

Carr Lane VPA News & Views



December 2020

No. 14

Welcome Back! It's been a while, but we are back in business with the late, great, issue 14! Shout-out to Ms. Shipp of 8th Grade Social Studies who put together this emoji-based staff photo in this time of Corona virus, social-distancing, and virtual learning!



If you are new to Carr Lane VPA you are looking down the main aisle to the stage of Carr Lane's massive auditorium. Way back in August on the first day of school, students old and new would have gathered here to divide into their home room classes. You would have met your teachers, all the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade teachers, and the members of the Fine Arts Team. You would have met Principal Young, and Assistant Principal Gross, and Ms. Vierling, the Dean of Students. Our school counselors, Ms. Wil-

liams and Mr. London would have welcomed you. Our School Social Worker, Ms. Abrams, would have greeted you. You'd have met Mr. Phillips, our Family and Community Specialist, and you likely would have met Ms. Tuggle and Mr. Ford and Ms. Cotton, and our School Secretary, Ms. Curry. You would have met Ms. Hill of Trio, who helps students prepare for a future that includes college.

By this time you would have attended many school-wide performances in this space: The Fall Spirit Day and the Winter Show. You would have seen a number of outside performances. You yourself might have appeared on that stage in Drum Line, or the Step Team. You might have appeared as a Jaguar Cheer-Leader, or a member of the Spirit Squad Dancers. You might have performed for family, friends and school-mates as a member of the Concert Band, or played in the Orchestra or sang-out in the Concert Choir. You might have run lights or sound or been the student to raise the curtain!

Stay strong, Jaguar Nation. Stay safe. Look to a bright future, just beyond a rapidly approaching horizon. We shall return! And if you've never been... the Carr Lane Family will be here to welcome you!

Way back in September, Computer Literacy Students were learning how use word-processing software and to format alpha text in Microsoft Word. They were invited to reflect on their “on-line virtual learning experience” in a short paragraph for publication here. It was an “extra-credit” assignment. Everyone was invited to participate. Only those students who provided their permission have their thoughts published below.

VIRTUAL LEARNING

8A

ANTHONY

Well, I think virtual learning is going kinda' good because I'm at home. It makes me feel happy when I'm at home even though we are still learning online. I just feel more comfortable at home. There's no paper work, no problems with other people, not a lot of noise or people yelling at one another. It's just me at home doing my work in my room happily, with no one talking or bothering me. There is one thing I dislike about virtual learning. I don't like how we have to take notes in the online notebook instead of taking notes in a real notebook.

ARIEL

What my life has been like during virtual school is basically hard because soon as we started I had to change stuff I do and start a new schedule. Virtual school is hard and confusing most of the time because we are still learning how to use the apps and where to go

to turn in our work. What I like about virtual school is that we don't have to wake up at like 5:30 or 6:00 AM to get to school. Now we wake up at like 7:30, and just make us something to eat and we login. I think it's better to do it online than real school.

8B

BRANDON

I do not like it, but I learn new things on the iPad and virtual learning. Outside, in the world, I have been to places that you have to wait for to get in with a mask. I think they should find a way to get more time to do things in the outside world because of this virus that everybody has. I guess that I went off topic of virtual learning. The next sentence will get me back on the topic. I guess virtual learning is fine to me, but it is difficult for different people. Different things have happened to them, or are happening to them in their homes. I think it is getting easier for me since I have been learning how to do more stuff on the iPad.

TRISTAN H.

Virtual learning for me is not that bad because you get to be comfortable, and you don't have to turn the camera on if you don't want to. Although the technology that we use is sort of bad, well, maybe not that bad, but every time I am in a meeting it always kicks me out of the whole thing! Whenever I try to un-mute myself

it takes so long so it's like I am not even participating and someone else answers the question. That said, I still like online learning. It's still good, although sometimes I miss going to school in person. It would have been so different than virtual learning.

JEREMY

Virtual learning is great because I know all of my teachers and I'm learning great. I have to get my work done before I get to do anything around the house. I gotta' get all my past-due work done so I can pass my classes. I'm having a great experience of virtual class and a great experience of virtual learning. Virtual learning is important because it has better things in it, and it is fun. I'm going to have a great virtual experience in online school. Virtual learning is fun, and I'm going to have fun.

TYRIQUE

How is my life in going to virtual school? It is going well! It's kinda' good, but I don't like it, because if we were at school we would not have to do all of this on-line work. Getting on a iPad to do work, well, I never did this before! The best part about virtual school is we get an extra two hours of sleep. That's the best part, and my teachers are very nice. I'm happy in the class with friends and people that I know. I'm happy to be here, and I just wanna' thank my teachers and my friends, and my family for helping me get through the 8th grade, so I can get ready for high school.

7A

KENNEDY

This is my first time in middle school, and it's awful. It's hard to focus my mind on work when my bed is right in front of me. I'm not motivated like I was in a classroom. Some of my classes are pretty easy for the most part. But they get way harder, like this class. Some times I just talk myself into getting back in bed, because I spent all night, working on homework. I don't know anybody at this school, but I'm pretty sure they would agree it's stressful. Everyone tells me to just do my best, but when I show them my grades, it's never enough. So far this school seems pretty nice but it would be way better if I was in a classroom. I basically work from my bed. The only days I work from my desk is when I'm trying to be somewhat productive. Well, I did not think I would ever say this, but I hate being at home all the time. You get away by going to school. Now you don't. I just wish everything could go back to normal.

KIRA

My life had been OK with this Virtual School, but I think I'm not really learning anything. Like one minute, I know what I am doing, and the next day I forgot how to do it! I liked going to school better, because I was really leaning. In this Virtual School I'm not learning much. How can I go to the next grade, if I don't know what to do? That's not right! I think this Vir-

tual School is not right. I think we should go to school, and wear our masks all day. I'm saying that because I am worried about going to the next grade knowing what I'm doing and not knowing anything. I want to go to 8th grade because I deserve to. I want to learn, because I want to have a good job. I cannot if I don't know what I'm doing in life. It will be bad. I want to know if people are giving me all my money, and I would like to know if they gave me a bad deal. I need to know this stuff and this Virtual School is not really helping me with that. I think real school is better for me.

6B

TRINITY

I like that I don't have to get up super early to do my school work. I like that I can still learn all my work on online. I like that we don't just sit there and talk the whole time. I like all the apps that we still can get in online school. I like that I know all my teachers a little, so when we go to real school I can already know how they are. I don't like that I can't see my teachers in person. I don't like being unable to go to school, because if I'm doing something wrong they can't see it and help me. I don't like that they can't see what I see on my screen. I don't like when my iPad goes dead, and I can't find the charger while I'm in class. I don't like that my teacher can't stay in the call that long or the call will drop. I just want to go to in-person school!

ZORIA

During virtual school I have been getting assignments, and I'm trying to get them done during breaks. I have some of them done, but now I'm going to sleep late and getting sleepy, so I have to go to sleep earlier like when I first started virtual learning. I haven't been doing perfect, but I've been doing well. I know that in some of my classes I might have a grade lower than an A or B, but I'm getting through this. I've been over to my dad's house, not my mom's, so it's different for me. I have to try to do my best and to pay attention, but that's how my virtual learning is going.

SUMMER

September 22, 2020

My life during virtual school has been amazing, but a lot of self discipline comes with it. If you don't focus on your own and have your work in on time, basically being responsible, you're not going to pass. I want to be successful in school, so I give it my all. I also focus hard and pay attention. I also don't like when teachers are on their computers and can't see what you see. The last thing I don't like is that I'm not in a real classroom. It's not as exciting. The energy in a classroom was always amazing to me, and now I have to wait a year for my middle school experience. Now, to the good things. I like virtual school for a few reasons. You are very comfy in your own skin. You don't always have to have your camera on. You don't always have to let people see

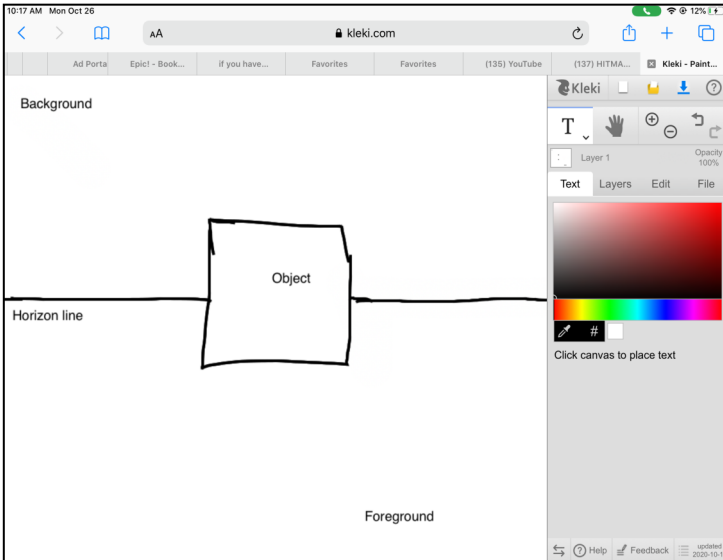
you. I'm also more confident answering questions. To hear how many questions I get right raises my confidence. Lastly, no negative comments. People cannot be mean to you through Teams because they can immediately be stopped. Virtual school is OK in my opinion.

