

Community Resource Series 2015 Project Descriptions:

Kindergarten – “Art forms in the local environment - The Forest Floor”

This project encourages students to become aware of their environment by creating artwork using locally found objects. The children are taken on a guided exploration of the school grounds and surrounding forest in order to find forms, patterns and textures that are then used to make impressions in clay. The visiting artist discusses composition and contrast with the group before the impressions are made. Plaster is poured into the formed clay molds. When the plaster is dry the students color the work.

1st Grade – “Book Arts”

This workshop combines illustration, book making and creative writing. The students are asked to write and illustrate their own fictional stories after seeing examples of artist's books and discussing how stories and illustration can be combined. They are taught how to make book structures from 1-2 pieces of paper. Each student then makes an edition of 5 copies of their “book” to exchange with other students.

2nd Grade – “Animal Tracks”

Students base this project on their studies and observations of animal habitats in the local environment. The first step is to draw and write field journal notes of the different identifying characteristics of various animals. They proceed to make rubber and or Styrofoam hand stamps of different animal tracks. The printing process involves an exchange of stamps so that each student can print a visual “field journal” with different animal tracks on a piece of fabric.

3rd Grade – “Sculpture inspired by Butterflies”

Students are learning about butterflies for the semester. This year's project involves a trip to Constitution Marsh to observe butterflies and their habitats. Students learn from a resident naturalist and combine this with other studies to write about butterflies and create their own butterflies using a wire armature and paper mache. The sculptures become part of a larger display as part of their semester work.

4th Grade – “Traditional Iroquois Clay Bowls and Designs”

The 4th grade will make a school sponsored trip to the Iroquois Museum. Prior to this trip the students will participate in a two-day workshop at The Garrison Art Center where on the first day they will look at reproductions of pottery from Native American Traditions. Students will then learn how to “hand build” traditional pots using “pinch”, “slab” and “coil” methods. On the second day, students will decorate these pots using traditional designs from Native traditions. These bowls will be fired in kilns at GAC and returned to the students. In the museum, students will be asked to look at the pottery of the Iroquois where they will observe, and recognize the forms and designs.

6th Grade – “Medieval Stained Glass”

This 2 day project involves students creating a personal stained glass design based on studies of medieval stained glass. Students will attend The Garrison Art Center where they will learn methods of stained glass design in the studio by creating a glass made of pre-cut shapes of glass, which they will adhere onto another glass. They will consider color and geometric design, as well as how to “fit” the glass into a specific size and shape. They will then visit The

Union Church in Westchester NY to view and hear a lecture about the stained glass works by Marc Chagall and Claude Monet.

7th Grade – “Traditional paper marbling and book arts”

The goal of this project is for students to create two unique blank journals to use in school projects. The journals are created with covers using a traditional “watercolor” marbling technique. The marbling process is discussed in both traditional and modern forms. Students create their own design and colors on heavy paper that becomes the cover of the journal. The books are bound together using a method called “Japanese Stab” binding. This is a sewing process that also becomes part of the overall design.

8th Grade – “Graduation T-shirt design”

The 8th grade chose to use graduation as a theme to create individual designs that reflect either academic subjects or personal interpretive symbols. They are taught basic textile design methods for arranging images and creating good visual designs. These final images from the entire class are collaged into one collective design that is then made into a stencil on a silkscreen. Each student has the opportunity to print the design onto a T-shirt and several sheets of paper. The printed design on paper is hand colored and will be displayed in the school. The T-shirts are worn during graduation ceremonies or celebrations. Students are given a brief technical explanation of silkscreen processes and able to try printing for themselves.