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NEWSLETTER

PORTFOLIOS

Throughout the year, there are various displays and opportunities to see student artwork.

At the end of the school year, all students will be making a portfolio to organize and share their artwork in. It is an exciting time of the year where artistic growth is reflected on and shared through the artwork that will be brought home.

We always look forward to portfolio day in June and invite you to check out the art exhibits that showcase all of the beautiful artwork students have been working on!

MRS. POND

For those of you that do not know me, I have been teaching visual arts in the district for the past 18 years! I have always taught at Burbank, but I am also the K-1 art teacher at Butler too. I teach there most mornings before coming to Burbank. I have also enjoyed some time at Chenery and Winn Brook over the years.

I am also a practicing artist and I love to paint, sculpt, do printmaking and photography too!

SCHEDULE

All classes K-4 meet in the art studio once a week for 45 minutes. Due to flip flop schedules, the month of November is very confusing! Be sure to check out the school calendar so you know which day is an art day!

You can follow the Visual and Performing Arts department at:

www.belmont.k12.ma.us/bps/fpa

www.facebook.com/bpsvpa

CONNECTING ASSIGNMENTS

To help facilitate conversations at home, I will be sending home 'connecting assignments' at the end of each unit (not each art class necessarily depending on how many classes the unit runs for). This is a great way for you to read about what we have been working on, to see a mini example and to get some discussion prompts.

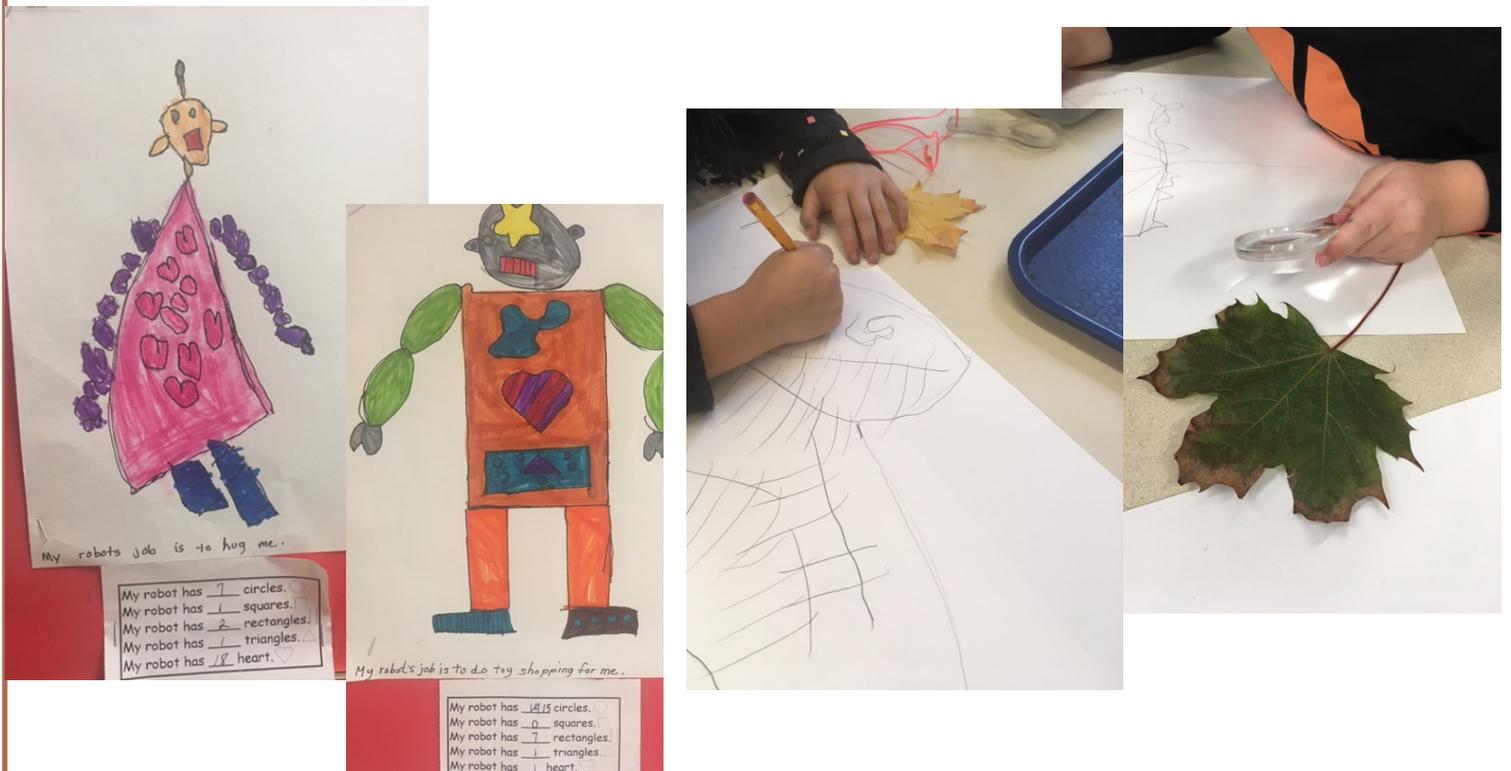
If you have any questions, please contact me at npond@belmont.k12.ma.us