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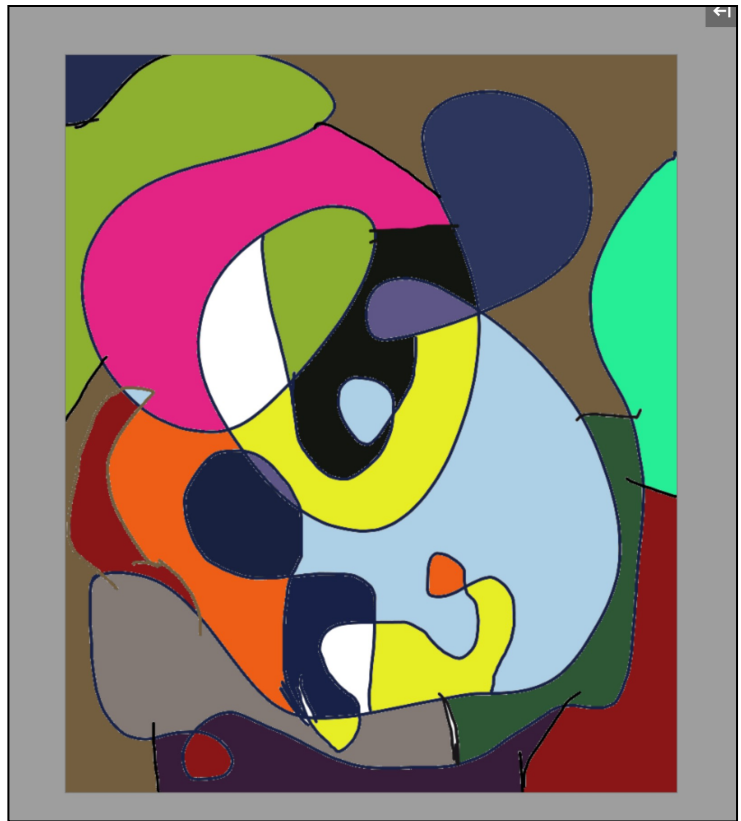
In October, Computer students began the unit on Computer Graphics. They learned some of the fundamentals of visual art, concepts that apply to both the actual and virtual worlds. You will see some of their work progress, beginning here and throughout this issue.



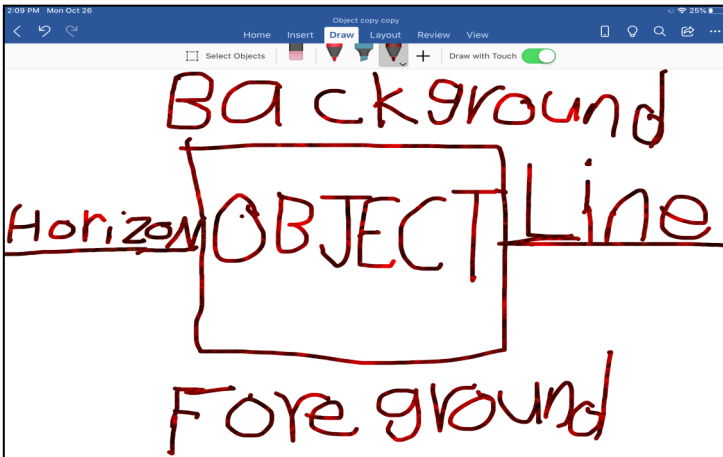
Color in "Mosaic" from Janell in 6A



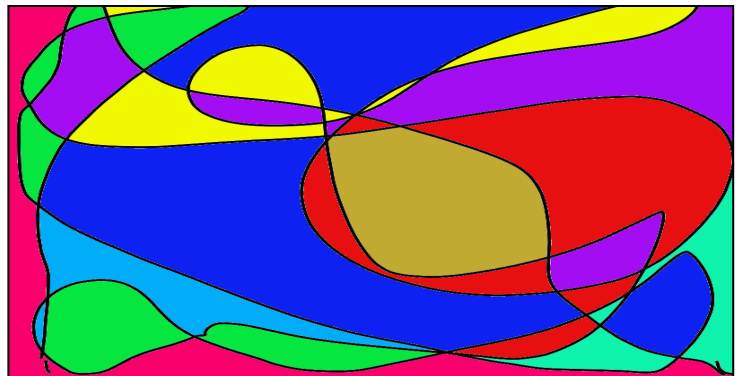
The first assignment introduced the concepts of point-of-view, object, background, foreground, and horizon line. Anthony, in 7A used a cloud-based graphics program, Kleki.

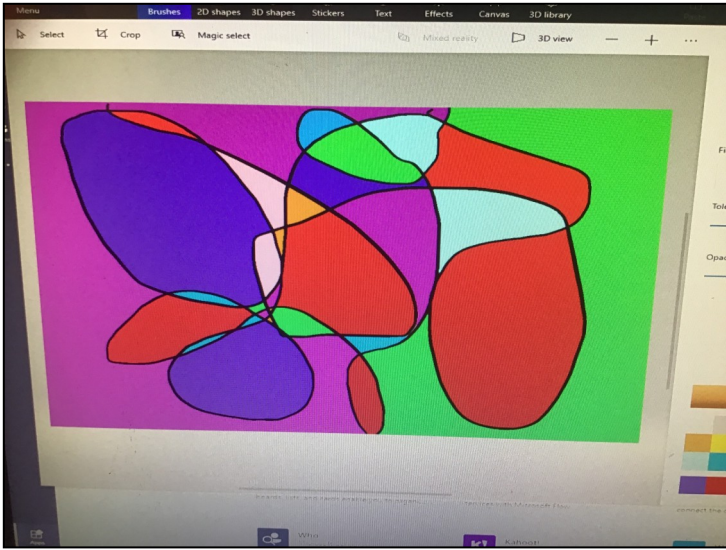


China's (top) and Lamon's (below) "Mosaic," both from 8A

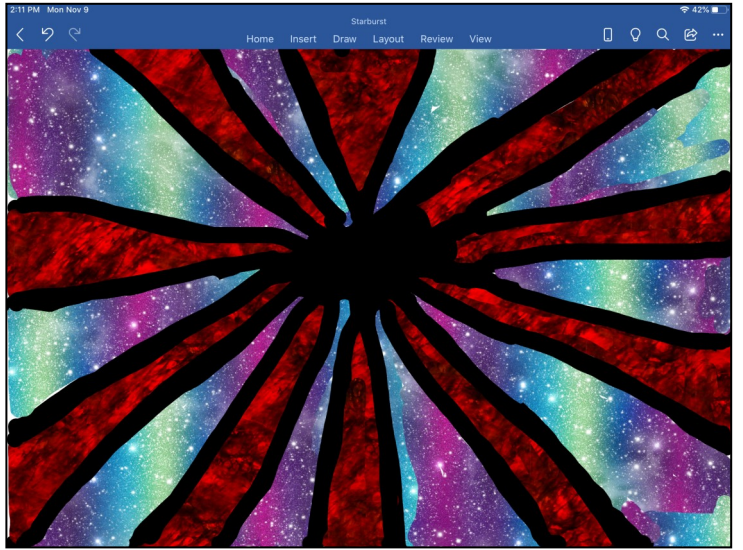


Janell in 6A used the draw tab tools in MS Word.

