



# ART NEWS

L.F. Dewing  
Elementary

August-November

## Grade: K

### Van Gogh's "Starry Night"

Artists in Gr. k have started off the year by being introduced to Artist, Vincent van Gogh. Children discovered that Vincent made over 800 paintings and over 1,000 drawings and dedicated his life to art. He sold only 1 or 2 pictures to someone other than his brother, Theo, in his lifetime. He started out making pictures of the poor people and ended with bright pictures containing a lot of movement.

The "Starry Night" is a famous painting today. Vincent painted this in the south of France on a clear, quiet summer night in 1889. Van Gogh didn't paint only what he saw in front of him; he also painted what he felt inside.

Young artists in grade k discovered art elements and principles: line, space, movement, texture, rhythm and shape. Children created a sky with movement (it was windy in the Art Room), created a textured cypress tree, rolling hills and a sleeping village. Young artists will be able to tell you a quick way you can create a triangle (cut a square in  $\frac{1}{2}$  on a diagonal).



### Pablo Picasso's Blue Period and Cubism

Artists in grade K discovered artist, Pablo Picasso (1881-1973). Specifically, students discovered his "Blue Period" and Cubism. Paintings from the "Blue Period" were usually sad portrayals of people suffering from some sort of misfortune. If you've heard of the phrase, "I feel Blue..." this would make sense. Paintings were primarily blue in color. Cubism took place as well during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Here perspective with a single viewpoint was abandoned and use of simple geometric shapes and interlocking planes was encouraged.

Children in grade K drew a guitar. Anything can be drawn when looking at lines and shapes and the spaces between the lines and shapes. Artists used a ruler to fragment the space within their guitar and background. Students used monochromatic colors to paint their work of art.

### Forms of Transportation

Students in full day K also created a form of transportation artwork. Children brainstormed many ways to get from here to there. Artists worked hard to render a realistic transportation form, analyzing lines, shapes and the spaces between the lines and shapes. Artists painted their own background of where they would like their form of transportation to be. Children learned or will be learning about forms of transportation in their classroom as well.

### Grouchy Ladybugs

Young artists in grade K were read the story, "The Grouchy Ladybug" by E. Carle. Students rendered their own ladybug sculpture with clay. In art class, this would be the first time children would experience kiln fired clay. Students will soon be glazing their works and then soft textured legs and antennas will be added!

## Scarecrows

Artists in grade one created a scarecrow painting. Scarecrows can be found in many countries of the world. Children in grade one designed their own. Artists built many lines and shapes to build the portrait and also focused on an appropriate fall background. Works of art were splashed with watercolors.

## Piet Mondrian Inspiration

Students in grade 1 discovered artist Piet Mondrian (1872-1944). Children specifically discovered simplicity at its finest – basic shape, line and color. Piet used the basic colors (primary colors) and formed squares and rectangles by using horizontal and vertical lines. Children discovered the primary colors, when mixed, create the secondary colors.

## Me & My Shadow

Artists in grade 1 created a self-portrait dressed for winter. We discussed the difference between a portrait and a self-portrait. We also had a discussion about how to dress ourselves when we go outside for winter play. As a guided drawing, students created many details about themselves or invented many new items about themselves – such as new patterns for their coats or ski pants or new inventions such as creating themselves playing ice hockey or snow skiing for example. Black sharpie marker was encouraged for outlining (shapes and lines stand out) and full, rich color was applied. Children then created a snowy landscape where they would place their self-portrait on later. This snowy landscape could have a steep horizon line, a bumpy horizon line – it's all up to the artists. The principle of design rhythm was formed when printmaking with patterned snowflakes – artists could also add a pond or ice skating rink. Students later glued their self-portrait onto their paper along with a correctly positioned shadow.

## Pinch Pottery

Students in grade one are starting to explore their first hand building technique with clay: pinch pottery. With the help of the smart board in the Art Room, we looked at many different pinch pieces made by other artists for inspiration. Pinch pieces were bisque fired in our kiln and then fired again with dinnerware safe glazes. This is our first introduction to functional art!

# Grade: 1 and 2

## Warm and Cool Colors

Students in grade 2 took a pre-test on warm and cool colors to see what they might already know about these kinds of colors. Children focused on the art element color, specifically warm and cool. Students created a warm/cool compositional leaf painting. This painting showed super contrast with opposite colors. Many classes also created tissue paper decropagued warm/cool leaf relief prints. Second graders know their warm and cool colors! They did a fabulous job on their post-test!

## Primary/Secondary Fish

Children in grade 2 have refreshed their knowledge about art elements color & color mixing. Students created all of their fish in their work of art out of just 3 colors. You can ask them which 3 colors are the most important. We even took a test on this and I'm happy to report success! Children used the art element value in their work in the background of their composition as parts of water are not always the same color. Texture was used when artists applied details (patterns, scales, lines, shapes) on top of the body of the fish. Calling all fishermen and fisherwomen: You would love to catch these eye catching fish! Very inventive!

## Paul Cezanne Inspired Landscape

Students in grade two recently finished a textured landscape inspired by artist Paul Cezanne (1839-1906). Cezanne thought paintings should look flat since they are flat. He was also known to use many geometric shapes in his landscapes. Cezanne painted Mont Saint-Victoire over 60 times. Children created a landscape of their choice with a variety of papers to help achieve the look of many shapes in their artworks.