

Art News - May 2012

Dear Parents,

The children have worked diligently all year to make one-of-a-kind artwork for your enjoyment. Soon, the halls will be filled with beautiful paintings, drawings, and ceramic work. I hope you will treasure each art piece made by your child. I tell the children that everyone is creative in a different way, but all children are artists.

The focus this year was on organic/living things. You will see evidence of this in the beautiful leaf prints created by the **second grade**. These students worked with real leaves and printing ink to create their masterpiece. In addition, they have made a ceramic planter, which can be used at home for real or silk flowers. The children had so much fun going to the "flower store" to pick out their bouquet of color.

The **first graders** focused on the human face. You will see all sorts of drawings with a wide range of expressions that only a child could create. They also made ceramic pendants and had a challenge to match the beads on both sides. The children became jewel hunters, looking in each other's trays for special colored beads. These pendants are unique and will attract positive attention for anyone wearing this incredible art.

Third grade has raised the bar on what can be made from paper and paste. When you look at the finished figure sculptures, I am sure you will be impressed with the complexity and detail each child thought through to make their vision come to life. This journey began with studying the figure and drawing from live models as each child took a turn posing for the class. These sculptures are delightful and will make anyone smile.

Finally, when you walk down the fourth grade hallway, it will be apparent that the **fourth graders** really exceeded all expectations for what a child of this age can produce. Working from National Geographic photographs, the students were challenged to learn color mixing and apply that knowledge in their painting of living things. I am so thrilled and impressed by their efforts, I am sure you will be as well. The pottery is once, again, unique and impressive. These ceramic pieces can be used for food and liquid. They are dinnerware safe but I would not recommend putting them in the dishwasher.

Enjoy viewing all the beautiful work produced by the students and I will see you at the art show!

Sincerely,

Jenny Doherty

Physical Education News
May 2012
Mrs. Kozicki and Mr. Soto

Spring has finally arrived and it is a great time of the year to get outside and play! The possibilities are endless, limited only by bad weather. It is time to get out and play all those fun games with the neighborhood kids: 4 four square, hopscotch, 500, jump rope, basketball, baseball, soccer, etc. It is also a great time of the year to explore some lifetime activities like walking, hiking, canoeing/kayaking, biking, rollerblading, mowing the lawn, gardening, and soon swimming. Play outside every day!!!

We held an extremely successful Jump Rope For Heart on February 24th. All Pritchett students K-4 enjoyed a school spirit day in the gym jumping rope; helping others by improving their own fitness. Pritchett students collected donations that totaled \$5,049.41 for the American Heart Association! Wow!

Since January our 1st – 4th graders have worked on basketball, volleyball, dance, long jump ropes and t-ball/softball skills. In addition, the 1st and 2nd graders also had lessons reinforcing right, left, opposites, wide, narrow, through and around. We are currently taking fitness tests. We will end up the year with some frisbee throwing, some t-ball/softball/kickball games and other fun activities (like tug-o-war).

In terms of health, the 2nd graders have been studying the muscular system; the 3rd graders have been learning about the food pyramid and nutrition; and the 4th graders have been learning about the respiratory system. Our 3rd and 4th graders also learned how to take their pulse to monitor their heart rate during exercise.

The kindergarteners have finished the letter of the week and continue to work on their locomotor skills. We have explored the themes of through/around, wide narrow, and right/left/opposites. We used the volleyball net with balloons and different implements for striking (racquets and paddles), participated in dances, jumped long jump ropes, and used scooters, parachute and hula hoops. They will continue to practice rope jumping and manipulating objects until the end of the school year.

The kindergarten field day will be held on May 29th. Our 1st, 2nd 3rd, and 4th graders will have field day on June 1st. As in the past, our 4th graders will run the field day stations for the Kindergarten field day and the 1st and 2nd grade field day.

Sincerely,

Lynn Kozicki & Gabe Soto

Music Newsletter – May, 2012

We have accomplished so much musically in **Kindergarten** these past few weeks. We are now expert singers! If asked what the current favorite song is, their overwhelming response is “I Like School”! We’ve been learning some old standards to sing for our moms (Skinnamarink and Bushel & A Peck) and can’t wait to perform for you on May 11th! We know you will be so impressed with our beautiful singing! We will continue to play simple rhythm instruments and fun music games that strengthen music skills throughout the remainder of the school year.

First Graders have been learning about basic rhythmic symbols and note values, as well as performing various patterns on percussion instruments. We’ve been expanding our singing repertoire with some Pritchett favorites like “Lotsa Worms” and “Each of Us is a Flower. We’ll also be enjoying “I Know An Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly” which is a fantastic song story with LOTS of variations! We will be learning about Sergei Prokofiev in the next two weeks and listen to his famous work – “Peter and the Wolf”.

There’s so much learning going on in **Second Grade**, too! We’ve begun the first steps to reading music notation, enjoyed special songs from the movie, Mary Poppins, and are exploring the musical works of Camille Saint-Saens. So far their favorite piece from “Carnival of the Animals” seems to be Aquarium. (They applauded when the music ended!) They love to make musical connections with these pieces and were surprised to learn that Aquarium is used for many motion pictures and T.V. shows! We have many more days left for playing instruments while accompanying our singing. Our favorite songs this trimester are “Do-Re-Mi” and “Let’s Go Fly A Kite!”.

Third Graders have truly grown musically this last trimester. We have expanded our music knowledge in a variety of areas, including dynamics, tone color, notation, and form. We are beginning to actually read music in preparation for playing recorders next year. Your child’s grasp of these skills has been quite remarkable! We continue to sing, (especially seasonal favorites such as “Take Me Out To The Ballgame”), listen (to Aaron Copland’s “Rodeo”) and move (Paw Paw Patch and Broom dancing).

Since finishing the recorder unit in **Fourth Grade**, all of attention has shifted to our concert preparation. The concert, their final performance at Pritchett, will be on Wednesday, May 23rd. The children are extremely enthusiastic about this event! The repertoire of songs we are working on is quite varied and challenging! And we are trying to keep our lips sealed on this....we can’t wait to surprise you, so save the date!

These weeks are flying by and yet the children’s enthusiasm for music in all grade levels never diminishes. It’s such a pleasure for me to learn with them! Thank you for all the wonderful parental support you extend to our music program!

Sincerely,

Rosemary Nelson