

Fleming Art Room News First Trimester

The semester began with fifth grade students making glue and chalk drawings with the theme of Birds of Vermont. Every student participated in a exhibit sponsored by The Birds of Vermont Museum that ran through the end of November. The style of art was created using an outline of glue which formed a border for colored artist's chalk. Our next project involved the study of the Japanese concept of Notan, which refers to the study of symmetrical and asymmetrical balance and positive and negative space. This was a cut paper lesson that gave students a white background with small black shapes that were cut out in creative ways and then the final touch was the addition of a small amount of color to show emphasis. Fifth grade students began a unit on perspective drawing skills that showed them how to turn 2-D shapes into 3-D forms by using a vanishing point, converging and parallel lines. We drew flights of stairs, wavy flags, stacking shapes and 3-D letters. Kaitlyn Barr, our TAP intern began teaching a landscape painting unit that uses Vermont historic buildings as a focal point. Students were looked videos and images of some of the many bridges and buildings that were lost during hurricane Irene.

Fourth grade began the year with a Gesture Drawing unit. Students learned how artists use gesture drawing to capture action or movement in subject matter that can't be captured in an artist's studio. The first few lessons were a favorite with students as they had the opportunity to be models and draw from models as well. The next step after doing small drawings of figures was to choose their favorite and enlarge it for the next lesson in the unit. Students made a black silhouette that would become the background for a a minimum of eight patterns created with colored pencil. We ended the unit with an aluminum wire gesture sculpture that served as a self portrait. It taught the concepts of movement in 3-D art artwork and the properties of aluminum and other wire as a sculptural medium. The final touch was to include a single color of Twisteez wire that put an emphasis on the action of their wire figure's pose. Ms. Barr began a folk art unit with fourth grade students and as they learn about the painting techniques involved in this special type of art they are also being exposed to different folk artists each week during the unit.