

ART NEWSLETTER

News from the Art Room at Butler Elementary School | November 2017

Hello, and Greetings from the Art Room! We are off to a great start this year with all of our new changes.



After teaching grades 2-4 in Butler last year, it is my pleasure to be teaching *all* of our Butler students, grades K-4. We are missing our former art teacher, Nicole Pond, but she is still nearby, teaching art at Burbank.

Our new art space in the basement is feeling more like home; over the summer I spent time organizing and painting a mural on one of the walls, inspired by the artist **Henri Matisse**. We are settling in nicely to the new creative space.

By now you may have seen some **Connecting Assignment** worksheets going home. These worksheets are a way to stay in touch with families on the work we are doing in the Art Room. In June, students will make a portfolio and take home *all* of their work at once, which is a wonderful celebration of their artistic growth and accomplishments! Until then, I encourage

you to come see the current work displayed at Butler throughout the year and to use the Connecting Assignments as a springboard for discussion on the concepts we are learning.

Thanks for reading the Art Newsletter! Our next edition will be sent out in the Spring.



ABOUT THE ART TEACHER

Meghann Remick

I enjoy creating with many forms of media including digital art, drawing, painting, and sculpture. Recently, I started taking a pottery class, learning how to throw clay on the wheel. I also make lots of art with my two children at home.

Fun fact: I love running long distance—I am excited to have qualified for the Boston Marathon and will be running the race this April!

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Kindergarten



Kindergarten students have been doing a great job learning the routines of the Art Room.



We started our Art Education with learning how the dot is the first mark we make on a page, and if we drag our dot, it becomes a line! Students created dot pictures inspired by the book, *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds. We then built upon our knowledge of mark making by experimenting with different lines—straight, curved, zigzag, wavy, etc. and made drawings that showed a variety of lines. We then moved on to **shapes**, creating a **Shape Robot** out of simple geometric shapes such as rectangles, circles, triangles, and squares. We also experimented with stamping different objects to see what kinds of shapes we could create.

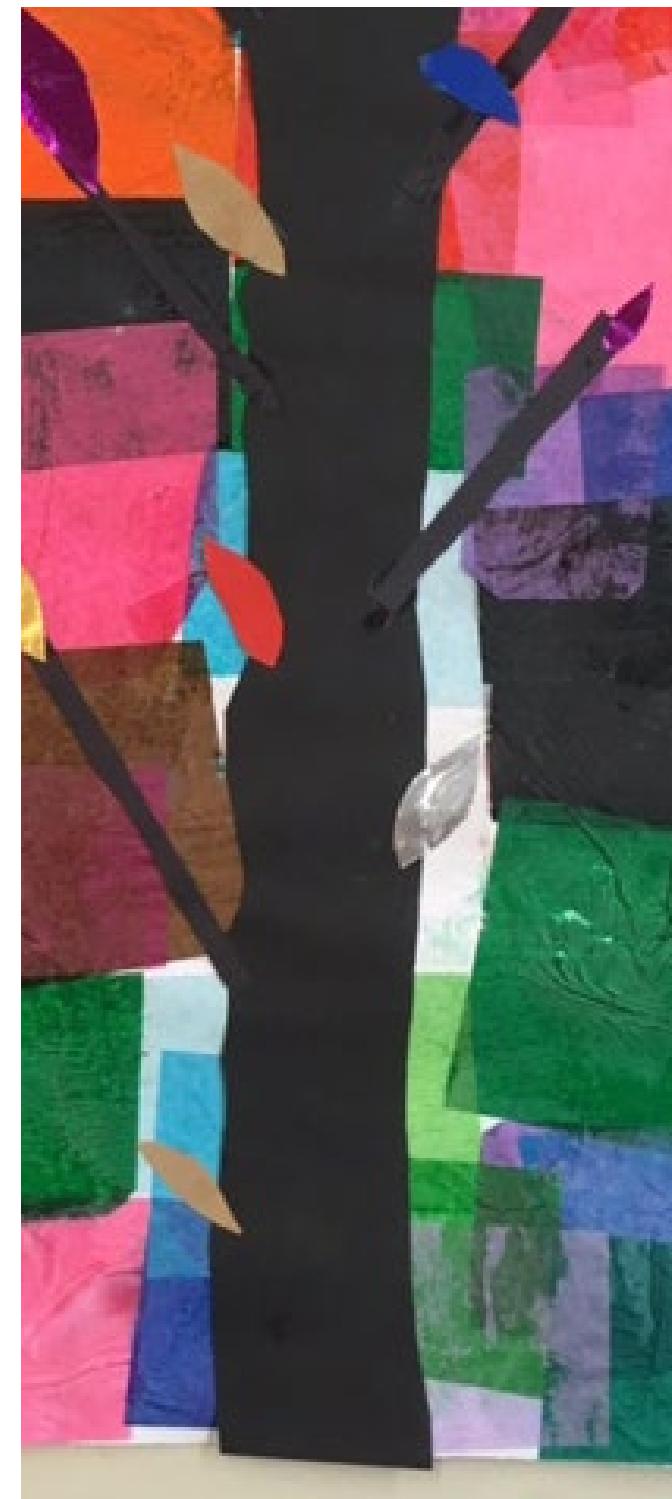
Recently, we created colorful watercolor paintings that we cut with scissors to form line designs, further practicing and strengthening those cutting skills. The beautiful fall leaves were our inspiration for our latest project - using “Payons” (painting crayons) to create a fall leaf.

