

NEWS FROM THE ART ROOM

12/20/22

Season's Greetings, Parmenter Families!

I hope you had a great fall and are getting excited for the upcoming holiday break! You should be seeing some artwork coming home with your students as we clear the decks for the new trimester of art-learning and projects. Please note that each student has left one artwork of their choice at the school to be a placeholder for the spring art show "Night of the Arts". These art selections may or may not be replaced with a more preferred artwork by your students from future units. That evening event in April, which we share with the music program, will feature an artwork by every student at Parmenter, student musical performances and some fun activities. Stay tuned for more info! Also, please feel free to follow my Twitter account for our art room called Catherine Byrne @ParmenterArt.

In the meantime, here are the latest updates:



Kindergarten Matisse-inspired Collages.
"Drawing with Scissors" (below)



Kindergarten "Beautiful Oops"
drawing by Eleanor S.



Kindergarten line compositions
in progress!

Kindergarteners completed their Matisse-inspired collages, which were a fun way to "draw with scissors" like Matisse did, and layer organic shapes on top of geometric ones. They were introduced to the color wheel and learned that some colors "pop" when they are put together, because they are opposites (complements) on the color wheel. Students had fun trying out color combinations as they created their compositions. Currently Kindergarteners are learning about the many types of lines that exist in the world. We looked at the work of abstract artist Wassily Kandinsky, who was also a musician, and read the book "Lines that Wiggle". Students painted 2 line compositions in black tempera while listening to music ("Peter and The Wolf" by Prokofiev), to inspire varied lines. One will later be filled with primary colors and for the other they will learn how to mix secondary colors.

1st graders are working on a self portrait with a landscape behind them, in pencil and oil pastels. This involved figure drawing lessons where they learned about the word "proportion". They traced a figure, then drew the same figure from observation. We discussed: How are they different and what do you notice about the proportions? Next 1st graders will engage in a winter collage landscape.

2nd graders finished their beautiful Otomi designs and have started a crayon resist watercolor painting that features biodiverse underwater worlds. Using many photos as reference, they are challenging themselves to create a wide variety of colorful sea creatures in an underwater landscape.

3rd graders have enjoyed their adventures in ornithology (study of birds) as they seek to create 3 different labelled bird prints that will be mounted for optimal presentation. This project was a great way to learn about scientific illustrations, drawing from observation, planning a composition, and engaging in a simplified printing process. They will even get to mount their prints. Next, 3rd graders will create a 3D perspective artwork containing early Wampanoag/ pilgrim dwellings and scenes.



3rd Grade Bird Prints

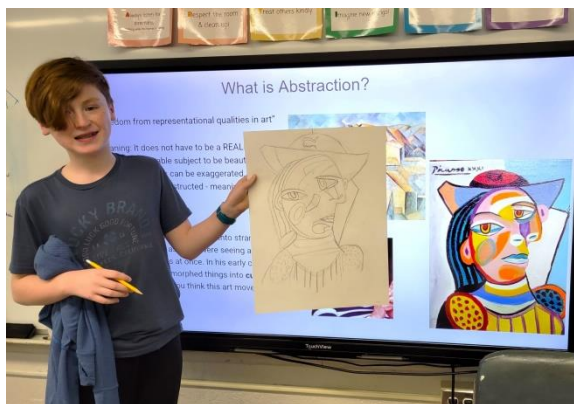
4th graders are working on the pre-Inca masks, and the biggest challenge so far has been making them symmetrical. They began with a sketch to use as a template for the foam base to help establish the placement of the symmetrical features. Next they are “building out” the facial features (in 3D relief) before adding the “gold” layer and embellishments. New words: “relief” and “template”. We looked at symmetrical artworks and relief sculptures from the past. When students were asked why an artist would make something in relief instead of just flat, the general consensus was: it is way more exciting! Students learned about where gold comes from and the artisan techniques of the ancient Sican culture. The next project for 4th graders will be Mythical Creatures that will involve line, pattern, and texture.

5th graders did a great job on their value still life drawings and are now enjoying a change of pace with Abstract Expressionism. They learned about early groundbreaking artists Hilma af Klint and Olga Rosanova, among others, who paved the way for the Abstract Expressionists of the 1940’s and 50’s. They are creating their own abstract compositions using line, shape, scale and a variety of media and techniques.

Explorations 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classes are having a ball trying out a ton of different media. Most importantly, they are learning how to brainstorm and envision, engage and persist, and critique and reflect as they create self-guided artworks. The 3rd and 4th grade classes just changed over, and the new classes seem to be loving it so far. I look forward to seeing what they create!

I wish you all a joy-filled, restful and healthy holiday break!

Sincerely, Ms. Byrne



<- 5th grader Charlie C. is inspired by Picasso!



The last day of Art Explorations of McCarthy’s 3rd grade class ended in reflection and critique. What a great 10 weeks!



5th grade finished still life charcoal drawings



5th grade Art Explorations paper sculptures



<- Prints by DJ S. left and Joseph L below



A great start to some 5th grade abstract mixed media paintings. They are excited for the next step: liquid watercolors!



Explorations compositions by 3rd graders Maddie M. (above) and Adam P. (right)

