

Fifth Grade Tile Project

Every year, it is a tradition in Alta Vista to have the graduating class (fifth grade) students make a clay tile project during Spring. The theme is chosen by the fifth grade teachers. All fifth graders design a 4x4 tile during early March. They glaze the tiles before the end of April. The fifth grade clay leads design a centerpiece for the project. Once the tiles and centerpiece are glazed and fired, the dads club gets the whole thing framed and fixed as a wall mural in the school.

The framed tiles project is unveiled on the fifth grade graduation day.

This project requires preparation to be done ahead of time.

Clay tiles: Usually volunteers will be asked to come a day ahead to roll and cut clay tiles. We usually make close to 100 to 120 tiles. So ideally, having clay tiles cut the previous day helps with the whole process moving smoothly and faster.

Project day: Students come in batches and do the project in 30 minute slots. The teachers usually have the students practice a design the previous day and hence the students know exactly what they want to do.

Glaze day: Students glaze their tiles in batches in 30 minute slots.

Make-ups: Clay classroom leads will have to do make-ups for absent students within a week of the actual project date. This ensures that all students' projects are ready to be glazed and then taken to the framers on time.