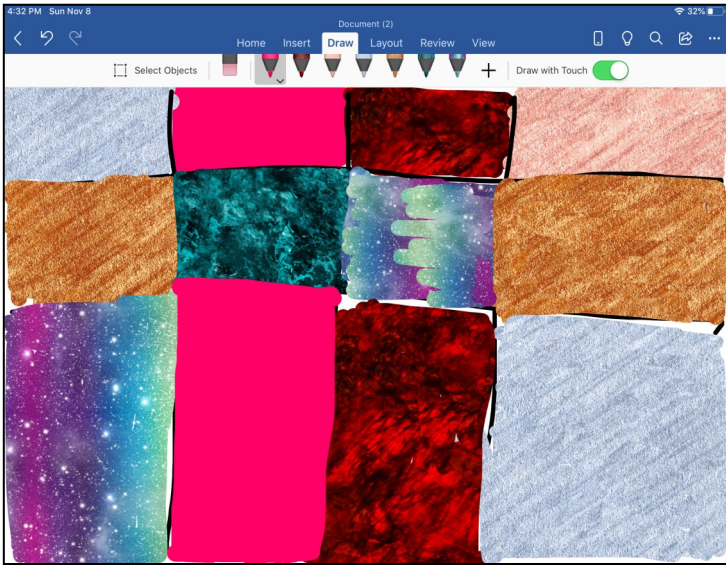




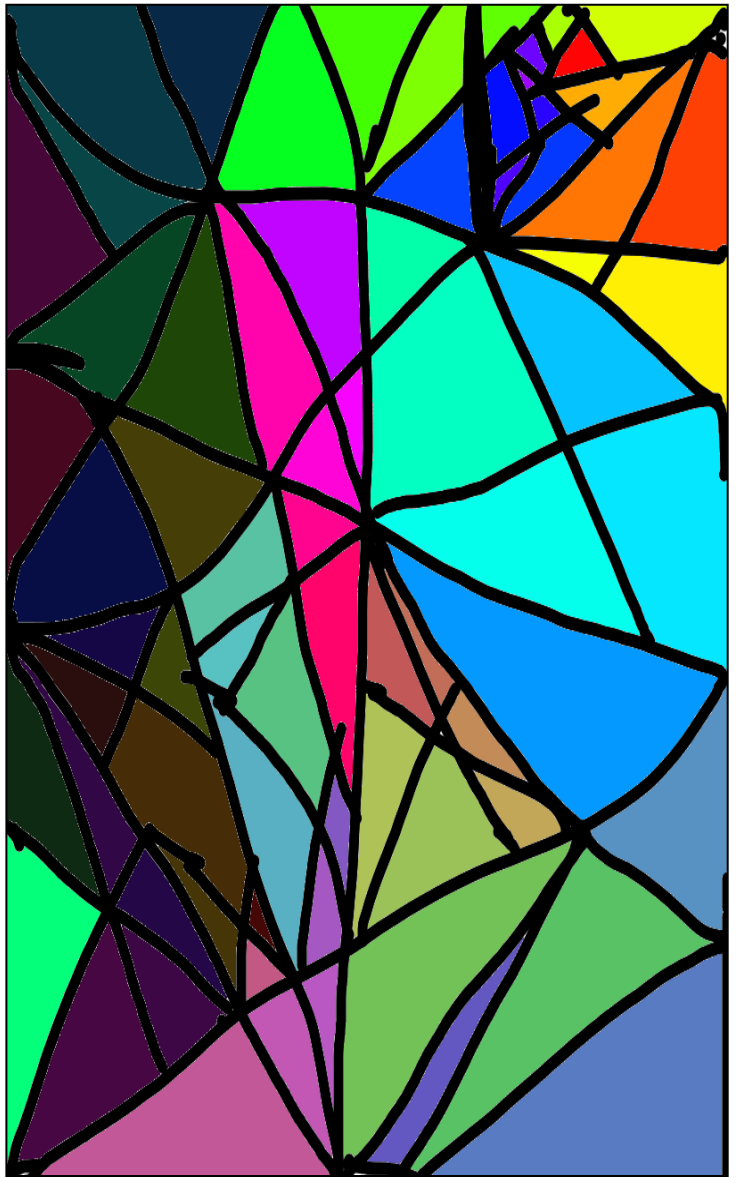
Jakayla's "Mosaic" from 6B



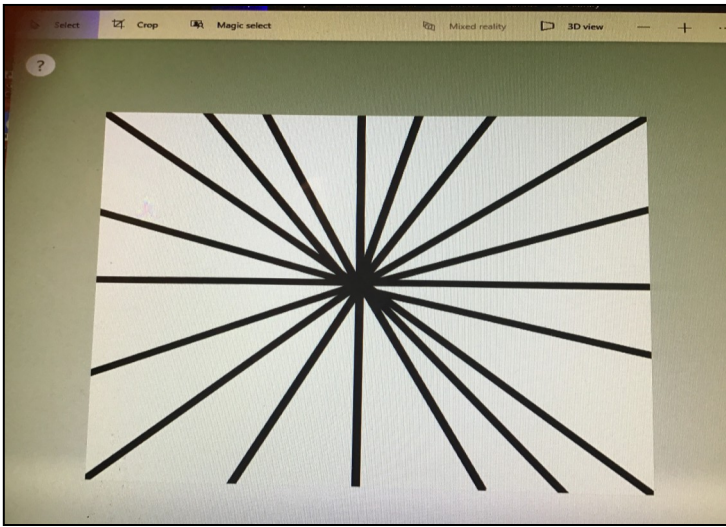
Janell's "Starburst" from 6A



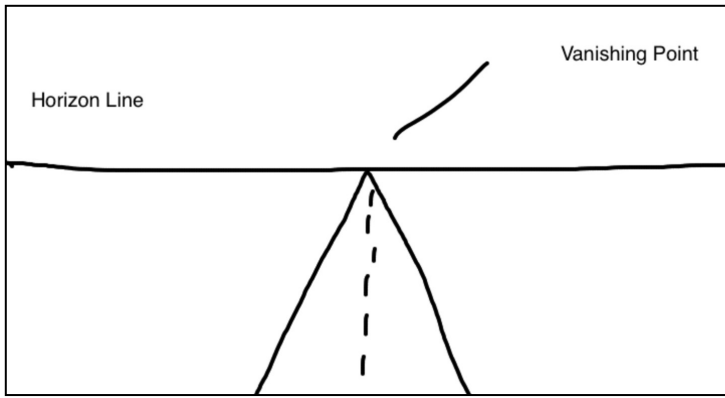
Summer's "Mosaic" from 6B



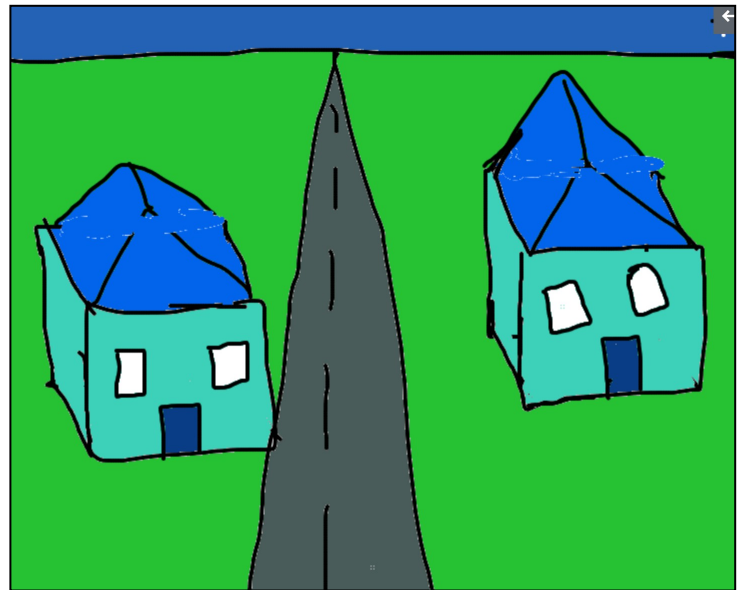
Brandon's "Mosaic" for 8A



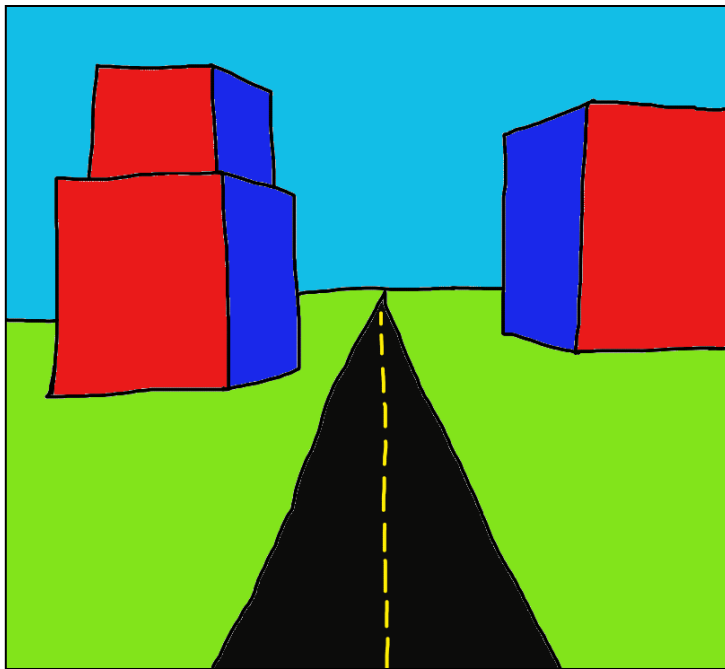
Jakayla's Starburst from 6B



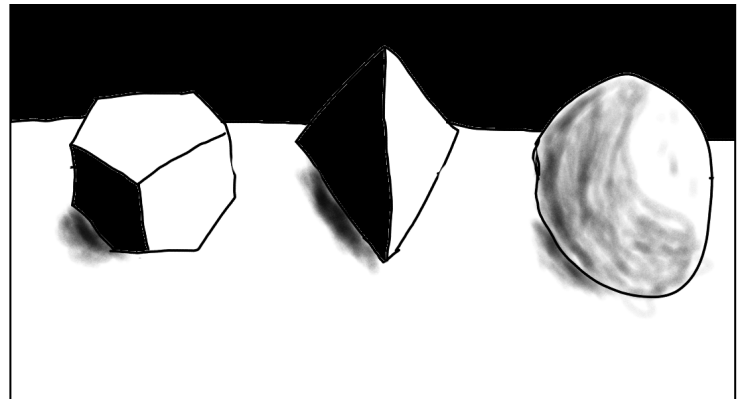
Layla from 8A demonstrates the concept of one-point perspective drawing in "The Road," complete with vanishing point!



