

ART Newsletter – Winter 2005 GRADE 2

People throughout history have made and used art to communicate and express ideas and to convey hopes and feelings. Art is a way of giving form to our imagination, of defining our surroundings, and expressing our hopes and aspirations for the future. A quality art education integrates a number of opportunities: making beautiful things; learning to look at artworks with pleasure, sensitivity, and appreciation; using creative and imaginative ways to solve problems; integrating art in all subjects; finding outlets for feelings and emotions; and increasing perceptual sensitivity.

Art lessons in Grade 2 are very exciting. The students remember and use skills and experiences from Kindergarten and first grade to create new works of art. As in all levels of art education the principles of design (balance, rhythm, emphasis, repetition and variety) and the elements of art (line, shape, color, texture, value, form and space) are taught and used with a wonderful variety of art materials available.

The art lessons in the fall focused on drawing skills. The students began the school year using their observation skills to create a colorful still-life of flowers made with craypas, watercolors and colored pencils with an imaginary background.

October is a great time of year to discuss the use of masks throughout history and many cultures. The second graders learned some new clay making skills as they creatively built their masks and decorated them with paint, feathers, “jewels”, natural materials and fabrics. Those masks are on display in the Lunt common areas and may be taken home safely by parents at any time.

A unit on human figures began in the fall, when we made skeletons with moveable body parts. The students modeled for each other to show how the body can show action. The students have finished a nice drawing of people dancing, playing and moving about. They are presently finishing a wire sculpture that also has people and animals moving.

Before the holiday break, the second graders used a printmaking technique to create cards. Using printing ink and brayers they produced many copies of their design to give to their family and friends.

Winter and spring lessons will focus on painting, collage and more clay and paper mache projects.

I will continue to save their art work until the Lunt Arts Evening in early April and then all work will be going home after the exhibit.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or suggestions about the Art program at Lunt School.

Bonnie Taylor