Kindergarten students are working hard in following directions, using their imagination and creativity, and building small motor skills with drawing, painting, and cutting. It is wonderful to work with these creative little artists!

First Grade



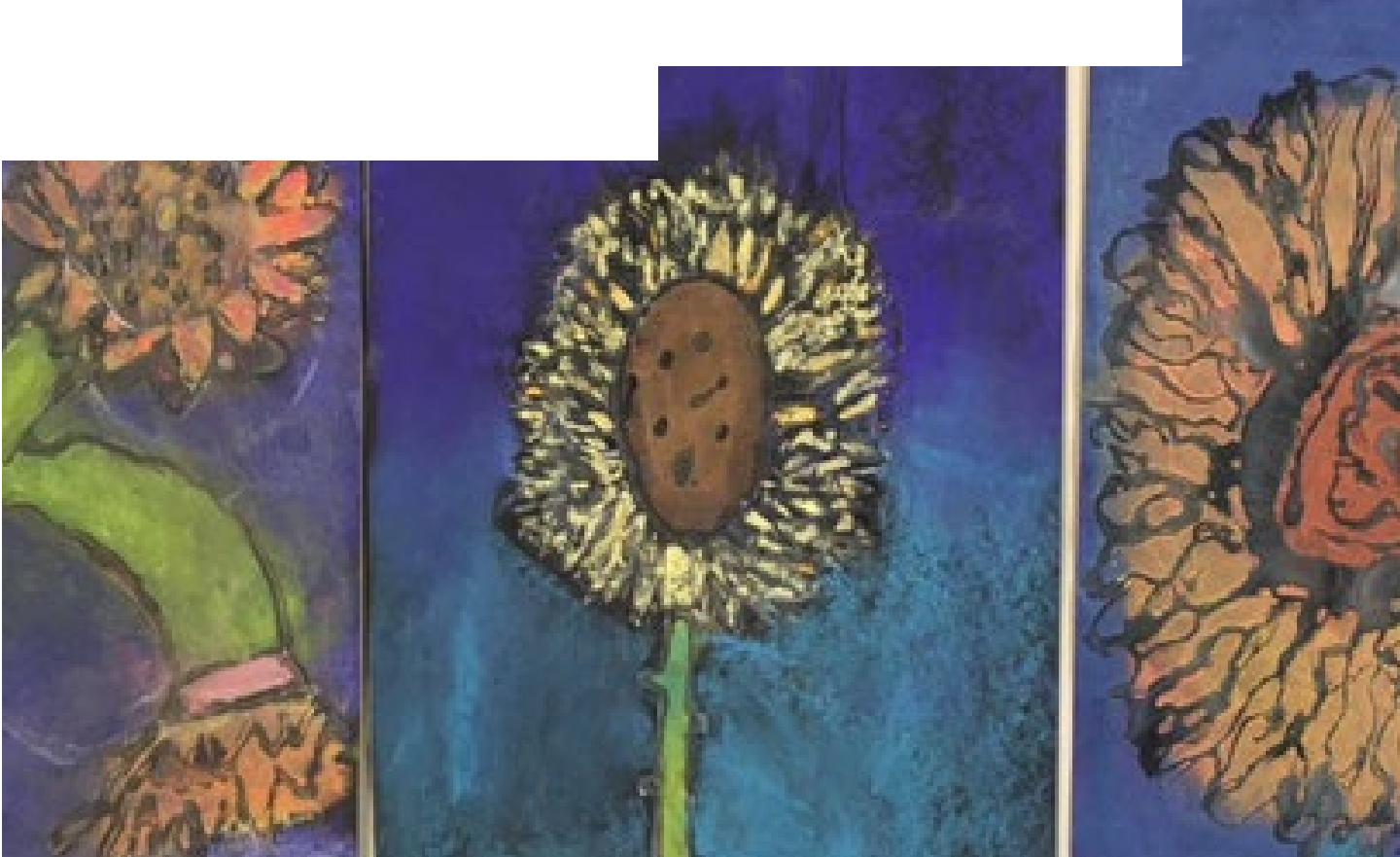
Some early projects were learning about line and texture, making a “Dream City” and a collage tree.