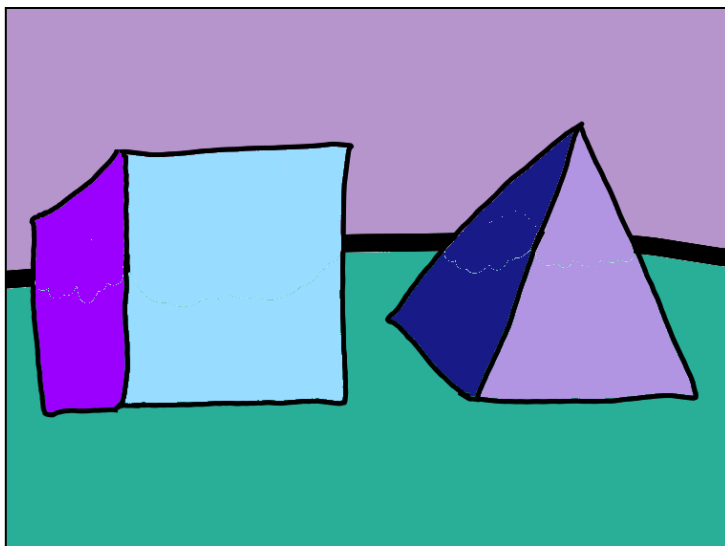
Summer's "Two Buildings" from 6B



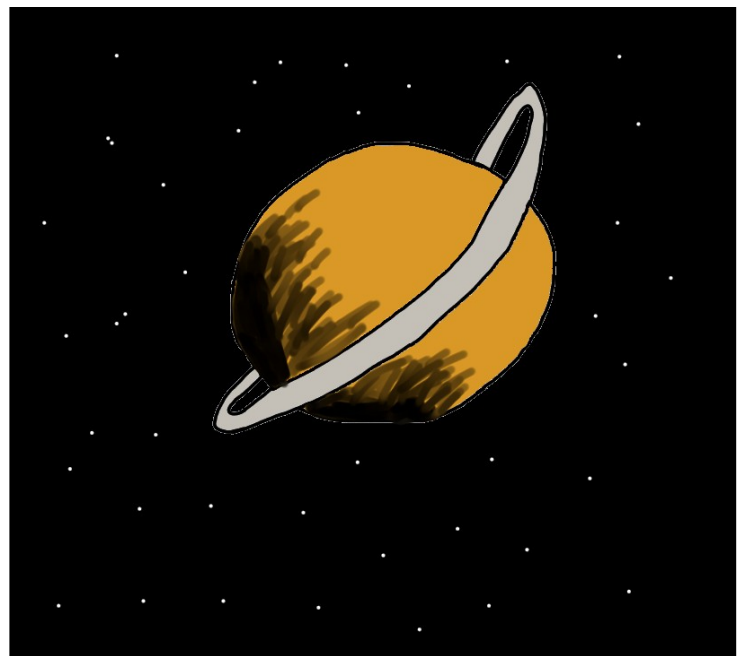
"Two Buildings" by Kavion from 8A



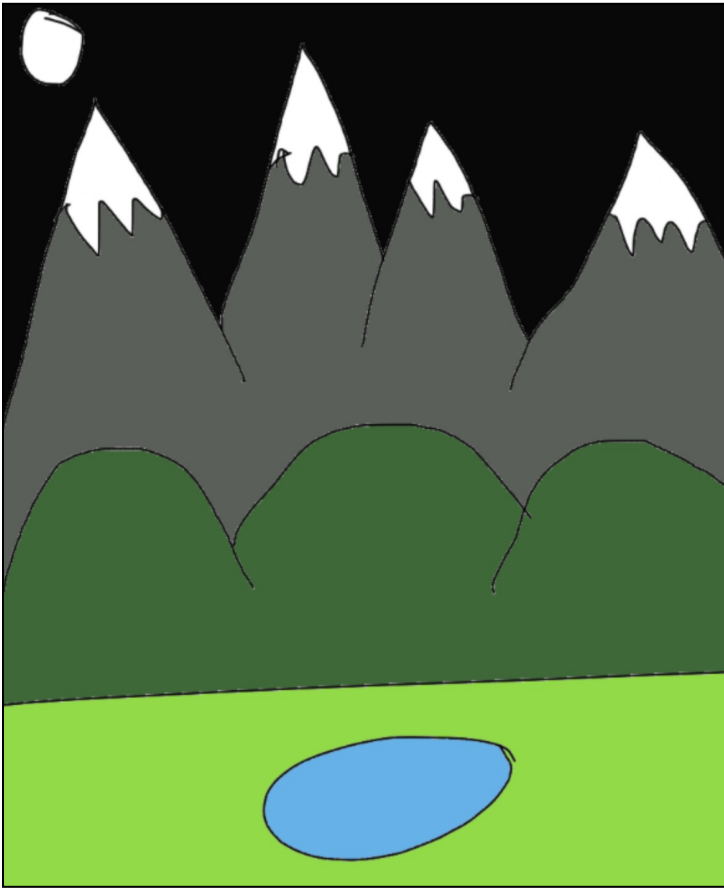
Tatum's "3 Solids" from 7A



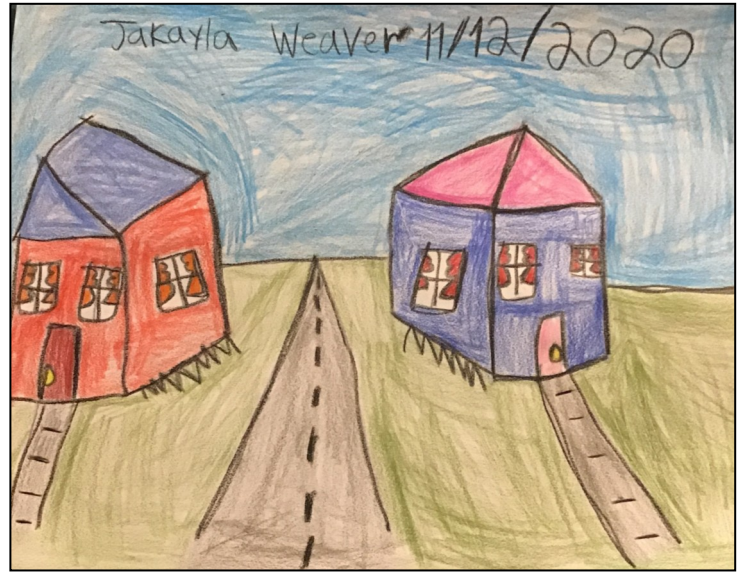
Kendal's "Cube and Pyramid" from 8A.



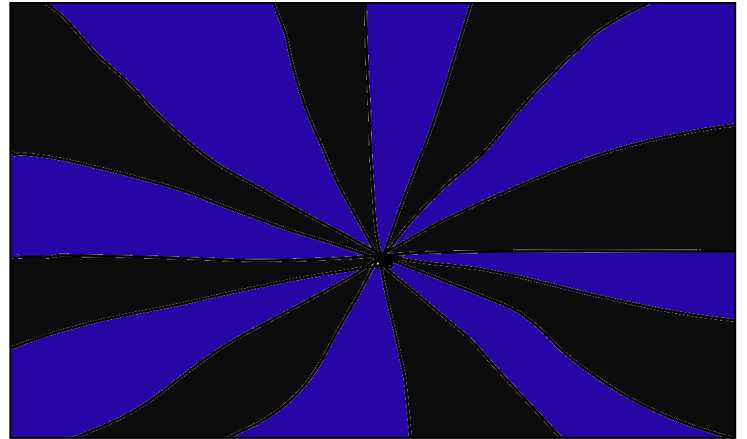
"Saturn" from Kavion and 8A.



"Country Scene" by China from 8A



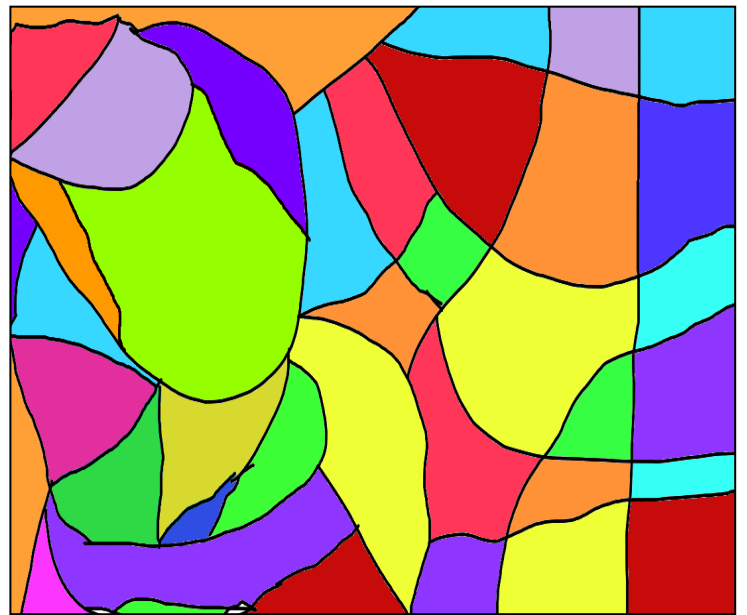
"Two Buildings" by Jakayla from 6B



"Starburst" by Tristan H. from 8A



Kira's "Mosaic" from 7A



Tatum's "Mosaic" from 7A

In October, Computer Literacy Students were still learning how to use word-processing software and to format alpha text in Microsoft Word. As best they were able, they were learning the touch-typing system of keyboarding on District-supplied Apple iPad tablets. They were invited to reflect on their family traditions surrounding the Halloween holiday, or any holiday or significant event which they might like to share in Carr Lane News and Views. It was an “extra-credit” assignment. Everyone was invited to participate. Only those students who provided their permission have their thoughts published below.

8A

LAYLA

On Halloween my family always gets pumpkins. Sometimes we even get them on the day before Halloween so that we are able to get pumpkins since so many people get a lot even if it's just for themselves. We also carve faces out of the big orange pumpkin and take the seeds out and wash them before we cook them in the oven. We watch Halloween movies, and we go trick-or-treating, too. We usually trick-or-treat for more than a hour, and it's fun. We didn't trick-or-treat this year because of the virus that is happening.

VALERIA

My culture does not celebrate Halloween, but I can talk about my culture and about how we celebrate Christmas. On Christmas Eve we eat Mexican food. We have like a little diner and we celebrate with family or sometimes we have a big celebration in a hall with a big

party. The next day, which is Christmas, we just have an after dinner time and pray to Jesus and thank him for everything he has done for us, because we celebrate Jesus' birthday, and we end the night praying.

MORGAN

For this year's Halloween I'm doing something different. For this Halloween year I'm going to go trunk and treat with my sister, my cousins, and my GG. Then we're going to play at the park for an hour or two. After we are done playing, I'm going with my family. We are going to watch scary movies and eat pizza and hot wings. Also, we are going to eat cupcakes and drink juice. Next, we are going to snack on some chips and candy. After the movie is over we are going to make Tik-Toks, and then we're going to go to bed.

STEVEN

We don't celebrate Halloween, so I don't really know any traditions, but I will say I think people would go to the park or fields and give all the kids candy or have a house party and give kids candy by the door. When I trick-or-treated I saw people in their garages sitting and talking. Some people go to certain areas and trick-or-treat there. If we had a tradition we would sit at our car and give kids candy. If I was a grown-up and I was getting a lot of money, I would give all the kids expensive items, because I would be a nice guy.

