



## St. Martin of Tours Academy Fine Arts Newsletter Spring 2012



*"Faith and prayer are the vitamins of the soul -  
man cannot live in health without them."* Mahalia Jackson

Greetings! Since our last correspondence second quarter, students have been keeping busy with all kinds of creative endeavors and lots of learning about the arts. Here is a summary of just some of the highlights:

All grades recently concluded music and art history lessons for Black History Month (February). Grades 1st through 3rd made island themed drawings with Calypso music, for example. Lessons incorporated the music of Louis Armstrong, Harry Belafonte, Wynton Marsalis, the acrylic paintings of Alma Thomas, and illustration projects on the poetry of Langston Hughes with blues music by Leadbelly, among others. During late February and early March, students worked on illustrations featuring the theme of Lent by creating crosses, hearts, etc. colored with pattern and covered with messages of Lenten commitment and promises. *SLEs: 2a, b, 3a, 5b*

In March, the students in Kindergarten made collaged butterflies, non-objective paintings, and giant Irish potatoes and shamrocks for St. Patrick's Day! The first grade students made large-scale landscapes with shamrocks and snakes (responding to the legend of how St. Patrick drove the snakes from Ireland). The fourth graders made full color compositions with marker and colored pencil of "Lucky Leprechauns."

During the month of March which is Women's History Month, the students learned about (and completed projects in the style of) the painter Georgia O'Keeffe and the sculptor Marisol Escobar, among others. The eighth grade students have just completed a March Women's History month research project on a female artist, to include original artworks by the students in the style of that artist (incorporating history/social studies and art). In addition, students in Grades 6, 7, and 8 created black and white graphic designs with Sharpie markers and black ink, and worked on a series of narrative (visual storytelling without words) illustrations, and cartoon flip books. *SLEs: 4c, d, 5a*

During the first week of April, just prior to the holiday week, some of the projects students were engaged in included scratch art eggs, and Psanky-style black ink patterned eggs in the upper grades. Younger students made patchwork collage bunnies, drawings of Easter Lilies, and colored Resurrection crosses (fine arts/religion). *SLEs: 1a, 2d, 3c, 4d*

Grades K and 1 have also completed landscapes, based on a painting of Iowa by Grant Wood, with overlapping perspective (students learned the terms foreground, middle ground, background). In several art classes the students have recently completed projects for the Spring Fundraiser such as Pop Art Pandas (Gr. 2), Images of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Gr. 3), and California Poppies (Gr. 4). I am looking forward to seeing you at that event on April 28th! *SLEs: 1c, 3a, 4b* (Community service and art).

The fifth graders have been hard at work on their Cultural Heritage Dolls project, including a short research paper on their country of choice. \*See invitation/reminder notice on reverse. Wednesday, April 25th at 11:00 a.m. is our luncheon and the due date for the Dolls!

*Arts Opportunity:*

The San Diego Museum of Art and the San Diego Zoo (and San Diego Zoo Safari Park) offer day camps and weeklong courses for young artists each summer. The classes are always very popular and fill up fast. Check their respective websites for more information regarding specific dates, times, and information: <sandiegozoo.org> and <sdmart.org>

As we enter the last nine weeks of school, I wish you faith, peace, and a blessed spring!

Denise Pippin

**Dear 5th Grade Parents:**

You are cordially invited to attend the annual 5th grade *International Day Potluck Luncheon!*

**Date:** Wednesday, April 25, 2012  
**Time:** 11:00 - 12:20 p.m.  
**Place:** SMA 5th Grade Classroom



*This luncheon is the culmination of six weeks of hard work by the students on their Cultural Heritage Project. The "dolls," puppets, etc. will be presented after the luncheon in the classroom. This is a potluck luncheon. The room parents have sent a sign-up via e-mail. Food items do not have to be homemade and your participation is strictly voluntary! Please feel free to contact me at school if you have questions. Mrs. Soto and I hope you will be able to join us! Thank you.*

*Fondly,*

*Denise A. Pippin, Arts Instructor*