

Warren Street Art Newsletter

June 2015

Dear Warren Street Families,

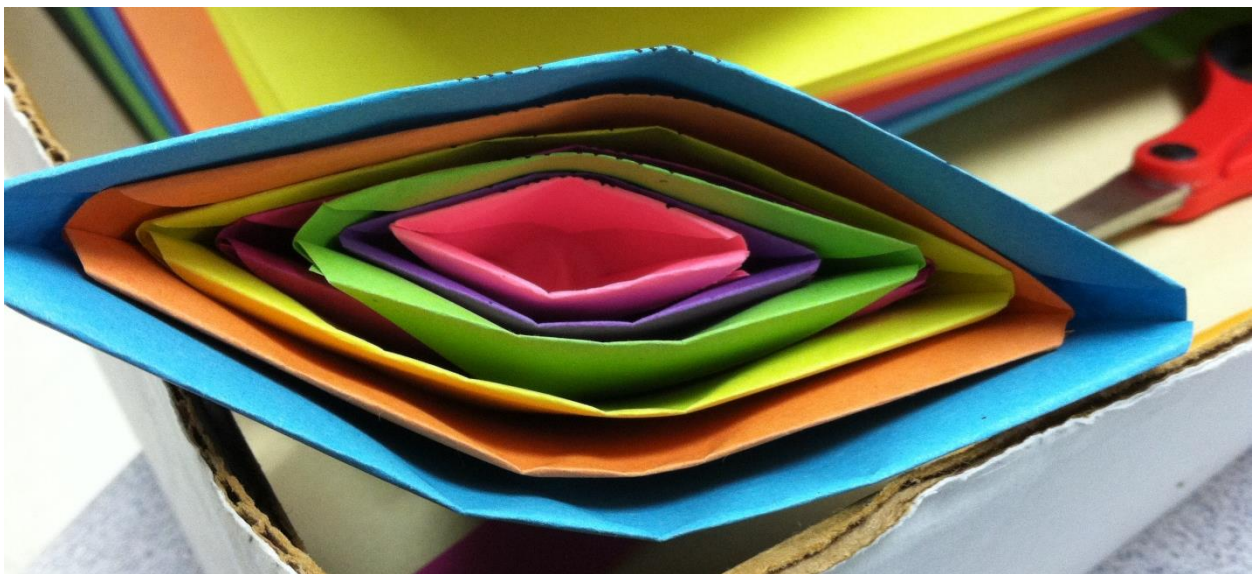
I am racing to try to get everything in before the school year is done. I am keeping my fingers crossed that it will happen.

Time flies when you are having FUN!

In fourth grade, we are having a blast creating abstract 3-D landscapes. The only rule is that everything has to be built up and off the paper. Nothing flat. We are curling, fringing, folding, weaving, making tabs, and connecting shapes and lines. I think they like that it is different: 3-D, not 2-D, and that is the only rule. We will then move on to origami.

Origami translates into "beautiful paper folding." Finally, we will review what we learned last year in third grade and add to our folding repertoire. We will learn to make nesting

cats, paper cups, and frogs.



In 5th and 6th grade, we are working in clay. Fifth grade is creating desserts and sixth grade is creating slab dragons.

Thank goodness for the warm weather which makes for quick drying of the clay.

In 5th grade, we have been studying, drawing, and learning about American artist Wayne Theibaub's desserts. We are now taking it one step further and creating a dessert from clay. We have been cooking up cannoli, cupcakes, slices of pie and cake, chocolate covered strawberries, macaroons, and cookies, just to name a few. No wonder I am craving sweets!

In 6th grade, we are finishing our study of dragons by creating a slab clay dragon. To create a slab, we use rolling pins. To keep the clay from sticking to the paper, we roll and flip the clay until we have it to the desired size and thickness. Then, we use the template we have made from tag board and cut out the back, head, and legs. We score (scratch the

surface) and slip (clay glue) to join pieces together and also to smooth out cracks and imperfections.

Again, hopefully we will finish up everything just in time and maybe have a little spare time to squeeze in some last minute origami.

It has been a wonderful year and I have enjoyed every minute of it! I am wishing my sixth graders well as they transition to Knox and am looking forward to another art filled year with my future 4th, 5th and 6th graders!

Wish list for the 2015-2016 School Year

Yarn

small zip lock bags

Small brown paper bags

stryo foam egg cartons

Any small plastic containers like yogurt cups, applesauce cups, butter or margarine cups, small coffee cans

Artfully yours,

Julia Fisk

Mrs. B's Warren Street Art Classes

Amen to what Mrs Fisk has observed: Yikes! This year is flying!

May was highlighted by our first all-elementary art show here at Warren Street and all the bustle that was included in the prelude to it and the aftermath of it.

Many thanks to all of the students, faculty, custodial staff and parents who helped to make the show such a great success. Turnout was very good and Mrs. Fisk and I got many favorable comments on the work the students generated and the look of the show.

It was a lot of work, but well worth it when you realize how many spirits it touched.

Mrs. B's "Vacation"

For those who are not aware, Mrs. B was out for about a week prior to the May 13 art show due to family illness. I want to very sincerely thank teachers and students who stepped up to help mount, staple and label work and those who pitched in to co-teach so that students in some classes could finish works in progress for the art show.

Somehow, with lots of support, Mrs. B was able to arrive back in town around 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 12 and finish hanging the last of the students' work by 6:05 p.m. Wednesday, April 13. Show viewing started at 6 p.m.!

Mother's Day Pansy Sculptures

Prior to leaving for Florida to help out my ailing parents, I asked teachers to photocopy and distribute some Mother's Day certificates promising a colorful paper sculpture of a pansy sometime in the near future after my return.

I'm happy to say that all the classes have now finished creating the petals for their big pansies. Some students worked with "exploding" water color (pigment that spread in wet areas on their petals); some learned about blending with chalk pastels and others learned how to blend the petals' colors with tempera paint. All in all, a great learning experience in a variety of mediums.

Moms, If you have not received your pansy sculptures yet, you will get them as soon as the petals can be stapled together.

CLAY: What Can It Do for You?

To close out our year in art, all classes have begun working on a three-week inquiry-based unit on clay. The first lesson was devoted to students experimenting with the properties and limitations of clay to find out how clay reacts to different forces exerted on it, and how it interacts with water.

The second lesson builds on the first, asking students to take their growing knowledge base and apply it to create a functional clay piece either through slab building, coil building or pinch-pot methods. Our focus will be on overcoming clay's "memory" of where we, as artists, have joined pieces together.

In the final class, students will be permitted to create a clay piece that has either form, function or both. The resulting pieces will be dried, fired and hopefully sent home the last week of school as a final souvenir of our year in art together. (While we won't have time to glaze and glaze fire students' pieces, pieces can be painted with craft paint at home to add color. I would NOT recommend using painted pieces for food or liquids.)