

News from the Art Room

Sandwiched between the Music Room and the Science Room you will find Art. Not that they all don't spill over into each other. You are bound to hear the students in the Art Room singing and humming. The "Bare Necessities" from The Jungle Book was the tune of choice in Kindergarten a few weeks ago while we painted with water colors. During a Middle Circle Art class, Anisa told the captivating tale of "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" while she and her classmates wove on their simple looms. (I had to extend the class a little bit so she could get to the conclusion, which was timed magically since all came to the end of their weavers just as the story ended. This was truly weaving a tale.)

When playing and creating with the wood scraps from my house renovations, the children brought up many of their discussions from Science. Flight was a popular topic. Many students designed bird-like "gliders" which were purposefully made with the lightest of materials in the scrap box (cedar shakes). I was informed that birds' bones are hollow and this wood would be the best. Inclined planes were constantly recognized during our creations made of wood. Another Science lesson on "simple machines" was recalled when the Primary Circle looked at Goya's painting titled "Another Look," portraying children on a teeter-totter.

Thanks to your bright students and Fabiola, I too am learning Spanish. Spontaneously they are teaching me colors and sizes and shapes and directions. How wonderful to see how authentically the children are learning. I only hope that my classroom lessons are spilling over into the rest of their lives!

The **Kindergarten's** work is decorating the Art Room right now. It is a very colorful, happy place to be. This group has been playing with clay for the last couple of weeks, learning how to make simple pots with our knees and elbows (some suggested chin and forehead pots but no one went there). Learning how to manipulate clay into spheres is hard work but all were successful and made at least three. Then the technique of "scratch and attach" or "score and slip" was taught, and the spheres became snow/sphere people.

The **Primary Circle's** work is being exhibited in the Art Room as well. They have been constructing a miniature model of the SRV campus. Over the past few months Karyn and the students have been studying the SRV community, while I have been spending time looking at and making maps with them. The students have been enjoying this co-operative work. Learning about scale and structure, co-operation, construction, and planning has taken time during our work hours. The model is still under construction but come by and look.

The **Main Circle** is now visiting me on Fridays. The three different grade levels have been split up for Art class so the classroom teachers can do grade specific work with them in the classroom. This allows me to have small groups and get into some great projects. We started off with learning three different art techniques of making portraits. One group used re-used coffee cans, one printed into clay and one painted dried gourds. We have very few restrictions due to the small numbers and the healthy amount of time we have, making the work more creative and spontaneous.

When the weather begins to warm up enough for us to sit and sketch outside we will be found around campus doing just that. All will be making butter stick figures before the year is out and using our sheep's wool to make some felt.

The **Oldest Group's** Art cycle is over, but they have not stopped being creative and artistic. I visited their Greek Night and was very impressed with all the work that was done. There are many of their art projects in the Art Room in need of save transportation to their homes. If any OG parents are on campus please visit the Art room to pick these up.

Nestled down here between Jodie and Dawn, my students and I will be as spontaneous as possible. You just never know when the need for an unplanned marching band may arise or building a rocket ship may be called for. But the junk is here ready to be reused, re-cycled, restored, re-created.

Kathy