



Kite and Leaf...

The good news
email from TCS!

Our Students Come in Many Stripes and Colors, Inspired by the Things They Love!

Last week both the 1st/2nd-Grade Eagles and the 1st/2nd grade Phoenixes worked on full-body self-portraits.

Ms. Dana, who introduced the project to TCS, says: "This was a very cool multi-step process that focuses on identity. We read the book *Skin Again* by Bell Hooks. This beautiful and powerful book emphasizes the fact that the skin we are each in tells a little bit about us, but that 'you have to come inside to really see who I am.'"

Before starting their portrait project, students choose a pose, and laid down on a large sheet of paper in that pose. A teacher helped by tracing their silhouette as they posed. Then the students chose a color that spoke to who they are. They then added elements that represented the things that they love. "Once the self-portraits were complete, we photographed each one," says Ms. Dana. "The kids wrote reflections, describing what different elements of their portrait represented or simply writing important facts about themselves."

Self-portraiture is a focus in each of our classrooms both as a way to experiment with different art mediums or techniques and as a way for students to reflect on the many things that make them special. It helps build self-awareness and also helps each student become more aware of and celebrate the uniqueness of others.

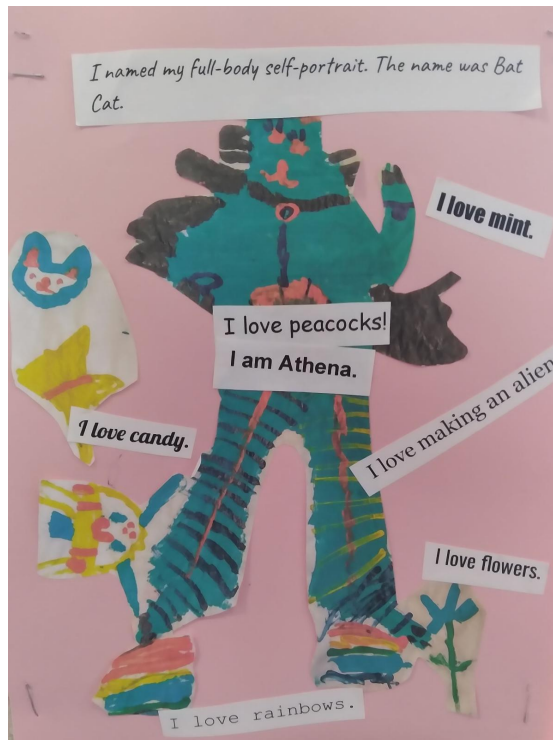
The full-body portraits are currently hung on the walls and from the ceiling in our Pond hallway for children and families to enjoy.

NOTE: Thanks to Ms. Lucy Coria for the following video. We kindly ask

that you not share this video on social networks.

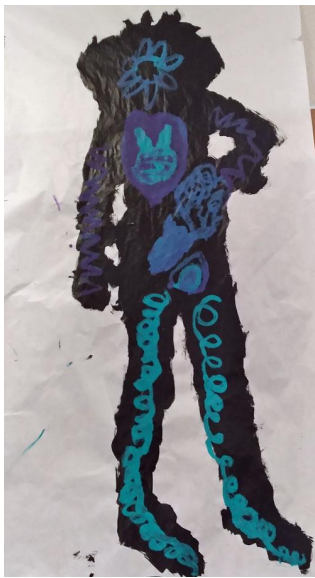


All the full-body portraits hang as banners, filling the hallway with life and color!



Children each had a photocopy of their portrait to embellish elements used from what they love.

Below are samples of the many portraits hanging in our Pond wing.



Highlights of Black History Month at TCS

At TCS, Black History is a focus 365 days a year, as we continually and proactively look for ways to fill in the gaps within all areas of study where the contributions of black leaders, thinkers, and milestone-makers have been overlooked. Nonetheless, February is a welcome chance for zeroing in on and celebrating the riches of African American history and culture.

In addition to a wide range of classroom learning activities, we enjoyed two special all-school events. First, we welcomed storytellers D. Kucha Brownlee and Baba Tony who shared music, singalongs, and key bits of African culture and African American history - especially that of notable black inventors. Later in the month, we welcomed Idy Ciss who teaches West African Dance at The Old Town School of Folk Music. He gave students a demonstration of Djembe drums, dance, and taught more about the story and meaning behind dance in

West African culture. We hope you enjoy these highlights from our programs:



Celebrating Black Naturalists

Who are the leading black naturalists both now and historically, and what are their unique contributions to environmental justice, science, and the greening of urban areas. Mr. Will Hudson explores the long list of black activists, scientists, thought leaders, and policy-makers observing and protecting our natural world. [Read the article...](#)



Dr. Drew Lanham, Ornithologist

ROV Club Kicks Off with Aim Toward Competing

Students interested in creating an ROV (remote operated vehicle) are meeting during lunch and recess each Tuesday and Thursday. Everyone gathers in the third floor tinker area of the Art Room with Mr. Hudson.

In addition to building and engineering activities, the students will also begin working with circuits and wiring.



The group is starting with ideas on how to remotely propel a vehicle through water. Depending on how sophisticated their engineering grows



over the next few weeks, they are hoping they can create a team to compete in the [MATE](#) remote underwater vehicle competition this spring.

It's great to have a full-time science teacher to support additional science and engineering activities. It's also super that the kids are so eager to delve into more science and math outside the classroom. ROV Club offers a different type of fun during recess that packs in even more hands-on learning.

Why YOU Don't Want to Miss Our PROM!

Tuition alone does not cover all of our costs. Our Annual Benefit is the primary event where we raise funds that bridge the gap between what tuition pays for and the actual costs of our school program.

And, thanks to the generosity of our community - which includes *you* - we're able to do so much more for our students.

This year, the grown-up's only fun includes a wine pull (donate a bottle and come try your chances on taking home a great new wine), and a wide variety of silent auction items, including the most popular of all - hosted experiences with teachers. We also have a raffle, food and drinks, and a dance playlist that includes requests from you!

The Children's School
2023 ANNUAL BENEFIT GALA

reach for the stars

ADULT PROM!

FOOD • COCKTAILS • SILENT AUCTION • DANCING • FUN

TICKETS - \$60 EACH
BUY BEFORE MARCH 1ST FOR \$10 OFF

MARCH 11, 2023 • 7 - 11 PM

The TCS Gym*, 200 S Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park, IL

* Please note - venue is located on 2nd floor and accessible only by stairs
Please call 708.484.8033 to discuss any accessibility needs you may have

**Buy Tickets - Get Info on Raffle and Silent
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