

Articles

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"The canvas is an arena in which to act." – Jackson Pollock

Happy New Year

2011 will have all of the same inequities and unfairness as 2010. It is unfair that anyone named Kardashian makes more money than you do. It is unfair that Warren Buffett's tax burden is less than yours. It is unfair that the ability to dunk a basketball is celebrated more than the ability to teach.

It is also unfair that many will never know the joy of watching a child discover that mixing yellow and blue will make green. They also will never know how it feels to be approached by a successful adult who will say to them, "You were my teacher and you laid the foundation for my life."

All of us who toil in the public school trenches know those feelings. So we can begin another New Year knowing that with every young life we touch we build our own legacy and immortality. As Federico Fellini once said, "Pity the poor pathologically rich, for they lead a meaningless *dolce vita* existence."

Happy New Year to all of our PESD friends and may all of your troubles last as long as your resolutions.

MLK Youth Art Show

The annual Martin Luther King Youth Art Show will be held at the State Capitol Executive Tower at 1700 W. Washington. Our students have participated in this event for many years and we are the only school district invited to show the talents of our young artists.

The opening will be on Tuesday, January 25 from 4:30 to 6:00 pm. A reception for the artists with student entertainment and refreshments will accompany the show. Please join us and show your support for our students.

LET IT SNOW???

Ms. Dana Castigano's Herrera 3rd graders had a great time creating close up snowman portraits. They thought creatively and drew their ideal snowman. There were many versions including ninjas, baseball players, snow-women, and a snow bunny. They used oil pastels layering colors over white. They added detail at the end with black to avoid smearing.



Teaching beyond the Exam

Capitol Art teacher Mr. Begay had the opportunity to spend extra time with four of his 7th grade students. Not only did they do an incredible job on their radial designs, but more rewarding was that while they worked Mr. Begay had a chance to talk to them and learn more about them. Normally he might not have that chance. He says that is one of the things that makes teaching so rewarding.



Mmm...Cinnamon

Ms. Jessica Brocka's 2nd grade Dunbar art classes made cinnamon dough holiday decorations last month. They watched as Ms. Brocka mixed the dough and they all got to cut their own holiday decoration. The project brought math into art by having the students help to alter the recipe to figure how much of each ingredient was already in the bowl. Students had a language arts activity to work on as well. They followed step by step instructions to make a little monster. They named their monsters and told what its favorite food was.

Faith North Kindergarten students also made cinnamon dough decorations. Thanks to Ms. Chacon who helped out with this project by letting four of her older students work with the kinders.

A Perfect Fit

MTS 5th graders have been working on tessellation and they are getting some great results. Art teacher John Avedisian teamed up with 5th grade teacher Leslie Williams to create a



project that began with a power point showing tessellations in art, architecture, and nature. Also included were works of art by the granddaddy of tessellations, Dutch artist, M.C. Escher.

The students were fascinated by his mathematically complicated designs. They then created their own tessellating designs.

An Evening with Pollock

Come spend an evening with the Phoenix Elementary School Districts most famous alumnus, Jackson Pollock. On February 4, students from each of our schools will do a live Pollock-esque painting which will be sold at silent auction.

Action Jackson

January is Jackson Pollock Month in the PESD. We will celebrate the life and work of Jackson Pollock who was born in January 1912 in Cody, Wyoming. The Pollock family moved to Phoenix and young Jackson attended Monroe School (now the Phoenix Family Museum) on 7th Street and Van Buren. After high school Pollock went to New York and studied at the Art Students League where his most influential teacher was regionalist painter, Thomas Hart Benton.

Pollock struggled for many years to find his niche in the very competitive art world. Eventually his style evolved into Abstract Expression, the most dominant movement of the 1940s and 50s. Abstract Expressionism is a style of art in which the artist paints most often on very large canvases. There is no center of focus. Its intent is to allow the viewer to feel surrounded by another environment. It is also aligned with jazz and the stream of consciousness movement of the Beat Generation writers. Life Magazine once posed the question on its cover, "Is Jackson Pollock America's Greatest Artist?"

