Art Update - May 2025!



Dear Wildwood families,
It was so nice to see many of you at our all school art show April 30! Second through fifth graders have now begun their big design projects, and K/1 also is working 3d, which will keep hands and minds busy through the end of the year!.

4th & 5th - The New Mission Project: As mentioned in my last message home, this is an integrated design project that uses the Design Thinking Process, including the steps Define/Observe; Empathy, Visualize, Prototype, Test/Refine. Our guiding question is: How can we use what we know of California (regions, culture, and history) to design a temporary shelter with dignity?

We chose a group of displaced Californians (fire/flood, earthquake, homeless, or migrant farm workers) to learn about (develop empathy) and to design for. We get to know architects who "design for humanity" and for dignity. This will culminate in building a scale model of our ideas out of simple recycled materials like cardboard. If you'd like to find out more, here is our guiding worksheet which includes age appropriate books from our library to build empathy for each group. Ms. Ludmer now has a display of these books so they're easy to find.

2nd & 3rd Hexbug playgrounds: We are also using the Design Thinking Process to design for users with a specific need. In this case, our hexbugs are bored and need exercise! We brainstormed what makes a great playground and these are some of the criteria we came up with: a variety of activities, nice looking design, open space, climbing, swings and tall slides. We are prototyping this week and next week we'll start gluing our best ideas. Our users, the hex bugs, will test them out next week.
Family Fieldtrip/Research Idea: Go check out a favorite playground together. Favorites that came up in our class discussions: Koret playground in Golden Gate Park, Adventure Playground and Cordonices both in Berkeley.

K-1: Animal architecture/Birds We have been practicing drawing realistic birds by starting with the basic shapes and leaving details until last. Now we are sculpting our birds using air dry clay. We still have to start with the basic shapes, but now they are three dimensional. Soon we will use recycled materials to sculpt a nest for our birdies. We are also exploring symmetry prints.

Artfully,
Ms. Seiden

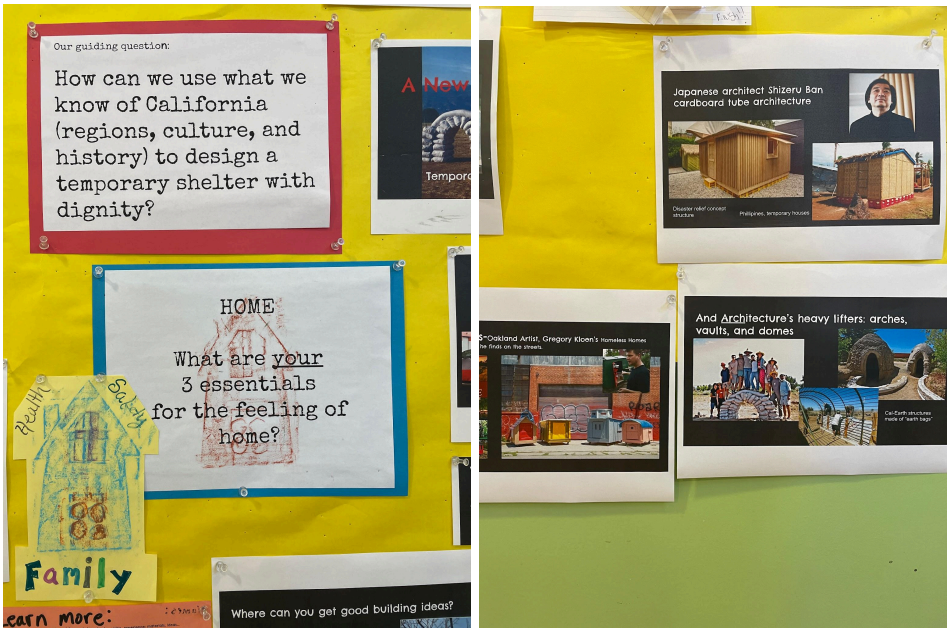
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Kinder realistic bird drawings and 1st grade sculpting their clay birds




2nd/3rd grade hexbug playground design is serious work!



From the 4th / 5th gradeNew Mission Project thinking wall. Building starts next week!