



2011 Summer Sessions
Artaplooza
 June 13-17



First-Plymouth Early Education Programs
 Dimensions Research Classrooms
 2045 E Street, Lincoln, NE 68510
 (402) 476-8304 • Fax: (402) 476-8060



Artaplooza

The biggest art party ever took place at Dimensions this week! Children unleashed their creativity while dabbling in a variety of art experiences. Different styles and media such as paint, oil pastels, wood and clay were used to inspire children to express their artistic spirit.

Anna created a watercolor of a crane and offered to donate it to Lincoln Public Schools (a recent fire destroyed their building and contents).

Resources

- Babar's Museum of Art* by Laurent de Brunhoff
- A Child's Book of Art* selected by Lucy Mickythwait
- Color* by Ruth Heller
- A Collaboration with Nature* by Andy Goldsworthy
- The Earth and I* by Frank Asch
- Harold and the Purple Crayon* by Crockett Johnson
- How Many: spectacular paper sculptures, a pop-up* by Ron van der Meer
- I Spy Shapes In Art* by Lucy Mickythwait
- Ish* by Peter H. Reynolds
- Look! Look! Look!* by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace
- Museum Shapes* by Gisela Voss
- Not A Box* by Antoinette Portis
- Not A Stick* by Antoinette Portis
- Sandy's Circus, a Story about Alexander Calder* by Tanya Lee Stone
- Vincent Van Gogh's Cat* by Second Grade Students of East Washington Academy in Muncie, Indiana



Capitol inspiration

by Joyce White, Holly Murdoch & Kathy Marshall

The K-1 and 2-5 Groups ventured to the Nebraska State Capitol early this week. The Capitol was the inspiration for their architectural genius to appear.

The first day we physically explored the outside of the Capitol by walking around, lying down on the grass, creating paths up and down the hills, touching statues and sketching. And yes, we did run up the main steps!

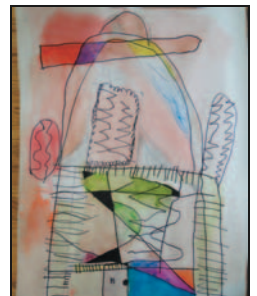
The next day we were inspired after taking an excellent tour inside the Capitol where we walked, lay down on the floor, took the elevator to the top and sketched some more.

The process of creating the Capitol artwork included these steps:

- We **looked** at tall buildings (mainly the Capitol).
- We **moved** outside and inside the State Capitol.
- We **sketched**, using a pencil and large paper, a tall building.
- Next we masked the outline of the buildings with masking tape for the children (creating positive and negative spaces).
- We **built** fantastic art on top of the pencil

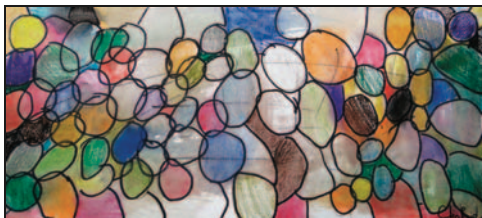


Rory's State Capitol artwork has the masking tape attached to create negative space when he watercolors over it.



sketches by adding detail using oil pastels.

- The children used watercolors to paint over the buildings.
- The tape was removed (negative space).
- The final step will use Sharpies to create texture and patterns in the negative spaces.



Mosaic by Clio Reid

The State Capitol

by Clio Reid, 2-5 Group member

The 2-5 and K-1 Groups (28 kids) went to the Capitol building. This is some of what we learned.



The Capitol was designed by Bertram Goodhue and Hildreth Meière did the mosaics. She also did art in Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, Columbia University, New York, and the Virginia War Museum, Newport News, VA.

The mosaics on the floor are a beautiful way to show the earth. The main mosaic is meant to be mother earth with her arms out. The woman with wheat is representing food. The other woman, water. The four other mosaics are Fire, Water, Air, Earth. "It's like a god's eye," Tess says.

There are also mosaics on the ceiling. Those are colorful. The main pattern on the ceiling is the sun. There are maybe three to four different sun patterns. The second most used pattern is probably a green and cream zig zag pattern. Kai said about the mosaics, "You can actually feel those!"

The architect had a few tricks up his sleeve. From the center room to another room (both rooms are light) you may go through a dimly lit hallway. Then we walked through part of the hall of fame.

Next we took a trip to the courtyard and ran around. We also made quick sketches of the courtyard or the Capitol itself. To conclude our trip to the Capitol we went to the 14th floor. It was one great day.



K-1 Group artwork from the top, clockwise: Alex, Lucas, Haven, Keira, Mayda and Kai. Fiona, Will (both 2-5).

