

I am the Art Specialist at Roosevelt Elementary School. I teach art to grades 1-5 once a week for 45 minutes. My goal is to create an art studio environment for elementary students where they learn and practice art skills, processes, materials and tools to create original and expressive works of art. With the help of a generous grant from the San Leandro Art Association this fall, I was able to buy watercolors, paper, drawing pencils and other essential art materials that have helped to keep the art class up and running.

So far this year, students have explored portraits, value, mixing secondary colors, cutting and gluing techniques, observational drawing, watercolor techniques and drawing with a 6B pencil.

All grades have been practicing making art using watercolor layered on oil pastel drawing using a wet on wet technique. These dragons and rainbow animals are examples of art made by grade one students.



*Dragons*



Rainbow Animals



While learning about concentric circles and spirals, grades 2 and 3 worked on snail imagery using oil pastel and watercolor wash. Left are two examples.



*Spiral Snails*

This winter, Roosevelt students took part in the San Leandro Library's Big Read Grant celebrating Zora Neale Hurston by creating art inspired by Hurston and fellow Harlem Renaissance writer, Langston Hughes. Their work was on display in the library's Children's Room for the months of January and February. Grade four and five students spent several weeks creating art thinking about Zora Neale Hurston and the "five-acre garden" where she grew up. Their oil pastel and watercolor artworks were inspired by photos of Hurston and elements from her yard such as the chinaberry trees, cape jasmine, guavas and children playing.



*Grades Four & Five Art Celebrating Zora Neale Hurston at the San Leandro Library*

Below is grade two and three art inspired by Langston Hughes' poem, *Snail*. Elements from the poem can be seen in the student art such as the rose, dreaming snails, dewdrops, garden imagery and weather.



*Grades Two and Three Art at the San Leandro Library inspired by the poem, Snail.*

Grade one art was created after hearing Langston Hughes' poem, *Long Trip*. The poem talks about how the sea rises and rolls, dips and dives and things that are hidden. The students made their art thinking about what is hidden under the rolling waves with a focus on fish.



*Grade One Art at the San Leandro Library inspired by the poem, Long Trip.*