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August 2014 Newsletter

Hello everyone! Welcome back to school!

New this year, we now have 3 art teachers here at Riverwood, due to our large enrollment. On the website, you can click on my name, Mrs. Thornberry, or Mrs. McKay to see the list of classes we teach.

August went by very quickly. During the first week, my classes went over the rules, procedures, and expectations for art class. One of the expectations is that students in 1st-5th grade are responsible to bring their own art supplies and their sketchbook to art class each time. (Kindergarten students do not need to bring anything with them.) Students in 1-5 created a “Postcard of Summer”. They drew a picture of something fun they did this past summer. First and second graders used crayon and third, fourth, and fifth used colored pencils. Those who had extra time, also wrote about their picture on the back.

My first graders learned the steps for the Weekly Draw exercise. Students in grades 2-5 reviewed the steps. Students draw an object at their table for 3-4 minutes at the beginning of art class each week. This is a practice exercise for looking at and interpreting what they see onto paper.

All of my students began a grade level pre-assessment activity. The same activity will be repeated near the end of the school year. The students will be able to compare the 2, and see their own growth in their abilities - physical motor skills, perceptual skills, and cognitive thinking skills. Kindergartners drew a self-portrait, and a figure, and also traced their hand. They practiced proper pencil grip. Grades 1-5 began drawing self-portraits by looking at themselves in the mirror. First and second graders used crayon and third, fourth, and fifth used colored pencils.

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