

Dear Parents:

Today, art appreciation volunteers came into your child's classroom to teach the students about Middle Eastern Tile Painting. The students looked specifically at wall tiles decorating the Ottoman Topkapi Palace in Istanbul, Turkey, dating back to the 1460s.

During the presentation, the students had a quick lesson in geography of the countries surrounding Turkey and its link between East and West. They also learned about popular Ottoman motifs in tile designs, and the concept of repeat patterns. Steps of traditional ceramic work and tile painting were covered. Examples of painted tiles were also viewed. After the presentation, the students learned to transfer traditional designs and painted them to create their own 4.25" x 4.25" tiles. The tiles will be glazed and fired off-site and returned to the students in late March.

Ottoman art is exhibited in several nearby museums and galleries, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art's new Galleries representing art from the Middle East. Visiting the museum is a great opportunity to explore this culture and art with your child.

Sincerely,

The Art Appreciation Committee

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