



FEBRUARY

Technology with Mr. Jacobson or Ms. Fornataro

During the month of February, second grade students will complete their Animal Riddles. They will continue to research an animal of their choice and use *Wixie* to create the riddle books. The students will use the draw tools, text tool, download images and will crop digital pictures. They can't wait to complete these books! Remember to check out our Portaportals for exciting web links!



Music with Ms. Saunier

During the month of February, students will begin to learn about the musical concept of dynamics, which relates to loud and soft sounds. They will explore the difference between loud and soft, and they will use pictures, instruments and their bodies to demonstrate their understanding of both loud and soft sounds. They will also learn some vocabulary such as the Italian words *forte* (loud), *piano* (soft), *crescendo* (getting louder) and *decrescendo* (getting softer). As they listen to a variety of different examples that can be found in music, students will gain a deeper understanding of very loud and soft sounds!



Art with Ms. Ally-Khan

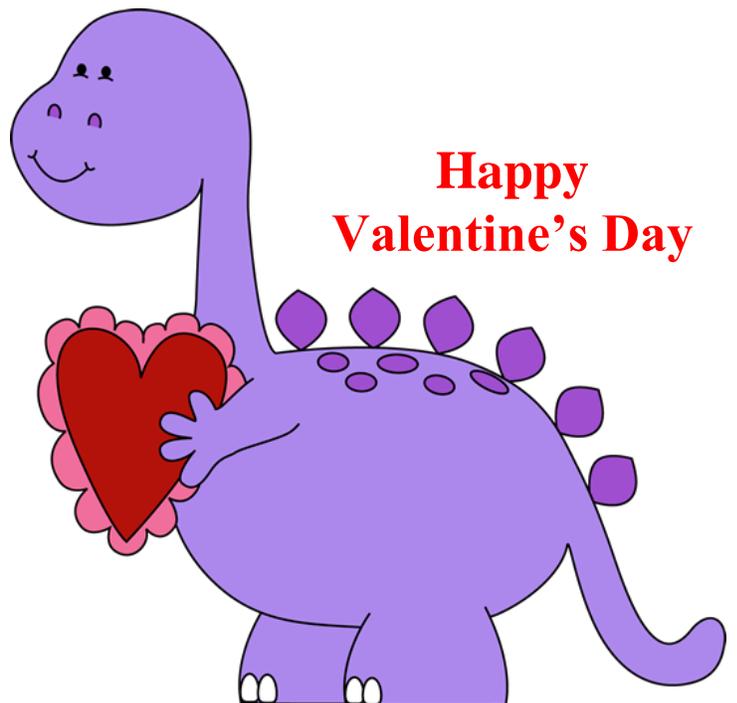


Class 206, 209 and 313 will view and critique the artwork of American painter Wayne Thiebaud. Thiebaud's most famous works are paintings of cakes, pastries, toys, etc. Thiebaud lives in Arizona and is 98 years old. He has said "I'm not an artist, but a painter." Students will work on colorful ice cream cone drawings inspired by Thiebaud's painting, *Four Cupcakes*, painted in 1971.

Suggested Books:

- *Counting with Wayne Thiebaud*, by Susan Goldman Rubin
- *Delicious: The Art and Life of Wayne Thiebaud*, by Susan Goldman Rubin

Happy Valentine's Day



Art with Ms. Parisi

In February, second grade students will be using clay to create three-dimensional pottery. We will begin by exploring and critiquing different examples of pottery, followed by using clay to create our own piece of pottery using the pinch method. To create a pinch pot, students will begin with a lump of clay slightly smaller than a closed fist. The clay is then formed into a firm, compact ball. Holding the ball of clay in one hand, the thumb of the other hand is pushed into the ball to create an opening. The pottery is then formed using your thumb and fingers in a pinching motion to thin the floor and walls of the pottery. After our pottery has dried it will then be painted using tempera paint. Check out Mrs. Parisi's teacher page on the P.S. 108 website. Please be sure to look at the menu of extra credit assignments that can be completed and handed in to Mrs. Parisi for extra credit in art.

Art Tips/Websites

Learn more about painter Wayne Thiebaud:
<http://artsmarts4kids.blogspot.com/2008/02/wayne-thiebaud>.

Take a look at Wayne Thiebaud's Pie Counter, painted in 1963, here:
<http://whitney.org/ForKids/Collection/WayneThiebaud>

Make your own clay at home!!!!

Homemade Clay Recipes:

<http://fun.familyeducation.com/sculpting/recipes/37041.html>

Dance with Ms. Charles

This month, the second graders will begin to study jazz. They will use the simple jazz steps that they've learned in order to become choreographers. Each child will work with a partner to create their own jazz dance. The children will start and end their dances still, and they will also include locomotor and non-locomotor movements in their dances. After rehearsing their dances, the children will perform them for their classmates. By doing this, the students will continue to improve their performance skills as well as reinforce how to be a good audience member.

***As always, remind your child to wear sneakers on the days that they have dance. ***

Suggested Website: www.dance-kids.org

Physical Education with Ms. Klein, Ms. Acquaviva or Mr. Veltre

For the month of February, 2nd grade students will be focusing on their volleying and striking skills. We will be using beach balls/balloons to enforce these skills while the children begin to learn how to volley underhand and learn how to strike an object using the underhand or sidearm striking pattern. When learning how to volley, students will develop a good sense of eye-hand coordination, and while working with their classmates, they will learn personal and social behavior that respects self and others.

Stem with Ms. Rose

For the month of February, our 2nd grade engineers are exploring fairytale STEM challenges. They will be building solutions for different famous fairytale characters such as Rapunzel, The Three Billy Goats Gruff and The Tortoise And The Hare.

Musical Theater with Ms. Lodescar

February is here! For this month, students will delve deeper into the art of pantomiming. A pantomime is to "act without words." It is sometimes called the "art of silence."

Practicing pantomime will allow students to focus on deliberate, exaggerated movements of their bodies, and on facial expressions. These are necessary skills in acting for the stage because audience members must be able to read the actor's movements and facial expressions from a distance. They will work collaboratively with their classmates in teams of three to perform a scene, and will use a rubric for reference.

They will also continue to acquire skills to help them build confidence independently, while learning to work together to build ensemble.

****Please note that students will be engaging in a lot of movement activities, therefore comfortable clothing and shoes are suggested for that day. ****

