



PRINCIPAL CORNER for February 2nd **Integrating Art Across the Curriculum**

Integrating art into the curriculum is a regular component in every classroom. Teachers attended three professional development conferences last summer to grow their capacity to imbed art into the curriculum in a variety of ways. Student understanding of new concepts is deepened when they are required to communicate their learning through the arts.

Rather than teaching art as a stand-alone subject, we provide opportunities for students to think critically and creatively in a variety of subjects, through art. Inspired by a summer field trip to BIMA, we developed schoolwide art themes; for our second trimester, each classroom used **collage** to represent learning.

Our 7th/8th graders are learning about the constitution. Each student was given one amendment and directed to do five things:

- write the amendment in it's entirety
- write your interpretation of it
- write the salient points
- choose phrases that evoke images
- make a collage to represent it

Their thorough understanding of the amendment was born of the five-part process. Reading one another's work deepened their understanding of all of the amendments.

In addition to writing an individual poem based on home and family, 3rd/4th graders paired up to create a collage of Washington state. Representing their learning through photos from magazines and photos they researched provided a hands on/minds on way to represent their learning.

The four 21st century skills at the core of all learning at SCCS include critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication. The 7th/8th Amendment project, the 3rd/4th Washington state collage, and the collages of every classroom provided students opportunities to utilize and thus develop all four skills. We now have an art gallery up on our bulletin boards. Please stop by for a tour!

With joy,
Susan Kilbane

Check out our new website:

www.saintceciliaschool.org