What did we learn this year?
We learned about the artist Piet Mondrian and then used horizontal lines, vertical lines, squares and rectangles, and the primary colors—just like him!
Kindergarten

We mixed red and yellow paint and discovered that it makes a new color: orange! Then we turned our orange painted paper into pumpkins and gave them silly faces by cutting circles, half-circles, squares, and a triangle!
Kindergarten

We learned about warm colors (red, orange, yellow, and pink), and learned how to use different materials like bleeding tissue paper and watercolor paint.
Kindergarten

We learned about cool colors (blue, green, and purple) and made winter landscapes.
We learned about a variety of different types of lines (zig-zag, wavy, curly) and then learned how to do printmaking!
We reviewed shapes, learned about overlapping, and practiced our skills with the watercolor paints.
1st Grade

We learned what a self-portrait is, looked at many examples from famous artists, and then made our GIANT self-portraits.
1st Grade

We looked at the artwork of Sol LeWitt and made mixed media artwork inspired by his paintings.
1st Grade

We reviewed all the different types of lines that we know and practiced filling our entire paper with designs, then we learned that if we added water to our artwork, the Sharpie stayed the same but the washable marker dissolved and turned into “paint”.
1st Grade

We drew turkeys using simple lines and shapes, reviewed patterns and used different patterns in our turkey’s feathers, and practiced making a picture with a background and foreground.
1st Grade

We practiced background and foreground again with another mixed media artwork. We learned how to draw stars, and we learned how to construct a tree using small, medium, and large branches.
We learned about the Canadian artist Ted Harrison and then created landscape paintings in his style.
For our last project, we learned about the artist Paul Cezanne and about how he LOVED to paint still-lifes, especially of apples. We learned how to overlap our apples to make it look like some apples are in front and some are behind, and we learned how to blend the watercolor paint to make our apples look round and 3D!
2nd Grade

We learned about ROYGBV and reviewed the order of the colors in the rainbow by making paintings of rainbows.
We learned about the artist Georgia O’Keeffe and her love of nature. We drew oak leaves, created a pattern in the background using our favorite type of line, and reviewed warm and cool colors by paintings our leaves with warm colors and our backgrounds with cool colors.
2nd Grade

We learned about radial symmetry and then designed our own snowflakes using radial symmetry; we used cool colors and a watercolor resist technique to paint them!
We learned about the author and illustrator Eric Carle, then used his artistic process to create our own pictures of animals.

First, we painted paper in all the different colors that we’d need. Next, we researched our animal and the habitat it lives in and made some sketches. The last step was turning our sketches into collages by cutting the painted paper we made into shapes and gluing it all together!
3rd Grade

We learned about color wheels and practiced color theory by making one using only the primary colors: red, yellow, and blue. The final step was reviewing complementary colors by gluing each shape onto its complement.
3rd Grade

We learned about the Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama and made paintings of pumpkins in her style using complementary colors.
3rd Grade

We learned about a holiday celebrated in Mexico called the Day of the Dead—or Dia de los Muertos—and then used Model Magic to make sculpture of sugar skulls, a popular treat eaten during Dia de los Muertos celebrations.
We learned about a type of Japanese art called “Gyotaku”, in which artists make prints of real fish. We made our own fish out of Styrofoam and then printed them to make our own Gyotaku!
4th Grade

We worked with real clay and learned several hand-building techniques to create realistic, life-size donut sculptures!
We learned how to make colors lighter and darker by adding white or black paint, and then we learned how to use those lighter and darker colors to create the illusion of atmospheric perspective in a landscape.
We learned about “Notan”, which is a Japanese word referring to the balance between light and dark. In this lesson we also reviewed warm colors, contrast, and symmetry.
We learned about composition and how to create an interesting artwork by manipulating size, spacing, variety, and balance. After we created our leaf composition we colored our artwork by blending the watercolor paint with a wet-on-wet technique.
We looked at the dessert paintings of the artist Wayne Thiebaud, then learned how to draw a cylinder with a triangular “slice” cut out and how to use value to make it look 3D.
We reviewed the concept of “Notan” again and then explored adding contrasting elements such as color, organic shapes, and asymmetrical balance.
5th Grade

We started out the year learning how to draw objects from observation by practicing contour-line-drawing with some funky fruits and vegetables.
We applied our knowledge of tints and shades and how value can make objects look 3D to a still-life of a pumpkin, then added a creative twist with patterns in the background.
We learned about the sand mandalas made by Tibetan monks, then made our own mandalas using radial symmetry and intricate patterns.
5th Grade

We learned about Jen Aranyi, a contemporary illustrator who uses Instagram to gain exposure for her artwork, then we created arctic landscapes in her style.
5th Grade

We learned about John James Audubon, an American artist who set out to paint a picture of every bird in North America. He turned his drawings into 435 life-size prints.

We drew birds using photographs, and then turned our drawings into prints just like Audubon!
We learned so much this year and I can’t wait to continue watching you all grow as artists next year!

-Ms. Mandel