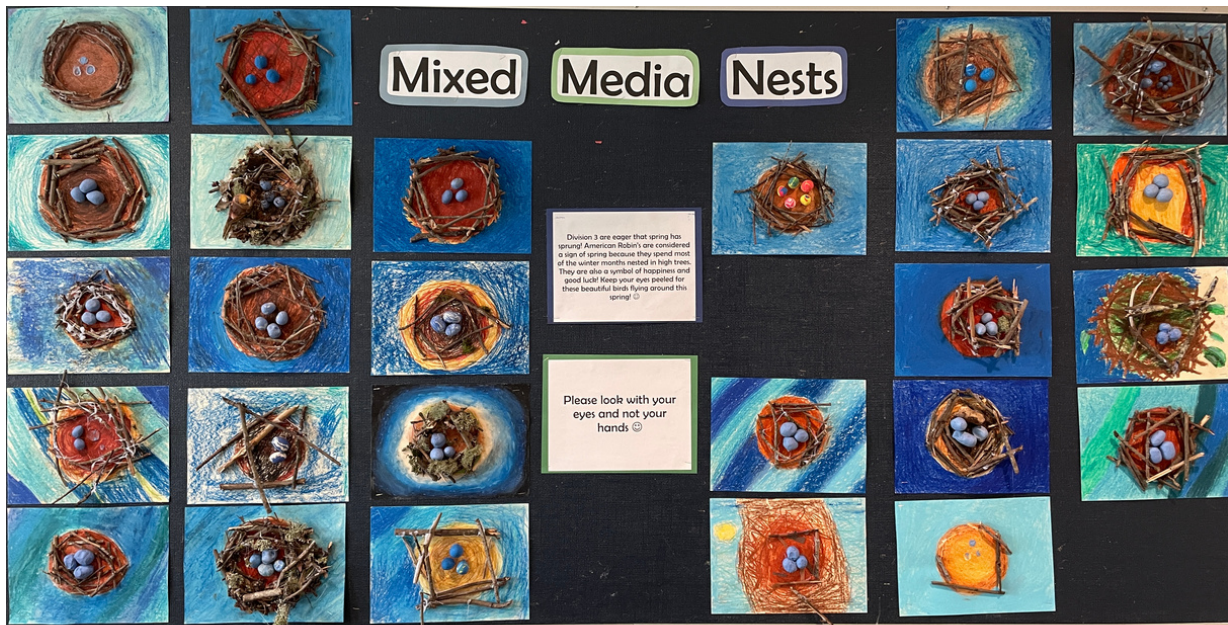


Learning Highlights

Issue No. 3 April/May 2023



Division 3 are eager that Spring has sprung! They have been studying birds and learned that seeing a Robin is not only a sign of Spring but also a symbol of happiness and good luck!

Blair Cares For this Place

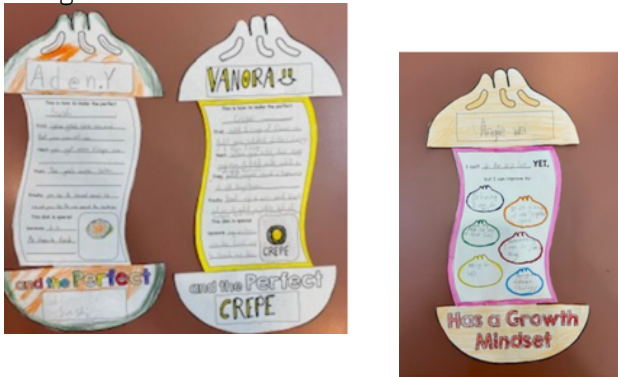
During the month of April Division 8 has been busy in our school garden beds. This year our gardens are full of beans, peas, strawberries, chives, oregano, parsley, basil, rosemary, radishes, cucumbers, tomatoes, and a variety of leafy greens. We also have our Butterflyway garden to attract butterflies to our area. Our pollinator garden is also in place to attract pollinators to our garden. Pollinators are birds, butterflies and bees. We are very excited to see our Indigenous Healing Garden plants come back strong after our Fall planting!



