

Spring 2010 Art Term Reports

Art with Ms. Crespi

First Grade

The first graders began this term by exploring the qualities of clay. They learned how to make pinch and coil pots, which they then carefully designed with tempera paint. For our next project we continued to create three-dimensional art in the form of wire sculpture. After observing the wire artwork of Alexander Calder, students used various materials such as colored wire, pipe cleaners, beads, and cut straws to make unique artwork! Next, students learned about the artist Claude Monet and Impressionism. We discussed Monet's life and work as well as his use of cool colors and how to make Impressionist-style brush strokes. Students then created beautiful versions of Monet's Bridge at Giverny. After learning about the qualities of using tempera paint for their Monet projects students then explored watercolor paint and the effects of cray-pas resist on their tropical fish drawings. For their final art project students created symmetrical butterfly puppets that they decorated with beautiful, bright tissue paper.

Second Grade

The second grade students began the term by making a connection to their classroom study of dinosaurs. In art class they molded their own clay dinosaurs and painting them in bright colors. Next, students revisited the work of artist Vincent van Gogh as inspiration for their own sunflower paintings. Students reviewed the life of the artist and practiced drawing still life from sunflower props. The results were amazing! For their next project students boarded a boat to head up the Nile River, making stops along the way to explore ancient sites and study mummy cases. Upon our return to the classroom students designed mummy cases complete with Egyptian symbols and hieroglyphics. Students were then able to make connections between our classroom studies and the collection of Ancient Egyptian works at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Our field trip included an introduction to the MFA's collection through a guided tour and ended with students creating a gold metal mummy mask in the galleries!

Third Grade

The third graders began the term by creating clay birds. Students learned how to form, cut and work the clay to produce a desired shape. Each student made a unique bird that they painted in bright colors. They look amazing! For their next project students enjoyed creating wire figures, which they positioned in action poses. Then, to make their artwork more visually appealing they applied paper in creative ways to further illustrate their figure's action. For their final project, students continued their study of human figures, by drawing creative portraits of pirates that they colored with markers.

Fourth Grade

The fourth grade students began the term by looking at whimsical wood animals from Oaxaca, Mexico. Using clay, students molded their own animals and painted them with beautiful designs and bright colors. For their next project students learned about the life and work of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. After viewing her famous self-portraits students used mirrors to help them draw their own self-portraits. We explored how to mix various shades of tempera colors to create life-like painted portraits. The results are extraordinary! For their final project of the year students experienced the connection between art and music. After briefly discussing the influence of jazz music on artist Jackson Pollock's work, students listened to a sampling of music and visually expressed their audio experience.