

March 2009

# Art News

We have been busy, busy, busy....the art hive has been buzzing with enthusiasm and creativity.

During the first and second advisory, we began learning about the elements of art. We explored lines, shapes, color, texture, form, space, and value. Now we are exploring the Principles of Art- balance, unity, variety emphasis, pattern, proportion, movement, and rhythm. Also in the third and fourth advisory we will be taking a look into the past. We will examine art in historic as well as modern times.

**1<sup>st</sup> graders** had a blast creating silly textured faces and creepy, crawly caterpillars filled with five types of **LINES**. They replicated Kandinsky's piece "Circles" and had a great time mixing colors. We experimented with **3-D** paper **SCULPTURES** to see how much space they could take up. Henry made a house and Autumn made a mug.

We are now working on a "**COLOR**" book (long term project). So far we have created pages based on the color wheel, warm colors and cool colors.

We even found time to celebrate the inauguration of President Obama. I'm sure you have seen our pencil drawings on the bulletin board next to the front entrance. The students did a wonderful job and loved learning about "**SMUDGING**". Last month we created our black history month projects based on Harriet Powers, a southern quilter and Jan Matzeliger, a shoe maker.

**2<sup>nd</sup> graders** were flying high creating friendship badges and making a pledge to be a great friend. We took a closer look at different cultures for Hispanic Heritage Month. They examined the work of the Kuna Indians who originally lived in Panama and Colombia. They created colorful **MOLAS** designs out of paper depicting animals or nature while learning about **FREE-FORM** versus **GEOMETRIC** shapes. We have recently completed making our own flags. We took a closer look at our country's **SYMBOLS**, like the eagle and American flag, which we have been seeing more of due to the election. Then students imagined having their own countries and created flags with symbols for their country. Look out for those!

If you attended the Black History program, you saw the hard work of our second graders on and around the stage. Each student designed and created an African style mask. We first examined photographs of African masks from countries like Mozambique, Nigeria, and Zaire. Students then went through a step by step process in order to make their mask. Each week students tackled a new step which produced beautiful and detailed masks.

Kandinsky's compositions were the inspiration for the **3<sup>rd</sup> graders** first works of art. Students examined Kandinsky's use of lines and shapes and created compositions of their own.

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I'm sure you have all seen the Pilgrim Dolls display in front of the office. The third graders worked with their families to create the beautiful dolls but began by creating the **FORM** in art class. In between our projects we managed to learn a few concepts and new vocabulary words, such as **DEPTH**, **OVERLAPPING**, **FOREGROUND**, **MIDDLEGROUND**, and **BACKGROUND**. We continue to buzz as we finish up our Black History Month project inspired by the book The Talking Cloth by Rhonda Mitchell. Students learned about the Ashanti in West Africa and how they make **ADINKRA** cloth. Students then made their own adinkra stamps and are now creating beautiful panels filled with andinkra symbols that best describe themselves.

**4<sup>th</sup> graders** started off using lines to create **OPT ART** and continued their magic as they became **ARCHITECTS**. They worked in groups designing haunted mansions and constructed them using only straws and construction paper. Soon our architects became art historians examining the art of Ancient worlds. They recreated cave drawings from the **PALEOLITHIC** era and tried writing like an Egyptian using **HIEROGLYPHICS**. Their latest project involved making **COLLAGE** pieces like artist Romare Bearden. Come up to the art room to take a look.

**5<sup>th</sup> graders** have just completed what they are calling their messiest project yet. Using **PLASTER** they created unique Mexican suns. This project took several weeks to finish but the end products are fabulous...look out for those!!! They also found time to practice creating **SHADES** and **TINTS** and used that knowledge to paint unique **MONOCHROMATIC** pictures. One fifth grade class also had the opportunity to participate in a Global fund project thanks to Mrs. Woods. Mr. Parodi's class (and Mr. Bergfalk's class) had the opportunity to help design blocks for various countries around the world. The blocks were then signed by officials from those countries and used to build a wall of peace.

**6<sup>th</sup> graders** have been working hard, first learning about **SPACE**, specifically, **POSITIVE** and **NEGATIVE** space and space reversal. We took a close look at some amazing examples of artwork by M.C. Escher. Then the sixth graders cut their way through **TESSELLATIONS**, a very puzzling project. Then we were off learning about printmaking and the work of Elizabeth Catlett. They then carved linoleum and created relief prints which are displayed near the office. Jacob Lawrence's Migration Series was the subject for Mr. Bergfalk's class during Black History Month which in turn inspired the ...Yes We Can Series... which was created by Ms. Ballou's class. We can't wait for you to see both series.

I would like to say thank you to all grades for their help with a few school projects. All grades helped make the Eaton Bookmark Fundraiser a success. The bookmarks were unique and creative. Also thank you to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders for their help creating beautiful magnets for our Cluster 1 visitors.