



A school that treats the arts as the province of a few gifted children, or views them only as recreation and entertainment, is a school that needs an infusion of soul. The arts are an essential element of education, just like reading, writing, and arithmetic.

--William Bennett, Former US Secretary of Education



Taiko Drumming & Kinesthetic Learning at Mayeda

The Ruth Asawa School of the Arts World Music program came in February to teach our middle schoolers the art of Taiko drumming. Sensei Mui-san inspired and taught complicated drum verses for all to understand and apply.

"The World Music program has a kinesthetic approach to music learning. Much of the focus in music of other cultures is not the music itself, but the sense of community among the musicians. Students will use their body, mind and spirit in getting to know their peers and in learning the diversity of world music."

Engaging in the creative practice of understanding the music of Taiko, students experienced the rhythm and verses and gained insight into the history of this dynamic art form from Japan. Students connected and promoted their own creative personal engagement through drumming. Teamwork and collaboration were necessary to unify and build a community of synchronized sound. Students had to take risks and persist, focus and persevere, and they had a great time making dynamic music!

For more pictures, videos and student feedback, visit:
<http://rooftopcart.weebly.com/perfdancemusic.html>



Rooftop Staff Professional Development at the deYoung *Modern Nature: Georgia O'Keeffe and Lake George*

February 21 - Rooftop's teachers gathered in the beautiful Piazzoni Mural Room at the deYoung Museum for a special after-school professional development session. Teachers learned more about O'Keeffe's early years and the history of her time spent at Lake George in the Adirondack Mountains. O'Keeffe's intense personal connection with nature inspired an artmaking activity, where our teachers expressed their own childhood memories of being in nature

with both oil pastel images and with words. Touring the O'Keeffe exhibit in grade-level groups, teachers planned for their students' engagement for the upcoming field trip to the museum on March 10th, as well as for curricular extensions that will tie in with other areas of learning. We thank our staff for devoting their Friday afternoon in helping to create a very memorable and meaningful experience for our students.





Rooftop Students Commended at the 2nd Annual Ezra Jack Keats Bookmaking Competition

Working individually, or in creative pairs of author/illustrator, a number of Rooftop students created original illustrated story-books. Working in the library at lunch, or diligently at home, we are proud that so many of our students participated in the engaging process of creating their own hand-bound book. Four individual student works, plus a collaborative group book created by Ms. Smith's first grade class were selected to represent Rooftop in the competition and all were awarded prizes at a special ceremony on March 2nd at the Contemporary Jewish Museum.

Congratulations to the following students:

Individual Elementary (Grades 3-5)
 Ella Morris *"Tusa's Baby Sea Turtles"* (1st)
 Holiday Gessler *"Aliens: A Book of Facts"* (2nd)

Collective Works (Grades K-2):
 Ms. Smith's class
"The Instruments of the Orchestra" (2nd)

Middle School:
 Emily Tomlinson *"Sock Doll Adventure"* (1st)
 Oona Reese-Adams & Elizabeth Yip
"Goodnight Rabbit" (3rd)

A special thank you to Tamra Marshall, Cheryl Ball, Rittenell Banks and Cyndy Sugawara for supporting our students with their bookmaking.

San Francisco Symphony's Adventures in Music Program



The annual field trip to a private performance by the San Francisco Symphony at Davies Symphony Hall is a favorite tradition of Rooftop 1st through 5th graders. The performance is offered as part of the Adventures in Music (AIM) program, an interdisciplinary program that integrates live music performances and related music education experiences with everyday classroom lessons.

This year's AIM theme, "Music of San Francisco, Music of the World!" offers an exploration of the diverse musical cultures that enrich our city. Along with the performance at Symphony Hall, the program provides supporting curriculum for our classroom teachers, and eight different school day live ensemble performances at Rooftop, with diverse offerings from China to the Caribbean, from a brass quartet to BeBop jazz.



Frog & Toad and the World of Arnold Lobel at the CJM



January 30 - Rooftop's Second Grade traveled to the Contemporary Jewish Museum to experience an exhibition of the original works of a favorite author and illustrator, Arnold Lobel. Creator of the "Frog and Toad" series that is many Rooftop students's first chapter book, Lobel created magical worlds of animated creatures that engage our young readers.

The exhibition included original artworks, idea sketches and dummy books, that included Frog and Toad, and a number of lesser known, Arnold Lobel creations.

Seeing Lobel's original work, and the "behind-the pages" look at what goes into the creation of a storybook provided students a new lens to view their favorite books, as well as insights into the artistic process of bookmaking.



Fifth Grade Explores Narrative Elements and the Dramatic Arts with StageWrite and Dr. Seuss' The Lorax

This winter, Rooftop's fifth grade class explores the dramatic arts in a 12 week residency with StageWrite, a theatre arts in education non-profit organization. With a mission to involve young people in reading, writing, speaking and listening as a holistic and meaningful communication process, StageWrite strives to use the arts to create a more equitable and just society.

StageWrite's sessions begin with drama games designed to engage students in focus, respect and teamwork. Students also learn to use the five tools of an artist: bodies, voices, emotions, imaginations, and the five senses: sight, hearing, smell, taste & touch.



Through an in-depth study of Dr. Seuss' The Lorax, students explore narrative elements such as setting, plot and character. The students will also write, rehearse and perform their own staged production based on the themes and characters of the story.

Through the communal art of theatre, our students are building skills in creative expression, collaboration and critical thinking, while having a lot of fun, too!



Rooftop Students, Teachers and Parent Volunteers Collaborate to Create Art for the Rooftop Auction



With the big day soon approaching, Rooftop students have been quite busy creating classroom works of art for 21st Annual Rooftop Auction & Children's Art Show.

Did you know that the first Rooftop auction was organized by Aiko Cuneo, the founder of Rooftop's Art Program? Since the very first event, the auction has been an opportunity to showcase the best of our students' creativity and represent the unique collaboration between students, teachers and parent volunteers that is at the heart of Rooftop's Art Program.

Working together, parents and teachers model for our children the spirit of collaboration and volunteerism. This spirit extends to the children as they earnestly pour their hearts into their art, knowing that their efforts will benefit the entire school community.

The classroom art projects are always the highlight of a very exciting evening, and they can be a remarkable fundraising juggernaut that supports Rooftop's programs. However, it's beneficial to honor that these projects' true importance is to showcase our children's best creative efforts and to beautifully represent the essence of Rooftop Spirit.

At the auction on March 15th, please take a few moments away from the socializing and shopping and spend some time viewing the remarkable achievements of our classroom art projects. Revel in the creativity and generosity of spirit of our children. Lastly, remember the commitment of the adults involved, the teachers and the Art Parents, and when you see them, please thank them for providing this unique opportunity for our students.

**ROOFTOP ART PROGRAM
UPCOMING EVENTS**

*Monday, March 10
All-School Field trip to the
deYoung Museum to see
"Modern Nature:
Georgia O'Keeffe and
Lake George"*

Students will discover the early works of O'Keeffe and the ways that the arts can inspire personal connections with nature.

*Saturday, March 15
21st Annual Children's Art
Show and Auction
"Art is a Window: Opening
Up New Possibilities"*

Don't miss the Rooftop event of the season, full of creativity and ROOFTOP SPIRIT!

*Saturday, March 15 thru
Sunday, March 23
SFUSD's Youth Arts Festival
Asian Art Museum*

Don't miss this annual celebration of the visual and performing arts in our schools. Rooftop will be well-represented . . . stay tuned to next week's Wednesday bulletin for a list of students participating via visual, performing and media arts.