Connections to the Curriculum

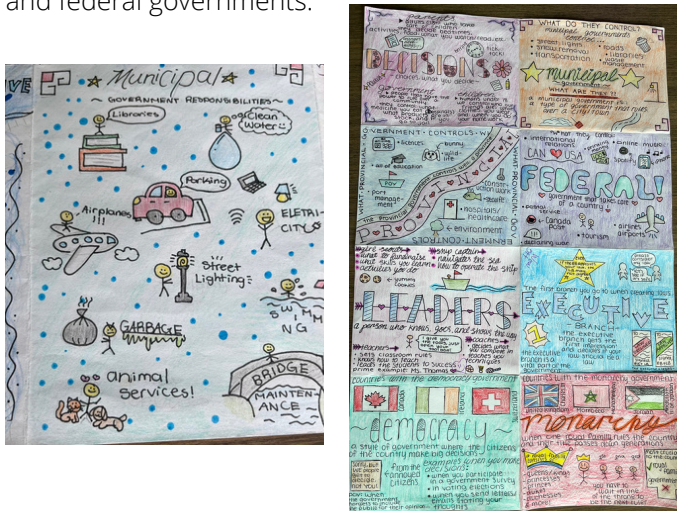
Celebrating Asian Heritage Month

To celebrate and learn more about Asian Heritage Month students have been learning about several Asian-Canadian and Asian-American authors in the library with Mrs. Wood. The students in K-3 read The Perfect Bao by Kat Zhang and The Perfect Sushi by Emily Satoko Seo. Both books addressed the social emotional learning topic of 'growth mindset' and afterwards students reflected upon their own experiences of trying to do something "perfectly" and how they overcame their challenges.



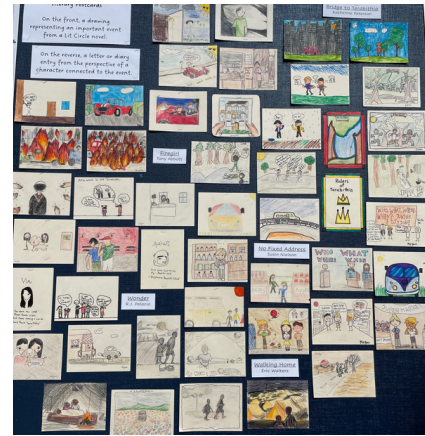
Social Studies: Government

Division 4 have been studying the Big Idea that Canadian institutions and governments reflect the challenge of our regional diversity for Social Studies this term. They have been learning about different levels of government and the roles within provincial, territorial and federal governments.



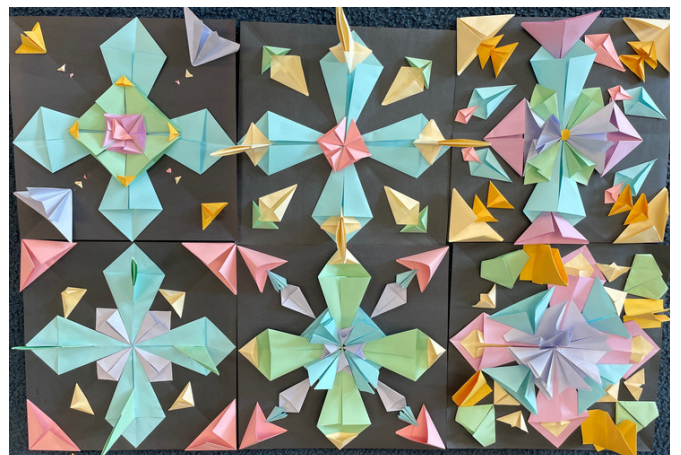
Literacy: Literature Circles

During Literature Circles students from Div. 2 made Literary Postcards. On the front is a drawing from an important event from the Literature Circle novel. On the reverse side is a letter or diary entry from the perspective of a character connected to the event. Studying perspective is a way to gain insight into others and yourself as a learner. Literature Circle novels they studied were: Wonder, Firebird, Walking Home, No Fixed Address and Bridge to Terabithia.



Mathematics: Symmetry

Division 5 has been learning about Symmetry. They have been identifying lines of symmetry in nature and connected to First Peoples. Students have examined symmetry, balance and patterns by completing weaving projects. They also studied rotational symmetry through art.