KINDERGARTEN ART

Kindergarten students have been doing a great job learning the routines of how the art room works. We started off the year learning how the dot is the first mark we make on our page. If we drag the dot, it can make a line. If we close off the line, it can make a shape and then with those shapes we can build our pictures!

Kindergarten students explored how to build using shapes by creating a shape robot. Students had to organize their shapes and sizes to construct a new robot. I interviewed the students and wrote what their robots job was—it was great to see so many robots that want to help out around the house! We even had the chance to work on our counting skills, as each student counted and tallied the number of shapes they have within their robot. Be on the lookout for all of these great pieces hanging around the school!

Students have recently been scientists and artists as they explore with a magnifying glass an autumn leaf. They discovered lines in the veins, shapes they could use to draw the leaf and the amazing fall colors in the leaf. Students created an observational drawing of their leaf on a piece of paper. We are then using Payons (painting crayons) to help bring out all of those fall colors.



GRADE ONE

In art class with Mrs. Pond, we are currently talking more about the elements of line and space and how important lines are to creating all art. For our art assignment, we are developing our own dream city! By using foreground, middleground and background, we have been able to create a sense of space in our pictures. This helps to make it look like there is distance in our city. We had to think about all the buildings, stores and restaurants that we would want in our very own dream city. We used a lot of variety in our work to make our city interesting and exciting. As inspiration, we looked at paintings by contemporary artist James Rizzi (see below for example). His work is fun, colorful, shows a ton of variety and was a great inspiration for the students and their cities!

James Rizzi, *My New York City*, 2011



After finishing our dream cities, students are currently working on a piece inspired by artist Joan Miro. We spent some time discussing the difference between realistic art, representational art and abstract art. Students examined Miro's work to see what elements he uses in his pieces. They discovered lines, shapes, colors, use of symbols and representational images. Students are exploring these elements in their own piece using oil pastels and a watercolor wash.



Joan Miro, *Figures and Dogs in Front of the Sun*, 1949

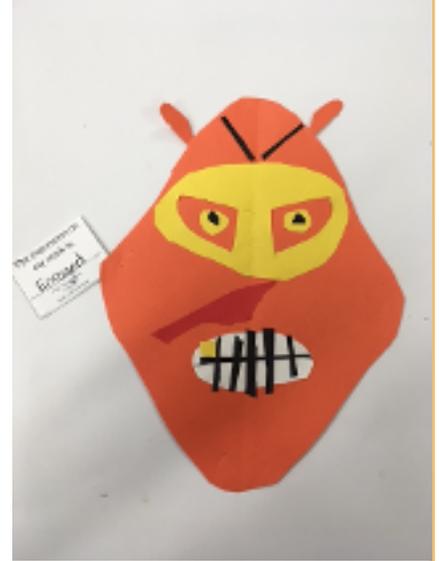


GRADE TWO

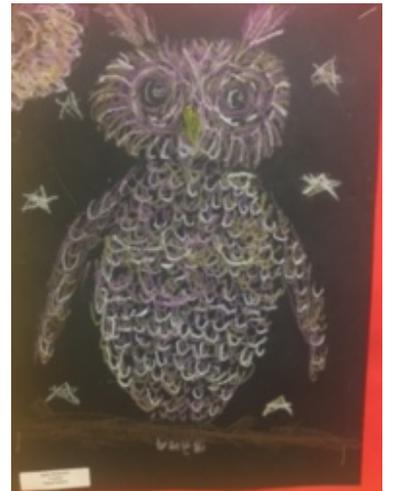
Second grade artists started off the year by talking about expressions and how our facial features can help to tell a story about how we are feeling. We had the chance to make lots of silly faces to show different moods. For our lesson, we are creating a collaged mask that shows an expression. We started by reviewing what symmetry was and how to cut something that was symmetrical. We cut the background of our mask to be symmetrical and then used a variety of papers to add expressive details to our mask. We had to think about how color and facial features play into how we visually express ourselves.



