

# ART NEWSLETTER

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

## Portfolio Day

Students have worked very hard this year and have learned about art concepts such as the Elements of Art and Principles of Design, many different art techniques, and were also inspired by famous artists and art movements. To recognize and celebrate their artistic learning, students will take home all of their artwork from the school year on Portfolio Day. We ask that students create a personal “art show” at home, where they can share all of their hard work and creativity with their family.

Here are some ideas on how to create the art show:

- Display the artwork in one room
- Enjoy a gallery viewing with family members
- Discuss the artwork (“How did you make this?” “What is your favorite piece, why?” “Tell me about your artwork.”)
- Students will fill out a response sheet to bring back to art class.



## BELMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION

May 19th - June 1st  
Belmont Gallery of Art  
Town Hall Complex - Homer Building  
19 Moore St, 3rd floor, Belmont Center



Come see and celebrate the work of Belmont's young K-12 artists. A wonderful sampling of work is showcased from the visual arts program and curriculum within the schools.

**Families Reception: May 31st, 6:30-8 pm**  
Meet the artists and the teachers who inspire their creativity.

### contact us:

Grades K-1 Art Teacher:  
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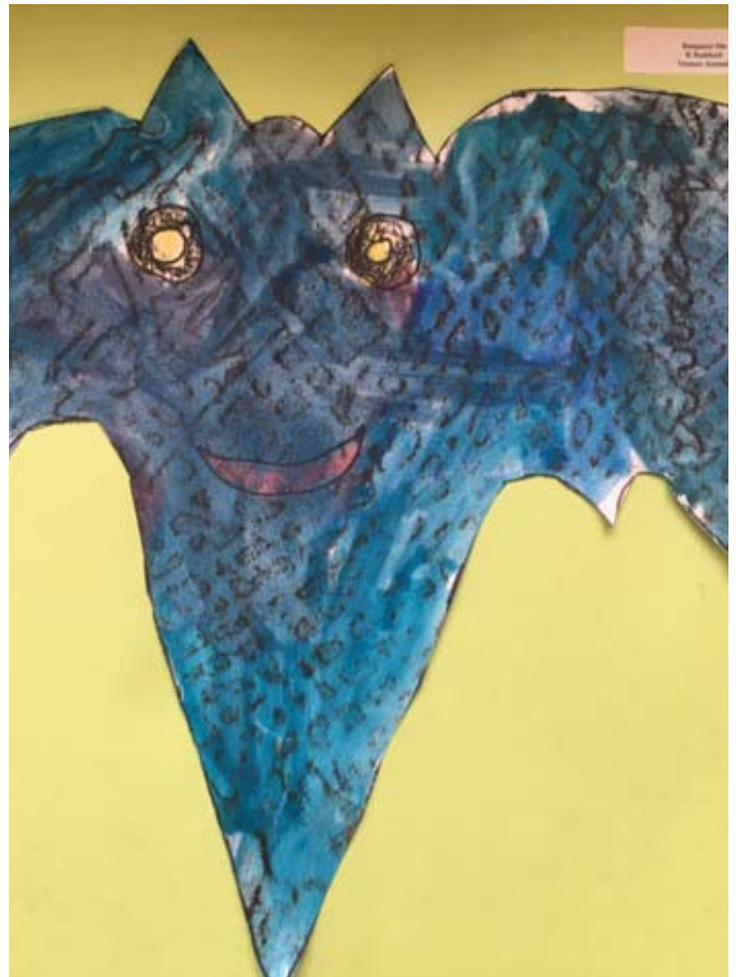
Grades 2-4 Art Teacher:  
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# Kindergarten



Kindergarten students have been busy exploring various ways to show the element of **TEXTURE** in their work. We started off this unit by reading the book "Owl Babies" by Martin Waddell. Students discussed the ways in which the baby owls appeared to be fuzzy and soft, while the tree in the book appears rough and hard. We brainstormed ways in which artists can use **REAL texture vs. VISUAL texture** in a piece of artwork. Students created an scene from the book "Owl Babies" using sponge brush techniques to help their owl babies to appear soft and fuzzy. The results were adorable!

For the second part of the texture unit, students explored how texture rubbing plates can be used to give the illusion of visual texture. They loved worked with the different texture plates and applied watercolors on top of their texture rubbings to create a **resist**.



# First Grade

1st grade artists explored the work and life of **Henri Matisse**. They learned about his earlier work as a painter and how he became a collage artist in his later life due to health problems. For this unit, the students created a collage that was inspired by Matisse by using **geometric and organic shapes**. We even worked on a collaborative Matisse inspired collage that all three 1st grade classes worked on together. This collaborative piece will be on display at the Superintendent's office over the summer months!



