

WHAT'S
COMING
HOME...



BUCK LAKE
ART NEWS
~ SECOND GRADE ~
2019-2020

**CHECK OUT THE
ART WEBSITE**

Go to the Buck Lake website.
Look for Sonia McDowell
under Faculty and click on my
name to get to the website.



RADIAL DESIGNS

Second grade students started this year creating RADIAL DESIGNS. We decided they looked like explosions from fireworks in the sky. Students were asked to have at least 2 explosions on their artwork. Students made designs by drawing a continuous zigzag line around a small star creating a circle or ring then adding continuous rings in different colors creating a radial design that looked like an explosion. After completing one, the next explosion must stop when it hits the first explosion making it look like it is hiding behind it. We call this "overlapping." Some students used patterns and others created more explosions which made for quite a magnificent masterpiece. Some students that finished early had the opportunity to create a collaborative artwork with other second grade students. We displayed these collaborative radial designs in our cafeteria.



Native American POTTERY "NOT TO BE"

Second graders were so excited about making a ceramic pot. We watched a video from 1970's of Native American woman gathering dirt from areas in the desert, making it into clay then creating a pinch pot with added coils. We saw her build a makeshift kiln and "RAKU" fire her pot. She added sawdust after the pot was fired and it made lots of smoke that the pot absorbed, turning it black. WOW! The kids were excited and ready to make some pots but that did not happen. Hopefully we will have the opportunity to revisit this unit in third grade when we return.

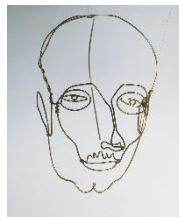
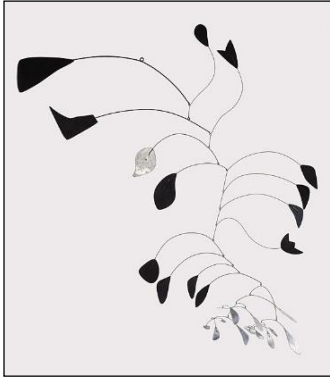


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STABILES like Alexander Calder



Students in 2nd grade began the unit by creating designs with lines and shapes. We learned the difference between line qualities (curly, straight, zig zag) and line directions (diagonal, horizontal, vertical) then created an abstract design using only black lines. Another day, we created an abstract design on the other side of our card using only shapes. We reviewed the difference between geometric shapes (circle, oval, square, rectangle and triangle) and freeform shapes (abstract shapes). Ask your child to share with you what the difference is between geometric and freeform shapes. The designs were fabulous, and the students were really proud of their creations until I told them we were going to cut them up. "Why?" After grading our fabulous design cards, we were introduced to sculptor Alexander Calder sometimes called "Sandy" Calder. After looking at his work, we discussed how we could transform our card into 3D stabiles inspired by Calder. The paper sculptures are called stabiles because they STABLE and STAY in place. Alexander Calder has many very large stabiles on display around the world. He also is famous for inventing the MOBILE – a moving sculpture that hangs from the ceiling and sometimes he combined the two making a stabile/mobile. Calder also created crazy jewelry, paintings, wire portraits of his friends and toys. He even created a entire CIRCUS which he performed for people around the world. He was called the mechanical artist and boy was the creative!

To make our stabiles, we practiced our cutting skills before cutting our cards into freeform pieces then experienced building our stabile by cutting notches to connect the pieces together. PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE! It took some time learning to cut and construct these wonderful miniature stabiles. We hope that your child is able to "install" his/her stabile for you and tell you some interesting facts about Alexander "Sandy" Calder. We even received a photo of our stabiles. MOST STUDENTS BROUGHT THESE HOME ALREADY. Some were displayed at the Eastside Library.