



This month in fine arts classes, students will be working on a variety of seasonal projects, as well as traditional drawings, paintings, and mixed media art. The kindergarteners are making dragon masks for Chinese New Year, which begins on January 23, 2012. They are also practicing drawing through guided, whole class lessons. (SLEs: 2b, 3a)

In the first and third grades, students are working on graphic designs using common objects repeated to create a pattern. The designs are then colored with a specific scheme from the color wheel. (SLEs: 2d, 3c) In the second grade, students recently completed an Epiphany project, which includes illustrations of three gifts or talents that God gave each student when they were born. They are also working on a pattern project, decorating a hot cocoa mug (with real mini- marshmallows!). (SLEs: 1a, 1d, 2a, 4b) The fourth graders have been working very hard for weeks on a class play. They are also working on colored pencil illustrations of "California A-Z." (SLEs: 2a, 2d, 4d, 5c)

In the fifth grade, the students are using paint pens and poster board to create masks inspired by Pacific Northwest Native American tribes. Looking ahead, the fifth graders will be beginning the Cultural Heritage "Dolls" project in March (more information to come). The students in the sixth grade have been working on mixed-media posters of the saints. (SLEs: 1e, 3c, 4e)

In the seventh and eighth grades, students are finishing a mosaic project using bits of colored paper and based on themes from the ancient world of Greece and Rome. This project was part of the preparation for our fine arts field trip to the Getty Villa in Malibu on December 16th, which was a big success. It's a long bus trip to and from the museum, and a short period to be in the galleries, but the students did an excellent job of completing their assigned work. It is a small museum in comparison to the Getty Center Complex, so we were able to see just about everything in our allotted time frame. Check out the bulletin board outside of the front office to see photos of our trip. (SLEs: 2a, 2d, 3b, 5b)

Students in all grades are working (in art class) on projects for this year's spring auction in April (including some of the aforementioned themes). More information is forthcoming regarding this event.

On a more personal note, I would like to thank you for your kindness and generosity at the holidays. We all thoroughly enjoyed the tea, baked goodies and treats left for our staff, and I am most grateful for all of the wonderful cards, ornaments and gifts that I received. Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness!

As always, I welcome your questions or comments regarding fine arts at St. Martin Academy. You can always reach me via school e-mail or telephone. Happy New Year!

Denise Pippin