1st grade artists have also been exploring how artists can use **visual texture** in a piece of work. Students created a bird with oil pastels that demonstrated some visual texture techniques. They were then introduced to watercolors and compared how watercolors differ from other types of paints we have used. By painting over their oil pastel birds with the watercolors, the students were then able to explore how the 2 materials resist each other. They practiced using their watercolors in a light, transparent manner.



## Artist Inspiration: Henri Matisse

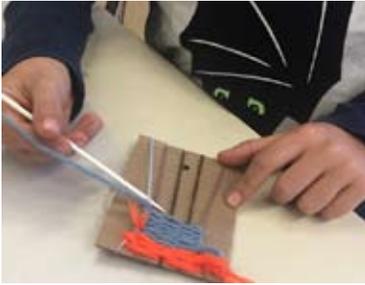


Icarus, 1947



Snow Flowers, 1951

# Second Grade

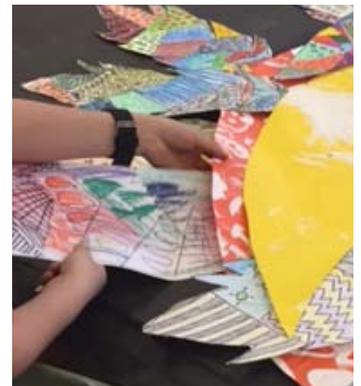


Second grade students created fiber art with yarn on a cardboard loom. Students learned how to weave using the over-under-over-under method. After adding 3-4 colors of yarn, students were able to embellish their fiber art with beads, string, and sparkly jewels. The second graders did a great job following multiple steps and working with this special material to create their artwork.

**Coming up Next:** Students will learn about the Design Principle of **symmetry** and the anatomy of an insect to create their BIG BUGS! Students will draw one side of an insect using oil pastel, fold their paper in half, and press down to reveal a mirror image of their drawing. Students will go over their lines in oil pastel, adding more color and detail, then paint watercolor over the entire artwork, creating a “resist.” BIG BUGS is a very engaging project and helps student make connections between design principles and symmetry in nature.



# Third Grade



**What Lifts You?** Students in third grade were inspired by the international street artist, Kelsey Montague, to create a collaborative mural based on her “*What Lifts You?*” series. Students were challenged to think about what lifts them — what makes them happy, what inspires them. We thought about how each one of us is unique and awesome in our own way. Each student made a feather to represent our unique qualities, and the feathers were added to a pair of large scale wings. Together, we also created some patterned paper to add to the wings.

The finished artwork is beautiful and reflects a wonderful collaboration of meaningful artmaking! We invite you to see the mural at the Butler school and to think about what lifts you up— and perhaps get your picture taken and become a “living work of art!”

**Coming up Next:** Students will be inspired by Georgia O’Keeffe to create large-scale flower paintings. Students will draw a part of a flower using their observational drawing skills, and use watercolor techniques to add bold color. Keep an eye out for these beautiful works!

## Artist Inspiration: Kelsey Montague

Montague’s murals give people the the opportunity to become a “living work of art.” Her *What Lifts You?* campaign was exhibited in NYC and is now in New Zealand and Australia. Taylor Swift has even had her picture taken in front of the wings!



Learn more about the artist and see more work at:  
<http://kelseymontagueart.com/>

# Fourth Grade

Fourth Grade students learned about the hand building methods of rolling a “slab,” using **score and slip** to attach clay together, and how to roll a **coil** to create their magnificent coil pots. Students practiced the clay methods, sketched their idea, and then spent two class periods building their pots. Students then glazed their clay pieces to complete the process. Their creativity was impressive and the coil pots are works of art! We hope you enjoy displaying them in your home.





**EVERY  
CHILD  
IS AN  
ARTIST**  
*Picasso*

## The Importance of Art in Child Development

Developmental Benefits of Art  
by Grace Hwang Lynch, PBS Parents

1. Motor Skills
2. Language Development
3. Decision Making
4. Visual Learning
5. Inventiveness
6. Cultural Awareness
7. Improved Academic Performance

“When kids are encouraged to express themselves and take risks in creating art, they develop a sense of innovation that will be important in their adult lives. The kind of people society needs to make it move forward are thinking, inventive people who seek new ways and improvements, not people who can only follow directions. Art is a way to encourage the process and the experience of thinking and making things better!”

To read the full article, please visit:  
<http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/music-arts/the-importance-of-art-in-child-development/>



### Follow the Visual and Performing Arts:

[www.belmont.k12.ma.us/bps/fpa](http://www.belmont.k12.ma.us/bps/fpa)  
[www.facebook.com/bpsvpa](https://www.facebook.com/bpsvpa)

Thank you for reading this edition of the Art Newsletter to see all the ways art students are learning at Butler. As always, please reach out to us with any questions.