

Art News

Kindergarten In Kindergarten we have been learning about the Austrian artist Gustav Klimt. Like Klimt, the students created portraits using gold paint and lots and lots of patterns. We have also talked about how artists use colors to express feelings, and made masks that show emotions. After Spring Break we will be learning about the Navajo potter Lucy Lewis and try our hands at making clay pinch pots!

First Grade In first grade we have spent some time creating pictures of our own houses, followed by paintings of our dream houses. First graders are currently learning about weaving. We started by creating textures on paper, which were cut into strips and turned into beautiful paper weavings. This week we are starting to weave with yarn on small “looms” we made ourselves out of plastic drinking straws.

Second Grade The second graders really enjoyed our study of the American artist Keith Haring. They can now identify his work by the distinctive style of simple figures, bright colors and bold outlines. Students who are interested in learning more about Haring should check out the website www.haringkids.com. Since then we've explored Chinese brush painting and an African-American artist, Faith Ringgold.

Third Grade In third grade students have been busy for several weeks with a unit about figure drawing. We made our own sketchbooks and talked about how bodies bend and move. Students practiced in their sketchbooks, taking turns posing for the class. Their final drawings show off what they've learned! We are about to begin making coil pots out of clay.

Fourth Grade The fourth graders have been busy learning about printmaking. We learned about the process of printmaking and how to put textures into their prints. Then each student created a printing “plate” and made at least three prints from their plate. We are now beginning a unit on architecture by looking at the buildings and paintings of Austrian artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser.

Middle School The middle school classes are continuing their theme of American art. We spent a few weeks learning about American women photographers and the history of photography. More recently we explored African American art, specifically the Harlem Renaissance and its influence on art and music. Students have been creating posters and flipbooks celebrating jazz through their artwork.