As the founder of this movement, Pollock became the most celebrated artist in the world and influenced an entire generation of artists. Jackson Pollock was tragically killed in a car accident in 1956.



Pollock and wife artist, Lee Krasner surrounded by his work

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM

(Something appealing, something appalling)



ALPS teacher Mr. Ryan Williams found that all roads lead to Rome on a recent trip to Italy to attend a workshop concerned with travelling abroad with students. They learned how to deal with emergencies, ride public transportation with a group, and even buy toiletries and medicines. He will travel to Spain and France in the spring with a group of PESD students.

Color My World

MTS students will be working with complementary colors in January. Those are the colors that are directly opposite each other on the color wheel. Their purpose is to soften or neutralize each other. If one has bright yellow on one's palette, violet can be added to soften the yellow. Violet and yellow in 50-50 proportions can be used to create brown. Other complements are red and green and blue and orange.

MTS students will create an American flag using cut paper of orange for the blue field, green for the red stripes, and black for the white stripes and stars. They will then stare at the center of the flag for about thirty second and quickly move their eyes to a white field. Audible sounds of amazement are always heard when they see a fleeting image of a red, white, and blue flag.

ARTifacts: COLOR

Most 17th century Baroque painters such as Rembrandt, Vermeer, and Rubens worked from a strict limited palette of only six colors. Among them were black, white, burnt umber, alizarin crimson, ultramarine blue, viridian, and yellow ochre.

Most of the Impressionists eliminated black from their palettes because it tends to flatten or dominate other colors. Auguste Renoir, though, used it generously calling it the *Queen of Colors*.

Michelangelo once told Titian, "Like all Venetian's you cannot draw, but you do know a little about color."

Joseph Albers was considered the world's foremost color theorist of the 20th century. Once he went into a men's clothing store to buy a tie to match the suit and shirt he was wearing. The haberdasher said to him, "Sir you have no sense of color."

Ancient Russian iconographers were very limited in their interpretations of religious art. Christ as a child could only be painted in golden clothing, while as an adult only in red. Colors worn by all other saints were also strictly controlled.

Look at a child's used crayon box. The least used color is almost always purple.

You will sleep better on white or pastel sheets than you will on brightly colored or printed sheets.

Frustrated with her own work, Georgia O'Keefe once worked with only black and white for about two years until she had exhausted all possibilities from that palette. She then gradually began to add colors in limited amounts until she regained a full palette.

We all know the primary colors in pigment are red (actually it is magenta), blue and yellow. Black is the presence of all color and white is the absence of all color. In light the primaries are red (magenta again), blue, and green. That is why the gels on theatrical lights are those colors. Yellow light creates a sickly pallor to skin tones. Black is, then, the absence of all color and white is the presence of all color.

Primary Colors: Red, blue, yellow

They cannot be made from any other colors

Secondary colors: orange, green, violet

They are made by mixing two primaries together

Tertiary colors: Red-violet, red-orange, blue-violet, blue-green, yellow-green, yellow orange

They are made by mixing a primary with a secondary

Complementary Colors: Colors opposite each other on the color wheel. Red-green, blue-orange, yellow-violet

They neutralize each other

Split complement: Any color and the two colors on either side of its complement

Analogous colors: Colors that are next to each other on the color wheel

Neutrals: Black, white, gray and sometimes brown

Tint: Any color with white added to it

Shade: Any color with black added to it

Tone: Any color with gray added to it

Color temperature: Orange is the warmest followed by yellow and red. Blue is the coolest followed by violet and green. Warm colors tend to advance to the eye. Cool colors tend to recede.

Atmospheric perspective: colors tend to fade, gray, or cool as they recede because of moisture in the air
The less humidity the farther one can see

Color relativity: Colors change readings according to surrounding colors

Reflection: color or light that reverberates from one surface to another

Refraction: Light passes through layers and bounces back picking up other colors that can alter the original color of a surface

Vibrating colors: Two different colors of exactly the same intensity

When placed next to each other their border blurs or vibrates