



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT



COMMUNITY



ARTS & PHYSICAL EDUCATION



IB



## Bradley Visual Arts Newsletter Spring 2018

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Art Teacher - Ms. Kenney

The Art Room is a place for fun and the development of key skills. Although the students gain many art skills, practical life skills (such as sewing) and social skills (group collaborations), the real gains are in complex problem-solving and self-management skills.

Many projects are left open-ended so students have to apply creativity and scientific observation in order to achieve their art. This is true for kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade projects. For example, kindergarten artists “build” castles on paper after watching my demonstration. But, they must choose the time of day and make the colors of the sky. They also must work with the materials as they randomly form shapes that contribute to the construction of their own castle. The quality of thought they put in is almost more important to their growing art skills than the finished product. Here young artists develop problem-solving skills and build a massive amount of self-confidence.

The same is true for third graders who sew fairy tale scenes of felt fabric. They are taught sewing skills like threading, knots, decorative stitches and applying buttons, but they are on their own to solve how their own story will be arranged, sewn and decorated. This unit connects with the grade 3 IB unit on *How We Express Ourselves*.

Fourth graders are also wrestling through a creative challenge of constructing a Conestoga wagon by using wooden sticks, pipe cleaners, fabric and glue. Once this engineering challenge is solved, they will fill their wagons with tiny hand made clay and fabric items representing the inquiry about ‘what are the top 20 items needed by immigrants who took to the Oregon Trail’.

Second graders artistically solve the problem of how to design a community of tree houses in a forest where no trucks come to deliver anything. The topics of sustainability, composting, gardening, how to care for farm animals and solar cooking arise. It’s fascinating to see kids enjoy light-bulb moments like: “Oh, we could have bee hives for honey!” or “Wait! Why don’t we catch rain water and save it for the garden for days when it doesn’t rain!”.

First graders will be sewing pillows using an ancient Japanese art called Gytaku, fish printing.

Fifth graders will be exploring self-expression in collages and self-portraits.

All of the art occurring in the new Art Room 120 falls under the umbrella of FUN ACTIVITIES. The art classroom is loosely structured to allow students to relax and feel safe.