ARIEL

My Halloween tradition is basically like a family thing. Most of the time we watch scary movies and scare each other. Sometimes we go trick-or-treating and go to peoples' doors and say "trick-or-treat" and get candy and go back home and see who has the most candy. Then, whoever wins, gets a prize. My cousin's birthday is on Halloween, so most of the time we will go to Chicago and celebrate with her. We play games and watch scary movies. This year we went to Chicago to celebrate her 21st birthday and to see our other family members.

8B

BRANDON

People have different Halloween tradition. Some originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward-off ghosts. All Saints Day and the All Hallows Eve, Catholic holy times, added some of the traditions of Samhain, but it changed over the years so that now it is called Halloween. People wear costumes and get candy on this day. Some people can play tricks on people, like scaring them to death. It is very funny to see them scream, but it's not fun to get scared. Some people make haunted houses. They look fun, and people go there to get scared on Halloween.

TRISTAN H.

What we do on Halloween is basically sit down and eat candy while watching a scary movie. We used to go trick-or-treating, but we stopped because we just wanted to stay home. Our dad goes out and gets candy and comes back with two whole bags of candy, and they are huge because he goes to Sam's. Anyway, sometimes we would bring games downstairs and have a game room and a scary movie room, so that way we could play and watch TV or play while the others watch TV if they want. The candy would be downstairs so we don't have to go up and then back downstairs to eat the candy. So, that is what we do on Halloween.

CAMILLE

My family doesn't really celebrate Halloween, but a holiday we do celebrate and I'm sure many other families celebrate, is Christmas. Every year my parents get each of their children stockings and stuff them with valuable needs, and candy, of course. As far as the food goes, we wouldn't do the casual Christmas dinner. My mother and father would always barbecue and make lasagna. I also help bake cookies for everyone, including Santa (LOL). Those are just some of the ways that my family is very much different than others, and not just for the holidays.

DURAN

I used to go trick-or-treating for Halloween, but I stopped going trick-or-treating like 2 years ago. Now, my mama just buys a lot of candy, and I stay home. I'm definitely not doing anything this year, especially with the Corona virus going all around town. Even so, I don't really have a family tradition on Halloween other than going trick-or-treating years ago. If I think about it, this is actually going to be my first Halloween without my granny. She died last year in November, in the month right after Halloween, which is really crazy, because I was looking forward to celebrating the rest of the holidays with her that year. So, yeah. #RIPGRANNY.

7A

RASHAD

My family really doesn't have a traditional Halloween, but we do celebrate it, and these are some ways my family celebrates Halloween. First what we do is go get some costumes. We may get some costumes from Amazon or Wal-Mart. Then we put the costumes up until Halloween, but we try them on to see if they fit. We buy candy, and we eat the candy and we pass some of the candy out. When it's Halloween, we give out candy to kids or we go truck n' treating or we go trick-or-treating. After it's done, we sit down and may watch some movies, and we eat the candy and have a very fun time. That's how we celebrate Halloween.

ANTHONY

I don't celebrate Halloween, because my mother says it's too dangerous, so what we do is just buy candy and sit in the house without costumes or anything. We sit and watch movies all day, but sometimes on Halloween we go to church for some reason. I don't get the point of that. On Christmas we wake up in the morning, probably to go over to somebody's house with family, and sometimes we just stay in the house. Sometimes I spend Christmas with my father, and we just open presents and then go somewhere for fun. Finally, we come back home to play with our Christmas presents for the rest of the day.

KENNEDY

So every year my sister and I dress up as our favorite characters and go trick-or-treating. I really like anime, so I was going to dress up as Gon from Hunter X Hunter. But we didn't this year because my mom wanted to do something special for her birthday since her birthday is on October 28th. We rented out a Airbnb cabin in the woods for her birthday. It was fun. There was a river, so we rode on the boats, and it was really beautiful. We also brought a big bag of candy for Halloween. It was better than any Halloween ever!

KIRA

What my family and I do for Halloween is we dance and sing and we get ready for Trick-or-treating. We wait for everybody, and we eat

some food before we leave, and we go to the same place to Trick-or-treat, because that's where you get a lot of candy fast. When we get back home we play and then we watch TV and eat candy.

7B

CARNETTA

What we usually do for Halloween is go trick-or-treating, but we're not going out this year, so we are just staying in the house. I'm perfectly fine with that because it's not like we were going somewhere near waters, flowers, or just open space. I don't really like to go outside. What we are doing at home is ordering pizza, eating candy, and watching movies. I feel like that's the best idea anyway considering the things that are going on already in the world. I'm not dressing up this year even if we were going, because I don't really know what I want to be, added to the fact that we're not going anyway. I hope to have a fun Halloween next year without the Corona virus worries!

VICTORIYA

For Halloween I made brownies and watched scary movies. I moved that weekend, and tomorrow or Wednesday we are going to have barbecue. Tuesday we are going to celebrate my grandpa's birthday and make glass mirror boxes. For Christmas I'm going to be getting furniture for my new room, and we will celebrate at my grandma's house with the whole

family. My favorite holidays to celebrate are Thanksgiving and Christmas. For Thanksgiving we are going to be at my grandparents' house for dinner. We will probably watch movies and just have fun as a family, and I will be thankful for all of it.

MYA

Well, I don't really have a Halloween tradition. I really just get up and go with my friends or I would stay home and wait for my mama to get off work to get some candy. Maybe I will just go outside and mess with my friends until they have to do something, or I might just go with them and do whatever their people do.

ARMONII

My name is Armonii, and every year I go trick-or-treating with my sister, brother, mother, aunt, and cousins. Every year we dress up as something, and we have fun going out in the cold. It was worth it. We have all the candy and snacks! When I tell you it was so fun, it was unreal. This year for Halloween we might go to the haunted house. My cousins go every Halloween, and I think I might go this time. I tell you it is going to be scary. Every year I'm a new thing, so his year I going to be Salt, not the seasoning, but that dancer. I have a twin and she is going to be Pepper. Most of the time we come home and watch a movie and eat our candy and we can stay up all night because we don't have to go to school the next day. It is going to be fun, and the movies are sometimes

scary. I tell you we do everything with the whole hood, like we put out our big screen and the whole block would come out and watch a movie with us outside and we play with each other, and it is so fun.

SARIYA

Halloween is a day everyone, child or grownup, likes. It's a day to dress up and go house to house to get candy and tell jokes and goof-off and enjoy yourself. Halloween is the day you get to eat as much candy as you want and watch scary movies until you fall asleep. Oct 31 is the one day everyone waits on in October. We are only a child once, so live the most of it before you lose it forever. I was always that one kid who trick-or-treated every year until I'm too old to dress up. Now, I take my younger siblings to trick-or-treat. Now everything is be safe. "Wear a mask!" "Use hand sanitizer!" Where's our freedom to be children and have fun? It's gone now, but we know we have to be careful and safe.

6A

DLIYAH

What are things that I do on Halloween? First, I go trick-or-treating. Then we put out candy for other kids while my mom is checking our candy for safety. We eat our candy and then watch a scary movie with popcorn.

6B

TRINITY

On Halloween day which is October 31, 2020, on Saturday my mama and I are going to go get my hair done first. When I get done getting my hair done I am going to go home. When I get home I am going to put on my costume which is going to be the Purge or Aaliyah. I don't know yet. When I get done putting on my costume I am going to call my god mama around 3:00pm. My god mama is going to throw a maze with hay rides, and we are also going to the Darkness, and I heard that it is super scary. When my god mama and I get back home, we are going to eat some food. When we are done eating our food, we are going to watch scary movies and eat candy. When we are done, we are going to go to sleep around 1:00 AM. That is what I'm doing on Halloween. Now, on Friday I'm going to my granny's daycare where they are having a Halloween party and a haunted house. I'm planning for my Halloween and this Friday, which is tomorrow, and they are both going to be so great.

JANIYLA

My Halloween tradition includes my family which is my mom, my sisters, my brother, and me. Sometimes my cousins come with us too. We all go trick-or-treating. When we are done trick-or-treating we come home and watch

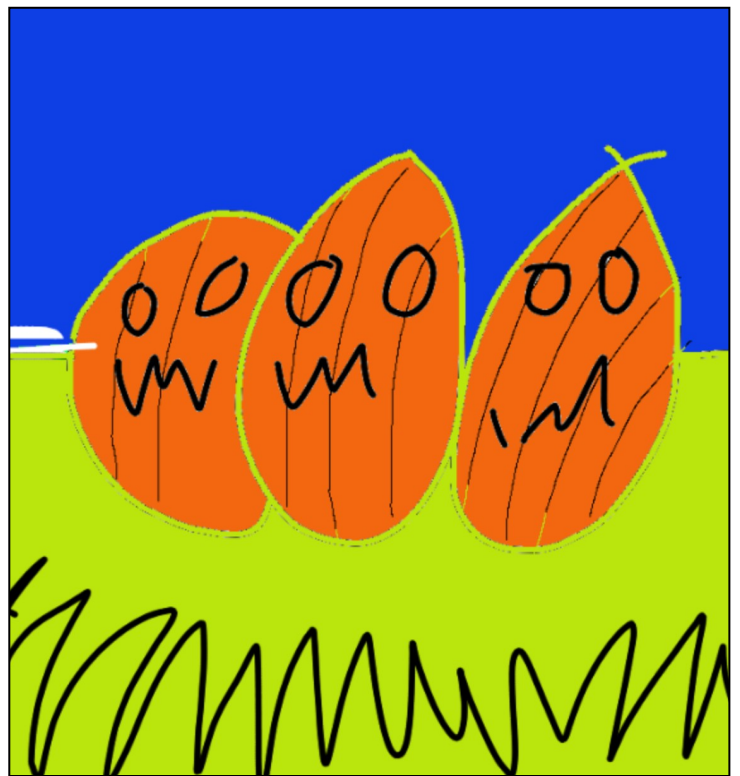
scary movies and have movie night. After that we all go to sleep. For the next day, which is November 1st we go to a Halloween party. We go with friends and families. Then on November 2nd, which is my sister and brother's birthday, we go places or throw a party for my brother and sister.

