

## **First Grade**

The first graders began this term by learning about the changing colors of autumn trees. After drawing their own trees they explored how to mix primary paint colors to create vibrant leaves. For their next project students strengthened their drawing skills by sketching a self-portrait that they beautifully colored with crayons. Eric Carle's literature and illustrations were the basis for students' next project. After an engaging discussion and close study about Carle's artwork students created their own handmade paper by applying various painting techniques to transform ordinary white paper. They then shared their unique paper with each other to make fantastic collages. In November students created Native American inspired artwork that incorporated the skills of weaving, fringing and even writing with Native American symbols. First grade artists are currently making winter tree scenes. After carefully drawing and coloring their trees they will paint snow and add glitter to complete their winter wonderland.

Ms. Crespi  
Art Specialist

## **Second Grade**

The second grade students began the year developing their drawing skills by learning how to draw self-portraits. For their next project students studied owls before creating torn-paper collage owl scenes. During this project second grade artists learned how to create textures from ripping paper and explored the effects of layering paper. In November students learned about Native American sand painting and their connection with nature. After drawing a simple landscape they had a great time applying colored sand to their artwork. They finished the project by attaching frames, complete with Native American symbol stories. We are currently studying the life and work of the artist Vincent van Gogh and applying elements of his *Starry Night* to our own versions of the work.

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Art Specialist

## **Third Grade**

The third graders began the year developing their drawing skills and knowledge of perspective by composing autumn landscapes and using cray-pas resist technique to color. Throughout the month of October students worked hard on their entries for the MEFA What I Want to Be When I Graduate from College poster contest. Every child did a fantastic job on their drawings and we are eagerly awaiting the results in March. For their next project pumpkins served as the subject of students' still life observational drawings that they colored with chalk, adding highlights and shadows to their work. During November we made a cross-curricular link with students' study of Native Americans, Pilgrims and Plimoth Plantation by creating Native American buffalo hide and weaving baskets to represent a Pilgrim craft. Students then role-played a bartering of their creations with one another. Currently, students are creating winter bird drawings

from images of various birds found in New England. They will color their designs with art stix and complete them by applying white paint for snow.

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### **Fourth Grade**

The fourth grade students began the year developing their drawing skills while making name designs. This project had students exploring size, scale, color, line and texture. For their next project students made observational drawings of their shoes, which they then painted using warm or cool color groups. Throughout the month of October students worked hard on their entries for the MEFA What I Want to Be When I Graduate from College poster contest. Every child did a fantastic job on their drawings and we are eagerly awaiting the results in March. In November students created a textile design inspired by Native American weaving. Using burlap, students fringed the edges before printing designs using a stenciling technique and tempera paint. In following class, students learned how to sew designs into the burlap and weave in additional materials such as colored wire, beads and feathers to create a final piece of work. Students are currently working on winter landscapes.

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