

December 1, 2018

Dear Friends and Families,

It has been a week of sewing our holiday quilts, which has been a tradition in the elementary class for about sixteen years. The six- and seven-year-olds make a simple 9-inch square quilt, learning all the details that they will need when they are eight to twelve to create a larger, more intricate quilt. As they participate in a craft that has been part of our country's heritage since its early days, they also develop their hand control and attention to detail. It is not uncommon for a child to recognize and comment on how focused they are when creating a quilt. It is a time of sweet intimacy, listening to each other's stories about their pets, their families, and of course the funny things that have happened in their lives. If you have a chance to peek in or spend some time with us, it would be worth the time. (They might also teach you the running or whip stitch.)

The children have also been practicing their musical and literary creations for our Winter Performance, which will be held at Samuels Library on Friday, December 14th, at 2PM. Some ensemble groups are arising, with guitar, piano, violin, our Orff instruments, and recorders.

To round things out and offer variety, the older students have been learning about the life of Albert Einstein. They loved hearing that Einstein recognized early on that learning takes place best in an environment fostering discovery and experimentation rather than regimentation. Little Albert's mom also encouraged her young ones to be independent, letting them roam the city streets, (without them knowing that an adult was watching every move they made.) The younger students have been listening to beautiful books on nouns and verbs and large numbers.

We got to announce the winners in the Holiday Writing Contest. Audrey Veitental, Silas Speet, and Caleesi Beauge are our winning writers, and Vasily Wagner and Mila Compton are our winning artists. Their work will be presented on Wednesday, December 19, at 6PM, at Samuels Library. Everyone is invited.

I hope you are all enjoying the beginning of this festive season.

Sincerely,

Mona