JAKAYLA

Every year after Halloween my family and I talk. We talk about how we will decorate the house. My mom and aunt put a Christmas banner on the front door. We put up the Christmas tree. It takes my mom and aunt a long time to connect the lights. When they finish, we decorate it with all of the ornaments. My cousins Nicole, A'lienna, Nolan, L'amor, Xavier, Zoey, and my mom, Charlene, and my aunt, LaToSha, and I all put our own names on the tree. We also put on the tree the names of the ones who passed away. After the tree, we decorate the living room with lights and other decorations. We watch Christmas cartoons all December long. Then we sit and talk about what we want to eat for Christmas. I always choose pizza, but they said "NO!" I help wrap up my cousins' presents. On Christmas Day we get up and say "Good Morning!" and "Merry Christmas!" When everyone is up and ready, we all sit around the tree and open presents. After the presents, we sit at the table, say prayers and enjoy Christmas dinner with family. We listen to Christmas songs and play games. We finish the night with a Christmas movie.

SUMMER

As you know, Halloween is most-likely cancelled because of Corona virus. Therefore, I'll be speaking about former traditions I had. I used to go trick-or-treating. I would always buy a costume and a bag and go from door to door saying trick-or-treat and receiving candy. I've had several good experiences, but I'll only speak about one. So, this one was in fourth grade. This is my favorite Halloween, because my mother was in a costume with me for the first time. She was a Minion. I was really happy to see her have fun on Halloween. I also felt bad for her, because she said she was sweating and could barely see. I will deeply miss those memories this year, but I'm willing to sacrifice for my safety. This is my Halloween tradition for each year.



Anthony's "3 Pumpkins" from 7A



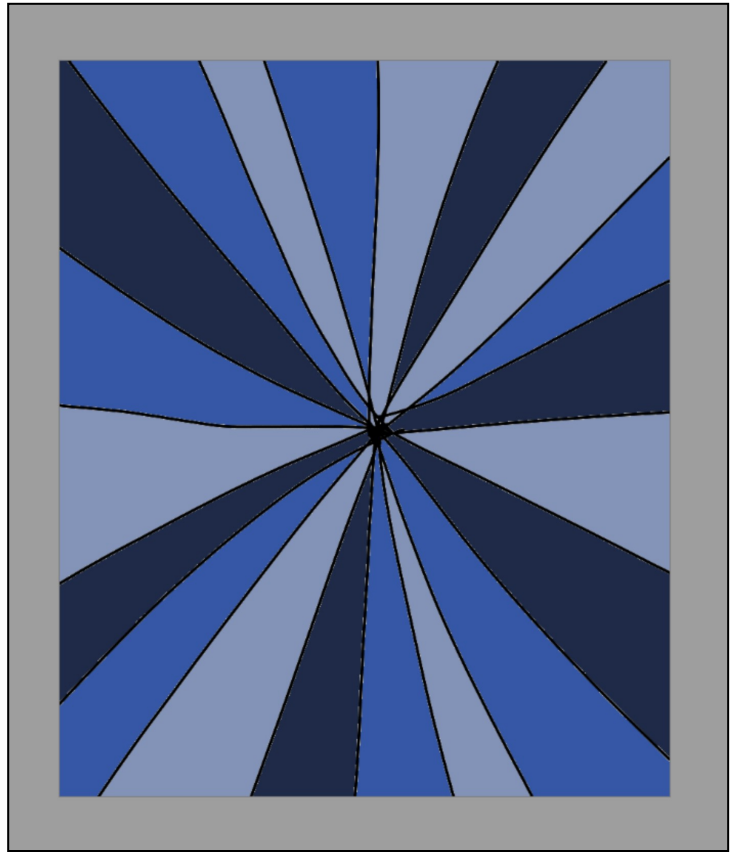
Tatum's "3 Pumpkins" from 7A



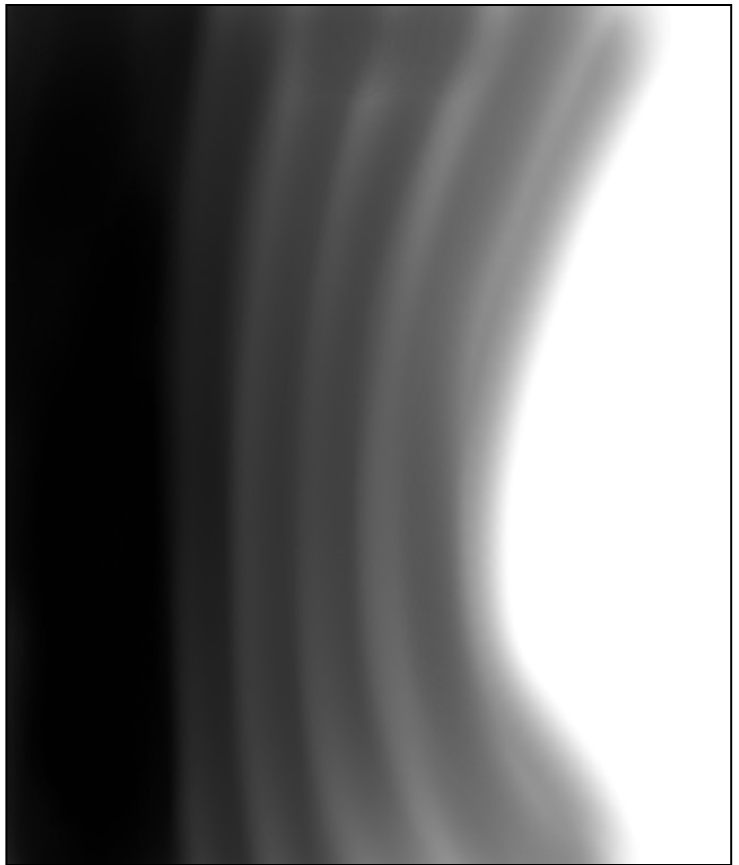
Jakayla's "3 Pumpkins" from 6B



"3 Pumpkins" by Summer from 6B



China's "Starburst" from 8A



From 8A, Kavion's "Twilight Zone," study in light and shade

In November, Computer Literacy Students were invited to reflect on their family traditions surrounding the Thanksgiving holiday, or any holiday or significant event which they might like to share in Carr Lane News and Views. Like the Halloween Traditions paragraph, this was an “extra-credit” assignment. Everyone was invited to participate. Only those students who provided their permission have their thoughts published below.

8A

STEVE

A Thanksgiving tradition that we do is going to our family’s home and talk, play, and eat together. Sometimes, we cook at home, and we eat, and I play with my little brothers. Sometimes, we will go out to eat with some of our family members, or we just stay home and do nothing at all. My favorite thing about Thanksgiving is that we don’t have school, so we can sleep, play games, and chill. I can’t think of anything else, so this is all I have.

ARIEL

For my Thanksgiving tradition we always go to Chicago or Springfield, and the reason for that is that most of my family on my mom’s side lives in Chicago. We go there because it’s easy for us to go up there than for them to come down here so, we all meet up at my grandma’s house, and she cooks. All our fam-

ily comes over and we play board games and GTA, and stuff like that. This year we are not going up there because grandma is not cooking this year on Thanksgiving. My mom and her mom is going to cook, and we are going over to her house.

VALERIA

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone! I hope you guys had an amazing day and got some good food. I had a great time because I was with my family, and that’s all I needed. I’m so happy that we had a family time. We had so much fun. How do we celebrate thanksgiving? We all talk as a family, and we also pray on Thanksgiving and say what we are thankful for. After that we all eat as a family and have a great time. After that we played games, and we had an amazing time together. We played a Mexican game. It’s like bingo and similar to that. My Thanksgiving was great, and hope you guys had a great one, too!

ALEXANDER

Thanksgiving always happens at my grandma’s house. It’s mainly all my relatives in one big house. The food at Thanksgiving consists of turkey and ham, vegetables, potato salad, and a lot more. Sometimes, my uncle will bring cupcakes or a cake as dessert. We’ll have a whole pantry of certain deserts. The

people I'll mainly see there are my aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, and my nephews who drive me crazy. Thanksgiving dinner is filled with people asking each other how's their day, what they did in school, talking about childhood, and, of course, eating. The kids could go outside and play with other kids before this pandemic. Thanksgiving this year probably won't happen since my grandma's sick, everyone is wearing masks now, missing people from last year due to tragedies. It's sad to see last year's Thanksgiving compared to the upcoming Thanksgiving.

Nowadays, holidays aren't going to be the same as last year due to this pandemic, putting us in a lockdown. It doesn't seem like it's going away anytime soon. I hope this will blow over and make a fresh start for everyone to come together for holidays like we used to do in recent years as a community. I usually thought Thanksgiving was only about family, but later in life I realized the true meaning behind it. It shocked me, since I believed it was a nice and peaceful holiday, but in a way it can actually be a reminder of the genocide of millions of Native American people, the theft of their lands, and the relentless assault on their cultures. The truth behind it was shocking and sad to hear that we've been celebrating something far more sinister than we realized at school. Our family doesn't celebrate Thanksgiving on the exact day. No, we call it a "family gathering" instead of Thanksgiving.

8B

BRANDON

Thanksgiving has people who love it and don't love it. Some people have things they are thankful for, like their family, friends, and other things they care about. There are some that don't give a care about it. People have been sad or happy about things that happened to them in this month and times past. They want to be a happy on Thanksgiving. We hope everyone will be OK, and that all the people will have something to be thankful for on Thanksgiving day.

