

Messages from Mittineague



News from Mr. Rathaus:

Winter break is coming! With only a little while left before the holidays, Mittineague students have been embarking on a series of projects that delve into the world of color and its role in decorative beauty, creating mood and expressing emotion.

First graders will be introduced to the color wheel through a fun mouse paint color wheel unit that reviews secondary, complimentary, analogous and tertiary color schemes in a fun color wheel made of painted mice, with cheese in the middle, of course! They will try their newly honed color skills in an opposite landscape that uses red grass and orange skies, for example. These really pop and help young artists move away from traditional ideas of landscape painting.

Speaking of which...2nd and 3rd graders will be starting projects that explore the art of the "Mother of American modernism," Georgia O'Keeffe. Third graders will work on landscapes that are in the style of O'Keeffe's Lake George landscapes. From 1918 until 1934, Georgia O'Keeffe lived for part of the year at her husband Alfred Stieglitz's family estate in Lake George, located in New York's Adirondack Park. There she created landscapes that are very different from the flowers and desert landscapes she is usually known for. Students will create homages to these landscapes by painting abstract color-field paintings in warm or cool colors, cutting them out into tree, water and mountain shapes and creating landscapes through an amalgamation of painting and collage. Second graders will delve into O'Keeffe's desert works by creating southwest desert snail paintings that incorporate modernist and traditional Pueblo Indian techniques. We will also explore O'Keeffe's role as a pioneering female artist working in an era dominated by male artists, curators, and buyers. She is a legacy that looms large as an enduring feminist icon to this day.

In our local arts scene there are a number of great shows coming up. Christin Couture has a beautiful show of paintings at the UMass Fine Arts Center called "The Nearest Faraway Place". For nearly 15 years Couture has been painting the same view from her house with its innumerable changes through the hours of the day and seasons of the year.

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News from Mrs. Ranstrom:

Wow, here we are at the end of 2019 and the start of the new trimester. The year is flying by and we have been very busy in fifth grade!

In reading we have continued working on our written responses. We have been learning how to infer about the author's meaning and we have been having some really great discussions about the theme of the story, Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry. We have carried this topic into our writing as well. We've been working on interactive writing where students work together to improve on the writing process. They are currently writing persuasive essays about who they think is braver, Mary Logan (from Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry) or Rosa Parks. We will be debating this topic as a class next week.

In Social Studies we have been learning about the ancient Maya, and Aztec, Civilizations. Students have been working on note taking as we read articles about these civilizations. Next we will learn about the Incas. Ask your child to tell you what they find most interesting about the Mayas or Aztecs.

Our tower garden supplies have arrived and we will do our first grow when we return from the holiday break. We are all very excited to get this up and running in our classroom! Please feel free to contact me at ranstrom@wsps.org at any time with questions or concerns. Thank you for your support as we continue to work together to create a positive school experience for your child! Have a wonderful holiday and a happy and healthy new year!

 These paintings on wood panels use the technique called encaustic and combine beeswax, candelilla wax, oil pigment, acrylics, and colored pencils. At the Eric Carle Museum, Maira Kalman has a great show of children's book illustrations. Best known for her quirky New Yorker covers and as a pioneering visual journalist for The New York Times, Kalman has also published 18 acclaimed children's books. If you find yourself in New York City, sculptor Rachel Feinstein has a fantastic show at NYC's Jewish Museum. Her figurative sculptures are centered on the female figure and its place in art history, religion, fantasy and fairy tales.

For your
Calendar

December 17
Banking

December 23-31
Holiday break

January 1
No School

January 2
School Resumes

January 7
Banking

January 14
Banking



News from Mrs. Kavrakis, our nurse: Flu Season is here!

Flu can be very dangerous for children. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that between 6,000 and 26,000 children younger than 5 years have been hospitalized each year in the United States because of influenza. The flu vaccine is safe and helps protect children from the flu. It is recommended to speak with your child's provider about the flu vaccine.

While flu illness can vary from mild to severe, children often need medical care because of the flu. Children younger than 5 years and children of any age with certain long-term health problems are at high risk of flu complications like pneumonia, bronchitis, sinus and ear infections. Some health problems that are known to make children more vulnerable to flu include asthma, diabetes and disorders of the brain or nervous system. Flu viruses are thought to spread mainly by droplets made when someone with flu coughs, sneezes or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people nearby. A person can also get the flu by touching something that has flu virus on it and then touching their mouth, eyes, or nose.

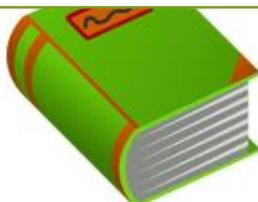
Millions of people have safely received flu vaccines for decades. Flu shots and nasal spray flu vaccines are both options for vaccination. Different types of flu vaccines are licensed for different ages. Each person should get one that is appropriate for their age. CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends an annual flu vaccine for all children 6 months and older. A flu vaccine can keep you and your child from getting sick. When vaccine viruses and circulating viruses are matched, flu vaccination has been shown to reduce the risk of getting sick with the flu by about half. Flu vaccines can keep your child from being hospitalized from the flu. One recent study showed that flu vaccine reduced children's risk of flu-related pediatric intensive care unit admission by 74%.

In addition to getting a flu vaccine, you and your child should take everyday actions to help prevent the spread of germs. Stay away from people who are sick; cover your cough and sneezes; wash your hands often with soap and water; do not touch your eyes, nose, and mouth; and clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with flu viruses. These everyday actions are a good way to reduce your chances of getting sick and prevent the spread of germs to others if you do get sick. However, a yearly flu vaccine is the best protection against flu illness.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: The Flu: A guide for Parents

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/freeresources/family/flu-guide-for-parents-2018.pdf>

Stay Healthy and Wishing you all a Wonderful Holiday Season!



PTO

The next PTO meeting of the year is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 8, 2020, from 5:00-6:00**. We would love to welcome even more new members! Please come if you can!!

Many thanks to everyone who supported us during the wreath fundraiser!! We are very grateful for your support and generosity!



Wishing You A Happy Holiday

Word of the Week
courteousness

"Polite, well mannered behavior towards others"

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"Real generosity is doing something for someone who will never find out..."

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