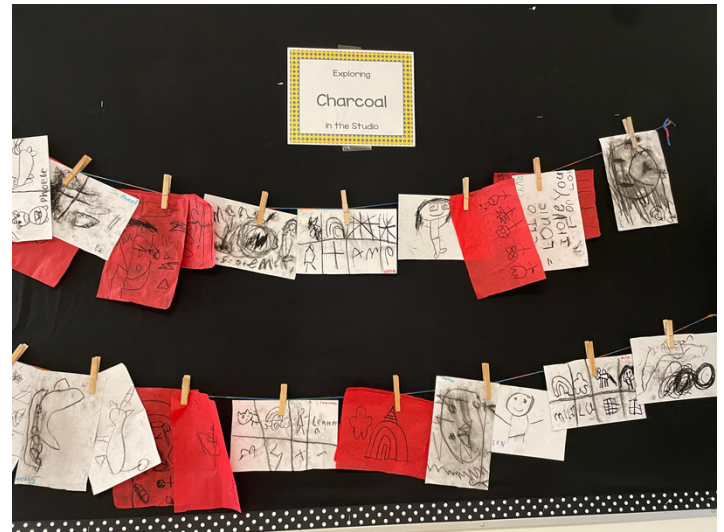
Connections to the Curriculum

Fine Arts Across the Curriculum

Developing Awareness with Charcoal in our Blair Studio:

We have been exploring different materials in our Blair studio ie: Clay, Wire and Charcoal. Charcoal is a form of carbon and is a solid or residue made through the process of pyrolysis. Pyrolysis is the heating of an organic material with the absence of oxygen. It is considered a thermochemical decomposition process involving changes in both chemical composition and physical phase and is irreversible. Charcoal comes in different hardnesses and forms.

Charcoal is a naturally occurring material. Graphite is also a naturally occurring material and is a carbon-based mineral found in some rocks. This children could use natural charcoal sticks, compressed charcoal sticks and charcoal pencils while in the studio.



Questions we asked students to think about while exploring charcoal. What different textures can you create with charcoal? What colours live inside of black? What can charcoal do? What do you notice? What do you wonder?

Sunflower Paintings By Division. 7



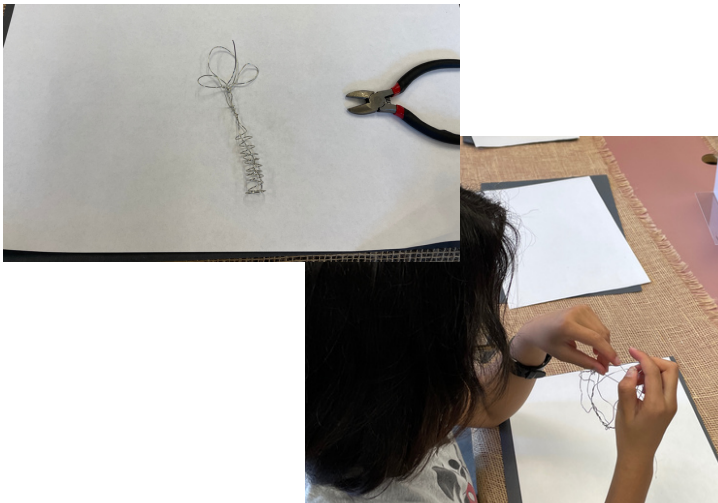
Social Emotional Learning

Our school will continue to focus on our current school goal: **What social and emotional competencies, supports and environments do our learners need to help them thrive and learn in school and in life?**

This year we applied for an SEL Innovation Grant to transform our computer lab into a studio space so that we could see if giving students the opportunity to work with different materials might develop flexibility, perspective and awareness. These are attributes that we all need to learn and thrive as human beings.

While working with Wire we had the students think about these questions:

- What is the difference between 2-D and 3-D?
- What do you notice when you make a three-dimensional shape?
- How does your creation change when you look at it from different angles?
- How does your creation change when you look at it from different distances?
- How might looking at your creation in different ways shift your thinking?



What do you notice about wire? What can you do with wire? What can't you do with wire? What feelings come up? What is happening in your mind as you are playing with wire? .

