



Hello! There are many signs that Spring is underway in the fine arts classes. Butterflies, drawings of animals and trees, and handprint flowers are among the projects in progress or recently completed in the primary grades. Earth Week activities, earth conservation, and appreciation for the beauty of the world God created - these are among themes being explored through illustrated poetry, drawings from biblical passages, India ink resist, and painting projects in the upper grades. Emphasis on basic drawing skills through guided, whole group class drawing lessons will be our focus for the fourth quarter. These exercises encourage critical thinking, following directions, good listening, and risk taking as the students follow my instruction in drawing, shading, estimating proportion, etc. We are using our recently acquired technology of white board projection systems, F.M. sound enhancement systems, and the computer to provide an optimum learning environment for the students.

We have begun working on Grandparent's Day art projects this week. More information about that will be forthcoming, but I'd like to talk about a more recent event first. Many people gave of their time and talents to help with the Spring Drive Away. Some of them were mentioned in the program, and other recognitions will appear in a coming report. I want to thank several people in particular who assisted with completion of the arts projects that the students in fine arts classes worked on: second grade (thumbprint peace dove), third grade (multi-media fish collage), fourth grade (mission drawings poster), the seventh grade (painting quilt squares), and a sixth grade project that, unfortunately, was not finished in time to auction along with the camp memory album (clay wind chimes that took many hours to form, dry, paint, etc.) We will begin earlier next year! I am most grateful to the following people who came during several arts classes to assist with these projects:

- Janine Frei, Hillary Lambrecht, Monica Hansen, and Johanna Seifert.
- Thanks, also, to Trina Brandt for making several trips to the frame store for the third grade fish project. To Jackie Valdivia, for her computer graphic design wizardry in organizing the mission drawings into a cohesive poster. And, to John Iannessa for his enthusiastic encouragement during the oral auction.
- Most of all, I'd like to thank Anne Susalski for gathering the many project ideas (she's so creative!), contacting and organizing all of the volunteers and seventh and eighth grade quilters, for supervising and working with the fifth grade on their Outer Space Block Puzzle, the first grade's ceramic platter, and for countless other details that she took responsibility for and assisted with that ensured the success of this portion of our annual fundraiser. Thank you! Thank You! Thank You!

Many thanks to all of the volunteers for your generosity. We are truly blessed with the families and the parents who are part of our St. Martin of Tours Academy community.

Peace,

Denise A. Pippin

