Art classes are breaking out the art materials and digging in for the year!

1st grade classes are working on color mixing. The color mixing paintings will become castles in a collage. Paul Klee’s *Castle and Sun* painting is our inspiration for this. Next we will study Vincent van Gogh’s *Starry Night*, then paint our version with limited palettes.

2nd graders are learning which colors are warm and which are cool. Our sunshine artwork show the use of warm colors for the suns and the background will be painted with cool colors. Our next project will be a narrative self-portrait. Norman Rockwell was a master of the narrative, so students will explore his portrait paintings and then seek to answer the “who”, “what”, “where”, and “when” through their own portraits.

3rd grade classes have been creating arabesques. Arabesques frequently utilize rotational symmetry and our 3rd graders’ creations do too. These designs will be sunlight catchers since they are done on transparency film. Next lesson will be a study of the human skeleton and body movement. Dem Bones!

4th grade students are making their version of Japanese Shoji screens. Traditionally made from rice paper and lightweight wood, these screens were used as part of tea ceremonies. After studying Japanese prints, students decided what their subject matter would be for their screens. Due to the screen, students needed to place the focal point of the artwork strategically. Our next project will be a pirate study. Included will be Queen Ann’s Revenge, Jolly Roger, Trade routes and a still life skull study. Avast, mateys!

5th graders have been working on tessellations. M.C. Escher was our artist study. We used a template based on his reptile tessellations. Our particular tessellations are a rotation or turn, but all tessellations are a transformation of some sort: flip, slide or turn. What a great math and art marriage. Next we will be making brush paintings in the style of Chinese brush paintings. Chinese brush paintings share the same techniques as the beautiful calligraphy from China. Students will try their hand at these techniques to create their own brush paintings.