

Folk Art: Today and Yesterday

Hello Parents-



This is a newsletter to inform you what your children will be working on for the next three weeks in my High

Student made coil pots. Finished.

School Ceramics I class. We will start by watching a video called, Daughters of the Anasazi, which examines the techniques of making Acoma pottery in New Mexico, as well as the significance of pottery in the lives of potters. The artists follow the traditions of their ancestors and create their own.

Then I will have them conduct some research to find some more images and examples of pottery from different cultures. I have an illustrated book called Arts of Clay by Christine Price.

“The pots in this book are old and new. Some were made by Native American potters...European...Asian...and prehistoric times. When we look at old pots side by side with new ones, distance, time, and space seem to melt away.”

-This book summarizes the history, use, and style of pottery from all around the world and different periods of time.

They are not required, but if they wish they may do some out of class research. If the Internet is available at home I can recommend one site to find some more ideas.

www.umass.edu/artist/pots/bowl.html

I will ask the students to draw sketches in their sketchbooks to keep a log of which designs they appeal to. The previous will be done in the first week.

During the next two weeks the students will begin designing their own coil pots. They will first



choose what piece they want to mimic their work after. Then they will begin work on their own.

Traditional folk art. Finished.

They have the option to either use a mold (usually another bowl) or not to. They will use roll clay in long tubes, line the mold with them, and then blend the inside to seal it. After they dry, I will fire them, and then the students will choose their color schemes, glaze them, and then I will fire them again. When they are complete the students will critique each other, and then take their own pots home for you to see!

This lesson will enlighten them on the traditions of all of our ancestors.



Fired, but unglazed, student made coil pots.

Thank you, and hope to see you during PTA.

-Ms. Swenson