JEREMY

What we do for our Thanksgiving traditions is we talk about how our day went, and we talk about other holidays. I like Thanksgiving because it is about giving gratitude. Thanksgiving is important because it's a positive and secular holiday where we celebrate gratitude, something that we don't do enough of these days. Thanksgiving is the best holiday, because it's about gratitude and celebration with your family. Thanksgiving is great, and I like it because it is important to certain people and they do Thanksgiving traditions differently. Now, some people don't like Thanksgiving because they say it is boring and is not fun but I like it because it's a great holiday and a experience to other holidays and it is better than other holidays. I'm grateful about thanksgiving because

it is about gratitude and having family and spending time with your family. Thanksgiving is a very special holiday because you spend time with your family and celebrate, so that's why I like Thanksgiving.

TRISTAN J.

What I did for Thanksgiving is went to sleep, woke up, made some food, and then I ate that food. My mom came home and got me some more food. I waited 2 to 3 hours later to eat that when I was hungry. After that I went downstairs and made some more food for myself. After that I came back up stairs and started watching a show called "Liv and Maddie." After I stopped watching that I went to sleep. After about 2 hours later I woke up and just watched YouTube on my PS4 and fell asleep again.

TYRIQUE

My name is Tyrique, and I writing about what I did over the weekend for Thanksgiving. To be honest I didn't do anything. I stayed in the house because I didn't want to get sick because COVID-19 is out here in St. Louis. Still, my uncle's friends brought us over some plates, and the plates were very good. One of the plates had macaroni and cheese, dressing, potato salad, and greens. For desert they brought chocolate cake. My uncle bought some banana pudding cheesecake and Oreo cheesecake for me. Yeah, that's all we did. We didn't do too much, but the food was very good.

ZARINA

This Thanksgiving my family and I will be quarantined. My brother's birthday is Saturday, so we will be celebrating all break. My mom cooks a lot so I wouldn't be surprised if she cooks for Thanksgiving. My siblings and I don't usually like eating traditional Thanksgiving foods. I'm hoping this year we can eat some regular food like hot wings or something. We are supposed to be taking family photos, because we wanted to include my baby sister and niece in the photos. We do the photos almost every year. My people and I will be out shopping for clothes, shoes, and other things. We aren't really that excited about Thanksgiving, but we are getting prepared to take a road trip to Atlanta and Florida for Christmas and New Years.

CIANNA

My family's Thanksgiving tradition goes a little like this: sometimes I might go over to my dad's house, or I might stay with my mom. Before my grandma on my dad's side moved to Chicago, I used to go over to her house. My parents let me choose who I want to spend Thanksgiving with. When I choose my dad, he picks me up from my house. He takes me up and we go pick up my other sister, and we head back to his house, or if we forgot something for our dinner we go to the store. When we get to his house we put our bags up in our rooms. Next, we get ready around noon, and we go into the kitchen to help my step mom

cook. We put the food on the table and the rest of our family comes over. Everything goes way different when I spend thanksgiving with my mom like I did this year. I normally wake up around 11 or 10, and then I brush my teeth and get in the shower and take out the trash if my mom needs me to. Next, I open the front door and lock the screen and I help my mom cook and clean until my sister wakes up. My sister normally wakes up around noon. She gets ready, and then we lay down for a bit and put the Christmas tree up. Lastly, I go in my room until my mom tells me the food is done and family comes over. That's how my Thanksgiving goes, and those are also some traditional things I do.

7A

NICHOLAS

My family is amazing, and we feel truly blessed every day. We love almost everything. and everyone in my family gets taken care of a lot. I don't know how to justify it, but yeah. Thanksgiving is so amazing because you get to eat and have fun with your family. And that's what makes it even more amazing. My favorite thanksgiving food is the turkey. I like it because it is very well seasoned at my place. And if you know me, you know I love seasoned food!

KENNEDY

For this Thanksgiving we did not really do anything because of Covid-19. But my mom cooked a lot of food, and I saw my little nephew. Mostly, every year we cook lots of food and invite family over. Last year my mom cooked, but we went over to my sister's Thanksgiving party. It was fun, and the food was amazing. But the best thing I like to eat on Thanksgiving is an apple pie from Costco! I loved it. So, now it is a tradition to get one. This year my mom got a Honey-Baked turkey. It was good, and we just might get one next year!

JANIYA

On Thanksgiving my momma cooks, and when she is done cooking we go to my auntie's house. Since we already ate, we don't eat again. We play games. We play around. We make jokes. We do what families do. I can say that sometimes things can get out of hand! Then we leave, and we go out to Troy, and we go out there because my mother's husband's family is out there, and he is wanting to see his family. I'm a very shy person, so all I will say is "Hi and bye," unless they ask me a question. But I love Thanksgiving, because it's all about family and getting together and doing family stuff. This is also my granny's favorite holiday, because my granny loves to cook. I love her

cooking. Sadly, she is gone. She's in a good place, a better place, so we also celebrate her life on Thanksgiving. This a special day for me and my family and I can't wait until next year. My momma's got something planned for her, and I hope next year is going to be an even better year than this one, because this year wasn't it at all.

7B

PHILLIP

For the past 12 years I've spent Thanksgiving in Saint Louis with my family and my parents. With the pandemic this year, we made the difficult decision not to travel, but we determined to make this Thanksgiving just as special and memorable. Here are a few things we're doing to feel connected even though we're apart: Having a small outdoor dinner with family and friends who live in your community. Visiting pumpkin patches or orchards where people use hand sanitizer before touching pumpkins or picking apples. Wearing masks is encouraged or enforced, and people are able to maintain social distancing.

CARNETTA

I don't really have a Thanksgiving tradition, because we don't do the same thing every year. What we usually do is invite family and friends over to eat a Thanksgiving dinner. We all connect and just talk. I'm looking forward to spending my Thanksgiving a different way,

but let's not get into that. The stuff we usually eat on Thanksgiving is traditional, and I really love it. Thanksgiving is a time when I usually get to spend time with family, which we do a lot. I don't want to do that this year and just stay to myself, you know? Well, I hope you have a good Thanksgiving Dr. Phoenix.

SHARDAE

I'm going to write about Christmas, because it's my favorite holiday. On Christmas Eve my family and I go to the store and get one present and the next day everyone wakes up and goes downstairs and "Open all y'all presents then clean up your mess!" Then everyone starts cooking, and when everybody is done cooking everyone meets at whoseever house they agreed to meet at. Then my aunt draws numbers on ripped pieces of white blank paper. We fold them and put them in a bucket. We get someone who's not playing the game to pick the numbers out. We have numbers on the presents. And the rule of the game is: "NO CHEATING!" If someone wants to trade, and you do, too, y'all can trade. Then when we are done with the gift exchange we eat and talk and have fun.

CHARISMA

What my family does on Thanksgiving is we clean the house, and we go to the store to get the ingredients and the food and the turkey. We cook the food, and we talk about what we are grateful for. I'm grateful for my family, and

I'm grateful that I have a roof over my head. I am thankful for God for always protecting me, and I always have somewhere to sleep and have a bed to sleep on and clothes on my back and shoes on my feet. I don't have to be rich to get everything that famous people get. I don't need it! That's what I'm am thankful for.

ARMONII

For my Thanksgiving I will be going to people's houses saying "Happy Thanksgiving!" Then I will be going to my mother's house, and she will be cooking for Thanksgiving. This year I will help her in the kitchen, and she will be cooking ham with pineapple and a cherry on it. My grandmother will be cooking some desserts and we will have the things that we normally have. That's what I'm doing for Thanksgiving.

SARIYA

Every Thanksgiving is a day where my family gathers at my granny's house to eat, enjoy family time, play games and catch-up on things. You didn't think that was the end did you? We're no where near the end! Now, let's talk; every year before this one, we all wish we can go back or skip ahead of 2020, but we can't. We have to deal with the fact that everything is not the same. We have to be careful with what we touch and eat. We have to keep each other safe. So, now we can't gather at people's houses, and eat and touch what we want or when we want to. We have to wash our

hands and wear a mask. We have to be safe. But we might just break the rules just a little bit, because we want to see our family and get to catch-up on how they have been. After all we are still humans; we make mistakes, big mistakes, but we can also deal with the consequences! So, this is what this Thanksgiving would be like. P.S: Don't forget to wear your mask.

6A

LINDSEY

For Thanksgiving my family cooks food. They cook a turkey, green beans, and everything. We visit our family every Thanksgiving. My nana makes her famous lasagna. This year, since there is Covid, we might not be visiting all of our family. We always go to my nana's house. We cook a lot of food. We get dressed and go places. I do not know what we are doing this year for Thanksgiving because of Covid, but I cannot wait to find out! I don't eat all of the food, but I eat that lasagna, ham, mashed potatoes, and macaroni. I do not know what they will all have, but there is a lot of food.

6B

KYRAH

On Thanksgiving I will be thankful for my family. They helped me get through all of my problems and things like that, but I'm going to talk about what I do for Thanksgiving. On

Thanksgiving we eat a lot of meat. I see a lot of my family members. Sometimes, I might just be in my room on the games, because I don't feel like being around a lot of people, but this year I might just spend time with my family instead of being on the games all day. Last Thanksgiving was the best. We didn't have to be wearing mask or anything, so I really loved my last year's Thanksgiving. Besides that, I am still thankful for my family and for all of the support they give me.

KADEN

For my Thanksgiving break my family prepared a Thanksgiving feast with my sister, aunt, grandma, and my mom's stepdad showed up. When everyone was done eating, a few hours later one of my cousins came over with a... (in my mom's words, and I quote, with a "horse dog!"). After another few hours we played a game called "heads-up." Then we started talking about Michael Jackson. We have this game called "Michael Jackson's Dancing Experience." We danced to beat it. We danced to Thriller, Billie Jean, etc. Then we played "Just Dance 2020." After everybody left I watched some of Overwatch and went to bed.

