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December 2014 Newsletter

Here's what my classes have been working on in December:

**Kindergarten** decorated bisque tiles with glaze using their fingerprints to make Christmas trees. These were special gifts for their families. They also sponge painted “frosting” on brown construction paper gingerbread shapes. They later used dot markers to add the “candies” to their Gingerbread Houses.

**First graders** began creating mixed-media tissue collages in the style of Dutch artist Piet Mondrian. They used tissue paper and watered-down glue and also added black tempera paint lines using the edge of a credit card.

**Second graders** finished up their Leaf watercolor paintings by painting the background with cool colors to contrast the warm leaves. They mounted these diagonally on the Leaf Rubbings. They learned how to complete Self-Evaluations for their artwork.

**Third graders** finished up their Gradual Value choice project and did a Self-Evaluation. Some classes also did a Before & After Tree drawing experiment. On 1 side they drew their best tree that they knew how to do. Then I demonstrated my basic method for drawing a tree and they did it along with me. They were able to compare the 2 drawings and see a huge difference for most.

**Fourth graders** finished shading their 4 Points-of-View key or paper punch drawings. They mounted 3 or 4 of the 4”x4” white squares and completed a Self-Evaluation for their projects.

**Fifth graders** continued working on their Neon Forms and completed a Self-Evaluation for their projects.

(Third graders had musical practice this month during 1 of their art classes. We had a shorter month due to Winter Break.)

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