

April



When my daughter was about seven years old, she asked me one day what I did at work. I told her I worked at the college- that my job was to teach people how to draw. She stared at me, incredulous, and said, "You mean they forget?"

Howard Ikemoto

April showers may mean having some cloudy, dark days but there is plenty of colorful, energetic artwork coming from our young artists here at St. Francis. Since spring has sprung, many of the projects in Pre K, Kindergarten, and grade 1 will focus on subject matter relevant to the season. We will look at the shapes that can make up umbrellas, what are the visual aspects of a rainy day, the colors spring brings to flowers, the nature that starts to reappear with the changing seasons, and, of course, the Easter season!

Grade 2 is learning about dinosaurs and we will be combining our artistic abilities with our knowledge of these amazing creatures. Each class will be working in groups to create several large scale stuffed sculptures. They will utilize mixed media and collaboration skills in order to create something beautiful as well as educational.

Grade 3 and 4 are going to focus on design related projects this month. In grade 3, each student will create a simple shape, either geometric or abstract. We are then going to practice repeating that shape in order to make a unique and

interesting design. Fourth grade will be using letters and words in order to create their own personal kaleidoscopes. As we all know, kaleidoscopes are known for their beautiful use of color so a large emphasis will be on the way that each student chooses to decorate their individual artworks

Grade 5 is continuing their color study by viewing artworks that depict warm and cool color schemes. We will be discussing how these colors can create moods within our artworks. Each student will then choose to work with either warm or cool colors and create their own original drawings to which they will apply their color scheme using watercolor pencils.

Grade 6 is spending some time as well reviewing and expanding on their knowledge of the color wheel. We are learning that different color combinations create different visual reactions.

For the month of April, our focus will be on the complementary color pairs. Using a pre-made grid, students will create a drawing and then apply complementary colors to the foreground and background. The final product will depict some of the strongest contrasts that we find on our color wheel, in addition, to making our heads a little dizzy after viewing them!

Grade 7 will begin the month with a study on space and depth in art. We will first try our hand at one-point perspective, where we create shapes that allow us for the illusion of depth to exist on a 2-dimensional surface. After we feel comfortable with this technique, we will begin to add additional elements of space to really allow depth to exist on a flat surface. Among these are shading, placement, size, overlapping, and diminished details. We will combine all of

these techniques in order to create a scene depicting space.

Grade 8 is continuing to work on a Pop Art drawing project that challenges them to not only draw but to add shading as well to their images. After looking at several different samples, some from famous artists, we will be applying 4 techniques: blending, stippling, hatching, and cross-hatching to our drawings. Upon completion of the drawings, we will add some Pop Art color to finalize our work, thus creating our own "Andy Warhol" creations!

Happy Spring!



Mrs. Flanagan