Their colorful and imaginative cities show a sense of space through **foreground, middle ground, and background**. Students were inspired by the artist James Rizzi, and used their imaginations to create a city of their dreams!

We are currently working on a literary inspired lesson, **The Rainbow Fish** by Marcus Pfister. We drew a fish using simple shapes such as an oval body and triangles for fins and the tail. We cut out our fish and added **patterns** with oil pastels. We discussed the difference of something being **2D vs. 3D**, and are working on transforming our flat drawings of fish to a **three-dimensional form** by adding another side to our fish and filling them with recycled paper. This project has been very exciting as our flat fish change into a sculpture! Our last step will be to share a shiny scale, just like the rainbow fish from the story.

Second Grade



Second graders discussed what a “still-life” is, and observed the artwork of Vincent van Gogh and his paintings of sunflowers.

Second graders have been working hard learning about the elements of art such as line, shape, and texture. We created name designs with texture using a watercolor resist and made original **abstract** art inspired by classical music and the Russian artist **Wassily Kandinsky**.

Recently, we have been inspired by nature and have been practicing our observational drawing skills to draw real sunflowers. Students worked very hard to **draw what they see**, not what they think a sunflower looks like. We first sketched, then completed a glue drawing of real sunflowers, filling in the picture with chalk pastels. We used warm colors for our sunflower and cool colors for the background to complete these beautiful works!



**Artist Inspiration:
Vincent van Gogh**

Students were inspired by Vincent van Gogh's paintings of sunflowers, which are among his most famous. He did them in Arles, in the south of France, in 1888 and 1889.

Sunflowers, 1889



Third Grade



Third grade students have been very busy working on artwork inspired by the element of art—space.



Students learned about the concept of **Positive Sand Negative space** in Art—how the object in a picture is the *positive space*, and the space *around* the object is the *negative space*. We observed how artists can use this concept of space in their artwork, and how sometimes our eyes can play a “trick” on us when we look at positive and negative space. To create our own artwork using **pos/neg space**, we drew a simple shape to create a template. Students traced their template multiple times, using overlapping and combining the shapes. Then they had to fill in the **negative space** using pattern. This project was a great way to illustrate this tricky concept and to create original artwork!

To continue with our unit on space, students learned about **Notan**, the Japanese concept of *the balance of light and dark*. Students cut shapes out of paper and reversed the shapes to create a mirror image, showing the balance of light and dark, as well as positive and negative space. They did a great job with these cut-paper designs!

Currently, we are finishing up a lesson on making hand-shaped bowls out of clay. We learned how to roll a “slab” in clay, cut out our hand shape and used a mold to create a bowl form. We were inspired by *One Million Acts of Kindness*, and how through our own two hands, we can spread positivity in small ways. The clay pieces were glazed and fired and should be arriving home soon. Be sure to ask your child what act of kindness they have chosen to do!



Fourth Grade



Fourth Grade students created artwork with foil embossing to show contrast, rhythm, and movement.

Students created foil embossing artwork by first drawing a principle of design using only line and shape. They glued yarn over their design, covered it with aluminum foil, and “burnished” the foil over the raised lines. Students chose a **triadic** color scheme (three colors spaced evenly on the color wheel) to fill in the spaces around their lines with colored sharpie. The finished artwork was mounted on black paper and are truly stunning! They look as if they are made of metal and are “shining” examples of the creativity of our fourth graders! Everyone had great success with this project.

Currently, fourth grade students are working on a self-portrait unit—using mixed media and observational drawing to learn about facial proportions.

