

Specialists' Newsletter

SECOND GRADE

September/October 2010

ART



Second graders began the year with a discussion of the French artistic movement known as **Fauvism**, in which artists such as **Henri Matisse** used bold expressive colors and strong brush strokes to achieve a "wild" style. The girls drew their own self-portraits using white glue on black construction paper. When the glue dried, they used chalk pastels to color in the face and background. Like magic, the black lines remained while colors emerged. Students practiced shading their portraits using an imaginary **light-source**, which helped achieve the look of

highlights and **shadows** on the face. The process was messy and fun. What a great way to kick off the year!

MUSIC



It has been wonderful to welcome the second graders back and get started on a new musical year! I hope you had a chance to read through the music curriculum overview you received in conjunction with Curriculum Night and have noted this year's music performance dates in your calendars.

Second Grade got reacquainted through rhythmic name games ("Cookie Jar"), singing games ("Everybody Welcome") and folk dances ("Boanopstekker," "The Mixer Dance," and "The Virginia Reel"). They honored the 8th graders and welcomed the kindergarteners with the songs "Bashana Haba'ah" and "Sansa Kroma" at our All School Assembly. Following up in the music room we danced to "Bashana Haba'ah" and then reviewed *ta* and *ta-te* rhythms, creating hand drum, finger cymbal and tambourine parts for "The Ramadan Song."

Getting ready for the Lower School Picnic, the girls gathered a rhythmic picnic of favorite foods, played the singing game "Cut the Cake," and reviewed singing and reading with hand signs, solfa syllables and notation from the staff to make some musical "Lemonade." One day we listened to excerpts of speakers and singers from around the world, and discussed how different cultures develop different vocal qualities different from, not better than, each other. We experimented to see how a lighter singing voice feels different than a heavier singing voice and used our lighter voices to sing the song "Circle of Friends."

Second grade music brings new musical delights and challenges. I look forward to working with your daughter this year. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments as the year progresses.

Ms. Mandelstein

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KATHERINE DELMAR BURKE SCHOOL

PE



Second grade girls are learning to work with various partners in PE. We warm up with simple tag games. Elbow Tag is a game where you have a chance to partner with many different people quickly. We practice throwing and catching soft balls and beanbags. The girls have practiced continuously “bumping” a beach ball on their own as well as with a partner. They practice moving to the ball in order to return it and have learned the “ready position”. The rules of Four Square have been reviewed. At recess second graders are learning to play the game fairly and encourage each other to demonstrate good sportsmanship. We will continue working on ideas of fairness and sportsmanship throughout the year.

SCIENCE



As the girls study themselves and their role in a community in the second grade classroom, they have been studying their amazing human bodies in the science room. We have looked at how a variety of systems work together within our bodies to keep us alive and healthy. We learned about the different types of bones and muscles in our skeletal and muscular systems, then measured our heart rates as we discussed how the circulatory system is the body’s transportation for oxygen and nutrients. The girls enjoyed acting out the digestive system with each girl playing the role of either an organ or a piece of food. While studying the immune system, the girls drew posters to remind our school community how to stay healthy, with advice ranging from “Use a tissue when you sneeze” to “Don’t pick at scabs”. Our study of the human body culminated with an exciting guest speaker—Dr. Peter Callander, a second grade parent, shared his knowledge of bones and talked about his job as an orthopedic surgeon. The girls especially enjoyed when he dressed Mr. Suarez up in surgical garb and put a real cast on Olivia! Thank you again to Dr. Callander! We will next venture into geography with a study of maps, landforms and compasses. Your daughter will soon be bringing home her human body book, so ask her to share it with you!

TECHNOLOGY



The second grade began technology classes this year by reviewing the computer 3 R’s—Respect for yourself, Respect for others, Respect for the equipment. As a connection to their study of Fauve painting in Art, the girls used the layering, arranging, and fill graphic tools in Hyperstudio to trace over photographs of themselves and to fill in the shapes with contrasting warm and cool colors. In conjunction with their study of families, the students took notes and wrote about a family custom in Library and created a podcast about the tradition. They used Garageband to choose a soundtrack and to record their voices over that track playing with intonation and rhythm as they spoke. They used Kidpix to illustrate the story and used export and import functions to put it into the graphic track of their project.

LIBRARY



Welcome!

Library

SECOND GRADE
SEPTEMBER/
OCTOBER 2010



Reading, Researching, Relaxing. Browsing and Borrowing. Sharing and Caring.

Welcome! Second Graders are off to a wonderful start in Library! We have begun the year with a unit on Family. We read different books about different kinds of families including **KOALA LOU** by Mem Fox, **I LOVE YOU** by Todd Parr, **WHO'S IN A FAMILY?** by Robert Skutch, **ALL FAMILIES ARE SPECIAL** by Norma Simon, **I LOVE YOU LIKE CRAZY CAKES** by Rose Lewis, **TORTILLAS AND LULLABIES** and **CHERRY PIES**

AND LULLABIES, both by Lynn Reiser, **YOU AND ME TOGETHER** by Barbara Kerley. The girls' research has revolved around family traditions and four important questions: What is a family? Who is in a family? How are families formed? What do families look like? After much research, thought, and discussion, the girls have created definitions of "family" that turn out to be more inclusive and correct than a

standard dictionary definition. Three cheers for Burke's Second Grade!.

Questions:

What is a family?
Who is in a family?
How are families formed?
What do families look like?
What are family traditions?
How do we do research on families?
How do we work together to write strong definitions for the word "family?"

21st Century Learning

Process Information.

Use information for good purpose.

Appreciate social context of learning—sharing, collaboration and ethical behavior..

Pursue personal and aesthetic interests



2010

Lower School students may have out up to 4 books at a time. Second graders may borrow up to 2 books during the library class period. A book is due 3 weeks from the borrowing date, but it may be returned any time before that. You are, of course, invited to use the Library as well. You have a card on file, and you may borrow as many books as you like. It's best to come before school or at the end of the school day on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 3:10 and 4:00. Should you have any questions or requests, please call me at 751-0177, ext. 311 or e-mail me at susan.f@kdbs.org.