

Little Arrows
Farmhouse News
January 2011
Cultures Month

Welcome Back to School!!!

We hope everyone enjoyed their winter break. We are so excited about the new year. This month we learn about **cultures!**

Culture makes us who we are. We learn about our culture through our family and our community. Culture is reflected in what we wear, what we eat, how we live, even how we sleep!! There is no one way to be and the more we know about others, the more we learn about ourselves.

Family Homework:

Share with your child something from their family or culture.

It can be a tasty meal, a song, or a book. It can even be a special tradition that only your family enjoys.

If you have anything special you would like to bring in to share at school just let one of the teachers know.

Culture in Art or Art in Culture ?

Across the world people have used art to express themselves. There are so many different styles that vary from culture to culture, but the tools that artists use are nearly all the same. One of the most widely used tools is the wood block. Certain tribes in Africa use blocks of wood to decorate clothing in a process called batik. The printing press evolved from a simple wood block. In Japan, Katsushika Hokusai (1760 – 1849) a famous print maker, used intricately carved wood blocks to make his prints. One of the best known works is titled “Beneath the great wave off Kanagawa”.

This month we will be using wood blocks to batik and to make our own simple prints.

Last month we used our hand to paint and to sculpt. We even made prints of our hands! This month, instead of a tool the body will become the canvas. Just as cultures around the world use body paint to express ideas and to remember important events, we too will tell a story with our bodies using dance and decoration.

Be sure to look for our "gallery" opening!!!

Because culture is always evolving it can often be hard to define. One of the easier things to recognize in a culture is food. Traditional recipes are passed down from parents to children, one generation to the next, and change very little over the years. Do you have a favorite recipe that you would like to share? Bring it in and we can create a farmhouse cookbook to give out to families. We can even try recreating some of the dishes! This month we will be sampling foods from all over the world. Favorite foods that can now be had almost anywhere. Please remind the Guides if your little arrow has a dietary restriction to any foods and we can leave them off the menu.