



Art Room News

April 2013

McDonald International
Elementary School

Seattle, WA

A Note from Mrs. Baker

I can't believe it's almost May. How did that happen? Here are just a few notes about what's going on in the Art Room:

- If you'd like to help with the ArtWalk, please let me know. I can use help with the following: taking down artwork currently on display, mounting 300(ish) pieces of student art on black paper, and hanging artwork on the walls.
- The first grade books featuring their Eric Carle inspired collages ("Buster Pug, Buster Pug, What Do You Smell?") are currently available on my Fusion Page on the McDonald International website.
- The kindergarteners will be starting work on their final unit - Japanese tea bowls - soon.
- The first graders just started their unit on brush painting this week. They will be creating plum branches like the kindergarteners using a similar technique.
- The 2nd-5th graders will be starting a month of printmaking. We'll experiment with our printing press and silk screens.
- We are still collecting calendars and magazines for future collage work. You can leave donations in the bin outside the art room door.

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This mark is a chop, or seal, used as a part of your child's autograph. Think of it as the equivalent of an email signature. They represent one's personal philosophy or literary inclination. Ours is the Chinese character for Perseverance—something we practice in art every day!



It's Artwalk Time!

As a part of International Night on May 4th, we will be having our very first all-school Art-Walk. I will be mounting and hanging art created by every McDonald International student so that we can celebrate our amazing artistic accomplishments. Please take a few moments during the Open House from 5:00 to 5:45 pm to walk through the halls of the 3rd floor "gallery" and check out the masterpieces we've created!

Kindergarten: Brush Painting

Students created a plum branch by blowing on a puddle of ink with a straw. We used a press stroke to add plum blossoms to our branch. The plum is one of the Three Friends of Winter—a motif common in Chinese and Japanese art. Together they symbolize perseverance, integrity and modesty.

First Grade: Eric Carle

Students painted paper with tempera, then added texture by scraping the surface with tools. We used our textured paper to create collages of dogs in a variety of settings. I scanned the collages and turned them into books modeled on Eric Carle's "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?"

Second and Third Grade: Brush Painting

Students were introduced to Chinese and Japanese brush paintings. They practiced several different strokes and learned to create a variety of animals: snails, mice, rabbits, birds, and pandas.

Fourth and Fifth Grade: Landscape

Students created a landscape representing their community as a part of our district's Cornerstone Assessment for 5th grade visual art. Students used perspective techniques to create a feeling of depth in their 2-dimensional picture plane.