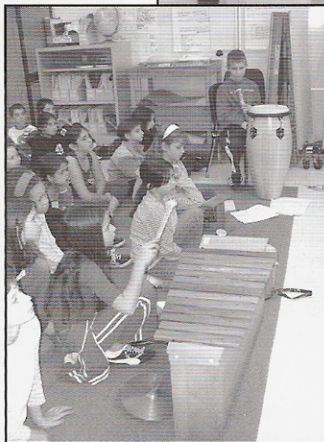
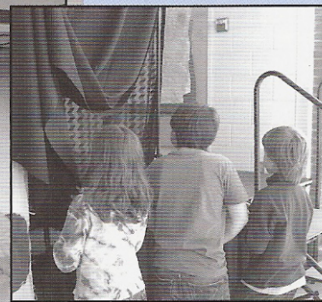
Unique to Byram Hills, where it is in place at The Wampus School, Encore was developed as a period to provide time for students to get extra services and/or learn a musical instrument without missing out on regular classroom time. The scheduling also allows teachers to meet by grade level for planning and collaboration and is carefully crafted so that students don't miss out on important Encore sessions.

The three grades have Encore scheduled each day: In fourth and fifth grade, students rotate through 10 different Encore options; third graders, grouped by homeroom, rotate through 11.

Encore topics include studying the life and works of Shakespeare, poetry, or spending time with the librarian learning about tolerance and diversity.

A health Encore covers healthy eating habits and fitness. In technology Encore, students learn how to use computer software programs such as Kidpix, Kidspiration, Microsoft Word, and Microsoft Publisher in third grade, moving on to PowerPoint and using SMART-Boards in fourth grade. The technology Encore in fifth grade covers 21st-century phenomena, such as Internet safety and cyber bullying, and Detective Frank Kolarik visits to cover Internet communication and the law.

"The students really love Encore," says Assistant Principal Angela Garcia. "It's dynamic and offers different ways for students to achieve and learn. Encore is a very valuable period in our day, whether students are participating in an Encore session or getting extra help," she adds.



The performing arts Encore is a favorite with every student playing an important part. In about 18 days, students adapt a book into a play, writing the script, designing costumes and stage props, creating the music and publicity posters, and performing in the 15-minute show. "The students learn all aspects of theater and find out that there is much more to it than acting," explains theater and enrichment teacher Judy Toscano, who teaches this Encore segment with music teacher Marlena Roberts.



Fourth grade students adapted the story of *Chicken Little* in November. From top: Julia Taitz works on Turkey-Lurkey's costume; stage crew members watch the show; musicians await their cue; Luke Bulicek and Jonathan Krog work on a poster for the play; and the show is on!



Student Adds New Dimension to Science Research



If you thought Byram Hills science research students couldn't stretch themselves any further, think again. Jeremy Blum has added another dimension to his already mind-boggling science research project: fund raising. The 16-year-old junior recently won a \$2,000 grant from the national office of the math honor society, Mu Alpha Theta, to cover expenses for his project on intelligent prosthetics.

Jeremy is building a prosthetic arm that he hopes will be more efficient and less invasive than those currently in production. "My costs are pretty high because of the materials I need to build the arm — about \$700 — and travel expenses to work with my mentor," he explains. Jeremy is spending the February break and much of the summer at the University of New Brunswick in Canada, where his mentor, Dr. Peter Kyberd, is a distinguished professor and leader in this field.

But the business side of things is not exactly new to Jeremy: While working at least 10 hours a week on his science research, he finds time to run a video production company with another Byram Hills 11th grader, Zach Lynn, as well as a computer repair company, which he operates with junior Greg Skloot.

CORRECTION

In our story on the Byram Hills National Merit honorees in the November issue of *Spectrum*, we omitted to name Madelyn Freer as one of the school's 17 National Merit Commended Scholars. Congratulations to Madelyn and all our National Merit students.