Can you guess the expression on these masks?
One is *sad* and the other is *enraged*!



For our next unit, we were learning about visual texture in art. We first looked at a variety of drawings and paintings to discuss ways in which artists use lines and shapes to show visual texture in a piece of art. We also looked at paintings by Vincent Van Gogh. We learned how Van Gogh used his impressionist style to create work with many little lines from his brushstroke. We took a close up look at the moon in "Starry Night" (see below). It was amazing to see all the colors he used and the texture he used in his paintings. With all of these styles in mind, we set out to create our own birds that demonstrate visual texture. We brainstormed how to show visual texture in our work through little lines and layering of colors. We learned some new techniques with the oil pastels to help show visual texture.

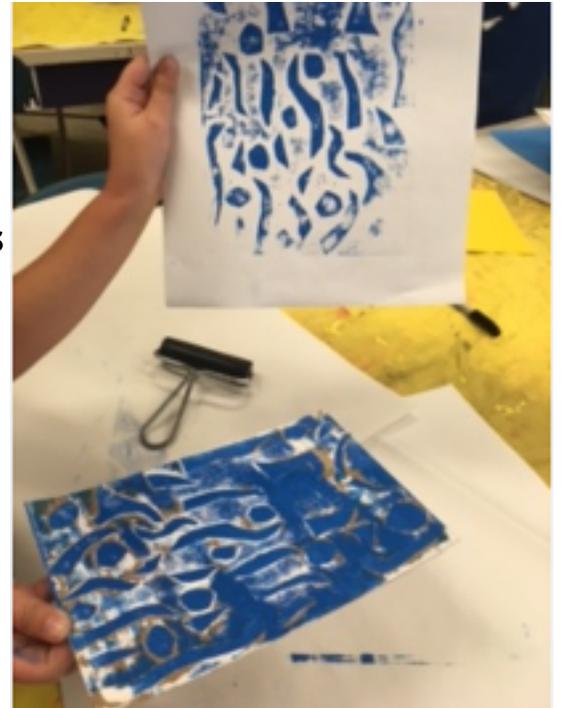


GRADE THREE

Third graders have been learning all about the art of printmaking. One main advantage to the art of printmaking is that artists can make multiple copies of the same image. The style of printmaking we have been working with is called a collagraph. This is an additive form of printmaking, when artists collage on piece of board (in our case we used oaktag to collage with). Our unit first started off with a discussion on abstract art and how to create a meaningful piece of abstract art. Students used a piece of cardboard and some oaktag to create an abstract collagraph plate. We then sealed the plate with a layer of glue. The following week we became a printmaking factory in the art room! We spent 2 weeks printing with various colors of ink and paper. The results are amazing!



Some process photos



And some product photos!



GRADE FOUR

In 4th grade art, we just finished up our printmaking unit. We used the Burbank garden as our source of inspiration! For our unit, we spent the first lesson outside in the garden exploring and sketching some different location ideas/compositions. Once we finalized our location and composition, we carved our composition into a piece of Styrofoam with a pencil. Mrs. Pond also took photographs of our location so that we could use them as a reference back in the art room. Once our Styrofoam plate was completed, Mrs. Pond showed us how to print our work. Using a brayer and some special printmaking ink, we were off printing! We explored printing for 3 art classes...we worked on different types of paper, explored different colored inks and Mrs. Pond even showed us a way to print at home with regular markers. Once all of our prints were completed, we worked on creating an edition on our prints, which means we created a fraction to represent how many prints we made. The top number in the fraction represents which print this is in the series and the bottom part of the fraction represents how many total prints we made. We selected 1 print to frame and give to Mrs. Pond for an exhibit and the rest I get to take home!



ART AROUND BURBANK

Besides the usual classroom art displays, there are a few new large scale pieces of art to enjoy around the Burbank school!



Dr. Clifford requested that I created a mural that reflects the Burbank core values! Come see it outside the library.

This mural was created by the 4th grade graduating class last school year. You can find this outside Mrs. Romig's office on the first floor!



This paper quill piece on movement in art was created by the current 4th grade class. You can find it on display outside the Burbank office!

