

October

October is here! We are now mid-way through the first trimester, and creating many different wonderful artworks in all grade levels. As mentioned last month, Carol Stream students will continue to focus on ways artists can *Make Their Mark*. This can be while learning about how other people and cultures throughout time have made their mark in the world, as well as our own ways to create and make a mark.

Kindergarten

The Kindergarteners are making their mark as artists by learning and practicing the elements of art, and how they can be put together to create projects. The Kindergarteners have been learning a lot about lines, shapes and colors, and how to mix and make new colors. This month, the students will learn about their first famous artist: Grant Wood. Grant Wood is an American artist from Iowa who made his mark in the world by painting beautiful landscapes and especially a lot of farms. As a class, we will be discussing some of the characteristics of landscapes and fall farms. Kindergartners will create a fall farm landscape that will start with some of the various lines, shapes and colors that we have been practicing. Eventually, these pictures will be painted in watercolors!

First Grade

First graders will start a painting unit that involves mixing primary colors into secondary colors, while also expressing their favorite foods in a painting! Soon after that, first graders will start an art history unit where we will be talking about the earliest type of art in human history that has been discovered: Cave Paintings! The students will learn all about the Lascaux Cave in France and the paintings that were found there. We will practice drawing animals and even draw on surfaces very similar to cave walls using the types of tools that the people from that time would have used! In this unit, we will learn new ways to create, and appreciate that artists have made their mark from different times and places in history by creating!

Second Grade

The second graders are working hard on their art history unit where we have been learning about the ancient Egyptians. Students have learned all about ancient Egyptian life as well as their art and architecture- ask your second grader to tell you about the fascinating history of Egypt! In this unit, students will explore many different art materials such as gold & silver paint pens, toiling foil, paper sculpting and clay. Like the Egyptians, students will express themselves through drawn symbols while making a sarcophagus and pyramid sculpture!

Third Grade

The third graders are finishing up their portrait unit where they have learned how to draw faces using a grid! Grid drawings are a great way to line up shapes in an image and help create everything in the right places. Their drawings will be colored in a unique way inspired by the famous artist Chuck Close using repeating shapes, lines

and colors in the grid (square) spaces. The results will be both realistic AND abstract! The students will soon start a silhouette painting showing a watercolor sunset and a fall themed landscape.

Fourth Grade

The fourth grade students will be reviewing the color wheel, lines, shapes, space, and value in art. We will then learn about *monochromatic* colors which are colors that are not on the color wheel because they have been lightened with white (a tint), or darkened with black (a shade). While working on these elements, the fourth graders will also be learning all about the Spanish artist Pablo Picasso and his many different artistic styles. During Picasso's long career, he started an artistic style known as cubism where he would paint images by breaking them up into many shapes and pieces. He also went through artistic phases where he would only paint in one color with various mixtures of that color such as his famous 'blue' and 'rose' periods. With these unique styles in mind, the fourth graders are creating abstract self-portraits where they are breaking up their faces in a cubist style, and then choosing only ONE color to mix many different tints and shades of to paint in their faces.

Fifth Grade

The fifth grade has been making their mark exploring many different art tools this trimester. They have been learning about the elaborate arts of the middle ages and how to incorporate symbols to tell about their interests and values into their work. Students are designing either a coat of arms, medieval armor, or an illuminated name. These Medieval designs are turning out beautifully! Soon, we will transfer their ideas to parchment paper using fine tip sharpies, colored pencils, and gold & silver paint pens. Learning about art from long ago teaches students about different people, times & places as well as inspires us to express ourselves in new ways!