

HoLa ArTs & Specials

A closer look into the Arts, Music, & Physical Education Programs at HoLa Charter School

Issue One

Fall 2011

Visual Arts

Hello Parents,

Thank you for your patience with the Arts and Specials Newsletter as the classes have been busy finishing up all of their projects for our hallway display. This past term in art the students have been engaged in activities along with the theme of "Nuestro Planeta", where students have explored and observed their own environment, while eventually studying the habitat and geography of specific South American wildlife.

Through observational sketching, photo analysis, demonstration, and art making, students learned of the natural habit of a different continent, as well as created their own 2-D and 3-D recyclable works of art based on this knowledge. Students investigated the proper process and techniques, as well as color theory concepts in which artists can utilize to produce their art pieces.

Each of my lessons focuses on collaborative learning techniques, where students will hopefully learn the importance of **effective communication**, **patience**, and **persistence** through the art making process.

I am impressed with their efforts so far and look forward to displaying more of their wonderful work!

– Miss Lisa



Main Objectives Covered:

"How can artists record what they find in nature?"

Students were taken outside to our **HoLa Garden** to create their own nature sketches in their sketchbooks. They were encouraged to observe and capture the **lines, shapes, and colors** that they were seeing.

Focusing on **color theory concepts**, each class concentrated on one area of South America and created **3-dimensional sculptures** from **recycled materials** of a creature native to that area.

Student's artwork was displayed to create a **recycled tropical rainforest!**

Kindergarten students practicing observational sketching techniques in our HoLa Garden.



Miss Lisa & students sign and put finishing touches on the hallway murals.

Visual Arts Special Projects

Students who put forth a worthy effort during our regular class period and who exhibit **cooperative classroom behavior** may be asked from time to time to work on **additional art projects** for our school during the student's free time.



(Left) Third grade students were a big help creating decorations for HoLa's big Halloween Party! Working together to decorate and create 3-D artwork was a lot of fun. Great job girls!



Hudson, Luc, Benny, Nick & Vincent stand proudly next to their finished mural paintings decorating our stairwell! During this special art project students were able to concentrate on important painting skills including color mixing, application, and brush techniques.

Physical Education

This term in physical education, students have been enhancing their agility, teamwork skills and cognitive abilities. The class starts with a warm-up, which is led by the students and includes static and ballistic stretching, that includes, jumping jacks, running, and other related warm-ups. Students who lead the warm-ups are given the freedom to choose the warm-up agenda for the entire class for the day.

Activities covered this term are done in progressions. For example, we started the year with "Silly Kickball", followed by Kickball, to develop an understanding of base running skills. Aside from kindergarten, once these skills were achieved, classes had a "HoLa Baseball World Series" Kindergarten learned the same skills at a different pace but finished with bowling, where students had to practice using their hand/eye coordination.

Throughout the year, we will continue enhancing and exploring our bodies physical potential.



Art Themes

Nuestro Planeta *Our Planet*

Every other month, a new **theme** is implemented into the curriculum of the school. **Guest artists** and **speakers** are invited to the school to work with our students and prepare a special program **relating to the particular theme**. During our first theme of the school year, ***Nuestro Planeta***, students explored all aspects of **nature** and the environment in which we live! A focus on **healthy eating** and where the foods we eat come from were examined through engaging in different activities in **HoLa's own plentiful garden**. Guest speakers from ***Smart Cookies***, prepared an exciting and engaging program for students where each child participated in learning about **wholesome nutrition**.



Relating to the school's theme of "**Nuestro**

Planeta", students engaged in activities prepared by special guest speakers, **Miss Julie & Miss Lisa** every Thursday & Friday from September through October.

HoLa Music

For the past couple of months, Patricio has led a variety of **rhythm** and **movement** music activities. These activities have helped the students to develop a sense of their own **internal rhythm**, sharpen their **faculties of sensation** and **spatial perception**, develop their **language skills** and **self-expression**, strengthen their **motor movement**, **dexterity** and **coordination**, learn a sense of order in their environment, and feel a sense of **accomplishment**.

Patricio Batallas' career as a music educator began at the National Conservatory in Quito, Ecuador more than 20 years ago. Since then, he has taught the skills and the benefits of childhood music education at universities, schools, early-childhood centers and parent workshops. He developed his bilingual program incorporating the various teaching methods of Dalcroze, Kodaly, and Carl Orff, among others.



Kindergarten students have a great time learning and appreciating new types of **instruments**, **music theory**, & **songs** in music class!