Photos of 2-5 Group at work by Holly Goertzen





Babies are learning about art, too

text & photos by Denise Topil & Abbie Whisler

Infants are exposed to art concepts every day. We help them look at the color, shape and texture of the items around them. We read books like **Brown Bear** by Eric Carle and sing songs like "Mary Wore Her Red Dress" using their name and clothing colors.

We took walks around the neighborhood and searched for colors in nature. We saw green grass and leaves, white clover, blue flowers and fuzzy plant leaves, What colors are in your yard?

Christopher examines a fuzzy plant at the Sunken Gardens while Lily sees how white clover matches the white circle.



Toddlers explore their inner artists

by Cassie Thelen

Toddlers used crayons to draw pictures. Livy and Blake drew trains with people in them. Gavin liked having Miss Katie and Miss Cassie trace his hand. One day Norah, Livy, Ryland and Ruthie made music outside in the NEC and played with scarves in the wind. The children also experienced painting with watercolors.

K-1 Group explores art mediums

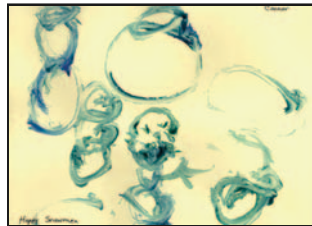
by Kathy Marshall

The K-1 afternoon class explored with watercolor pencils and tempera paints. The first day they used green and yellow colors and painted whatever they imagined. "The K-1 Green Period" paintings were displayed in the hall in our "Art Museum."

Watercolor pencils were used next. The children used these in several different ways: they drew lines and added water to the colored lines; they applied water to the paper and then drew the watercolor pencils through the water; some of the children dipped their watercolor tips in water and then drew. Another color mix was with green and blue ("The K-1 Blue Period").

George worked on a water pencil drawing. He chose four colors and dipped the pencil in water before applying to paper. He also colored with pencil and added water with a brush.

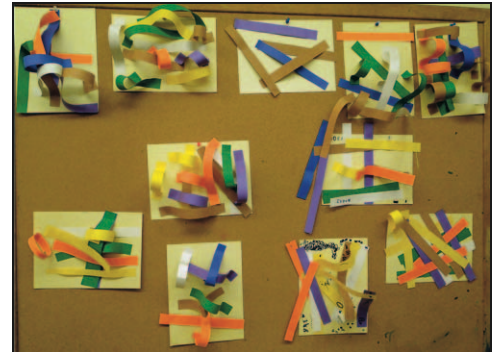
Below, L-R: Connor, "Happy Snowmen" and Ashton, "The Man Who Survived Pluto."



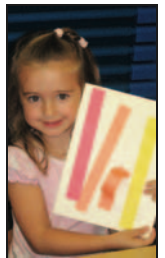
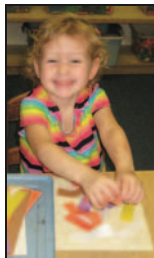
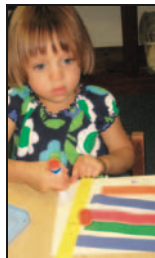
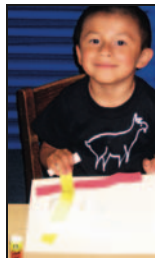
Paper creatively sculpted

text & photos by Cindy Heizman

Ron van der Meer created a fantastic pop-up book of paper sculptures. After looking at his amazing work we then created our own sculptures with paper strips and glue sticks. We made loops, bridges, bumps and even some flat art creations.



Mrs. Kelly's class (Group 1) made 3-dimensional paper sculptures after reading the book **How Many** by Ron Van Der Meer.



Preschoolers have been coming to school ready to work on art. On Wednesday we decided to watercolor outdoors as our first plan of the morning. Children had a partner to share watercolor paint, grabbed a clipboard with paper attached and filled a water cup to create their artwork. It was a beautiful day to be an artist outdoors



Preschoolers Cody and Cristian look at a "map" as they, along with Sydney, Brandon, Brody, Rowan, and Drew try to solve the mystery of "where's the tiger". photo by Amanda Kelly



Preschoolers Brody, Henry and Sawyer play with the "squishy sand" and try to bury some trucks".



One of the preschool groups created some "rainy day" art with their kaleidoscope of colorful umbrellas.

Nature Explore® Classrooms are part of a national initiative that we are working with in partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation.

Dimensions First-Plymouth Early Education Programs is a non-profit 501(c)3.

Newsletters and Program information can be found on-line www.dimensionsfoundation.org or contact earlyed@dimensionsfoundation.org

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