RASHAD

My favorite holiday is Christmas. I celebrate Christmas on December 25 like everyone else. I look forward to getting what I want and spending time with my family and friends. I

also like the good food. My great-grandmother cooks for the holiday. We all listen to music and dance all that day. I can't wait until Christmas this year! I plan on getting the PlayStation 5, and an Electric Skateboard.

JANIYLA

My Thanksgiving tradition goes like this. First we all make food for each other. Then we all bring the food to my auntie's house or sometimes my grandma's. Before we eat we all wait for the others to get there. All the kids might even play a little. After we wait and socialize a little, we all wash our hands. Then we all gather around the table and say prayers and then eat. While we are eating we all laugh about things or just tell jokes or say funny things. After eating we clean up and wrap some food up to take home. After cleaning we talk and play for a little more. Maybe after talking and playing for about an hour we all say goodbye, and we go home. And that's my Thanksgiving tradition. Happy Thanksgiving!

JAKAYLA

For my family and I this Thanksgiving will be the third times it will not be the same. The first time, my grandmother, Mattie Davis, passed away in August, 2014. Secondly, my grandmother, LorTina Weaver passed away in March 2016, and this year, due to the pandemic I cannot spend the holiday with my other cousin. I love to spend the holiday with A'lienna and her three brothers and one sister. I

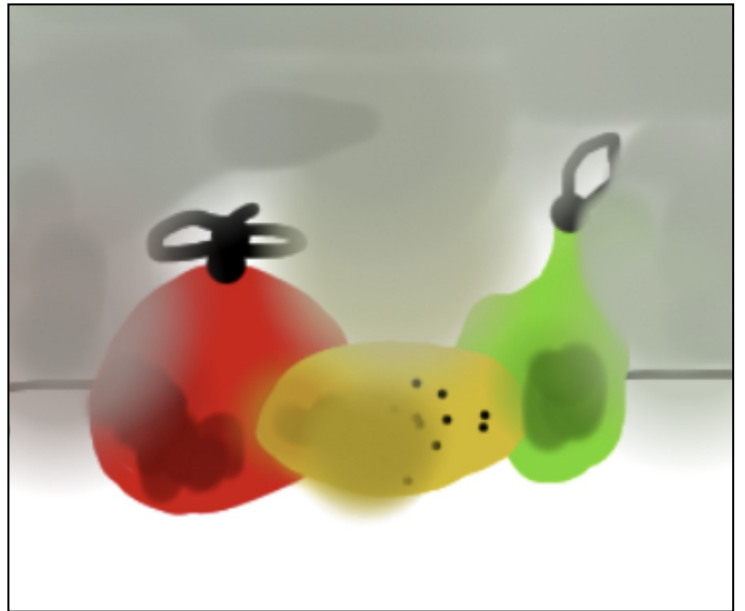
am going to miss A'lienna, Nolan, L'amor, Xavier, and Zoey this year. I cannot wait for the pandemic to be over. I also have another cousin who was just starting to spend the holiday with us last year: Lyric-Nicole. It is just not going to be the same, but I am happy that I am still able to spend Thanksgiving with my older cousin Nicole, her mom, my mom, and grandpa. We also give thanks, pray and thank God for what we have. Our Thanksgiving feast will be eating duck, dressing, chitterlings, mac & cheese, ribs, butter beans, squash, sweet potatoes, potato salad, Italian coconut cake, chocolate cake, rolls, and a roast. We drink soda, and rainbow juice!

TRINITY

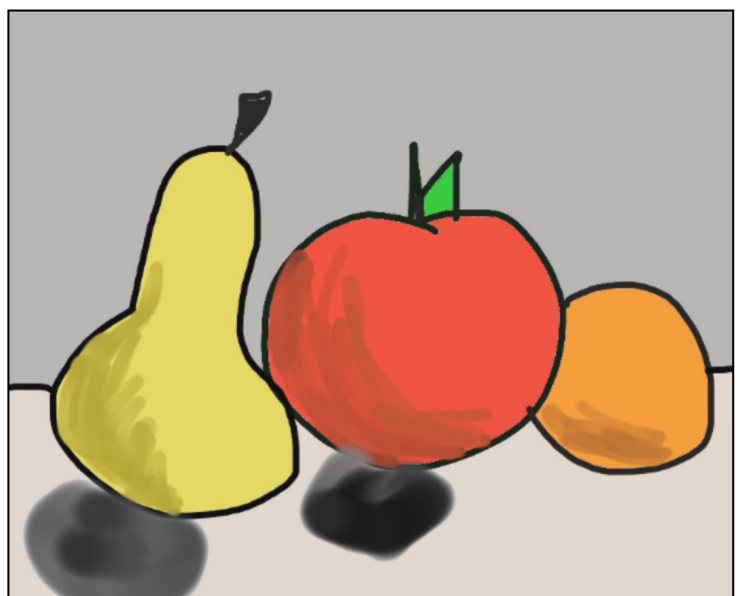
On this Thanksgiving which is on Thursday, November 26, 2020, I think I am going to go to my granny's house to help her cook. I don't know everything we will be cooking. I just know I am making a cake. I make a cake every year. My cousin and I are making cakes this year. She will be making the vanilla cake, and I am making a chocolate cake. Then, everybody is going to eat the food that my granny, my cousin, and I cooked. Then we are going to go to my TT's house, and have fun. The girls are going to have a dance battle. The boys are going to play the video games like they do every day. Then, everybody will come back to my granny's house and we tell what we are thankful for. Then we are just going to talk and laugh. We are just going to have fun and spend

time with each other. When everything is done, we are going to go home, or to whoever's house we want to go over to and stay over there until the next day. Everybody will do an all-nighter (stay up all night). If you do go to sleep, you are going to get pranked! Finally, everybody will go home the next day and do what they want.

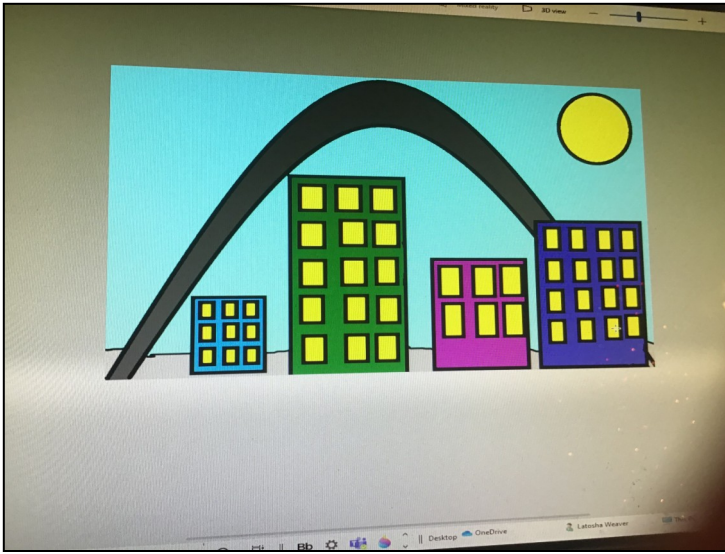
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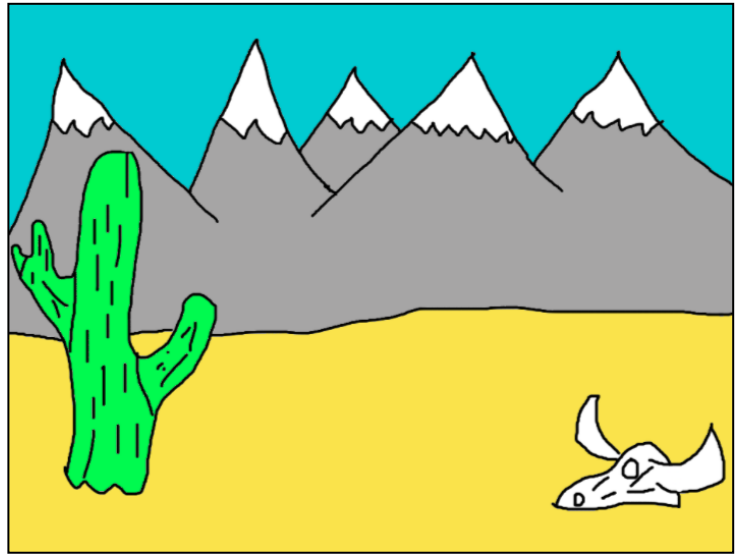
"Still Life" by Cianna, 8B



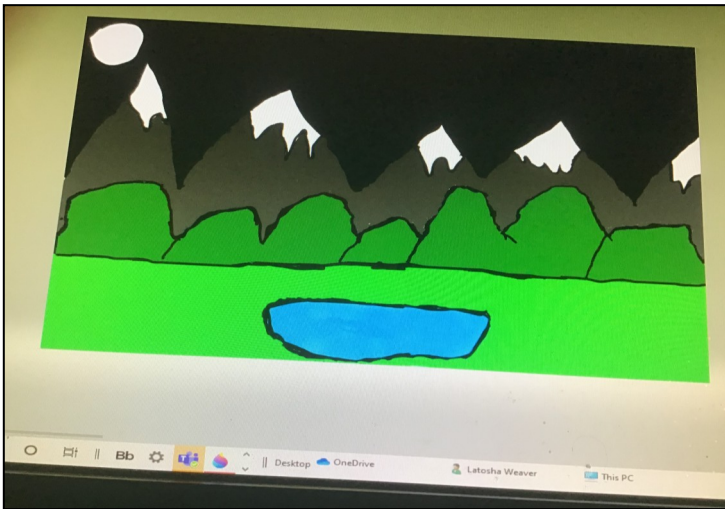
"Still Life" by Angie, 8B



Jakayla's "City Scene" from 6B



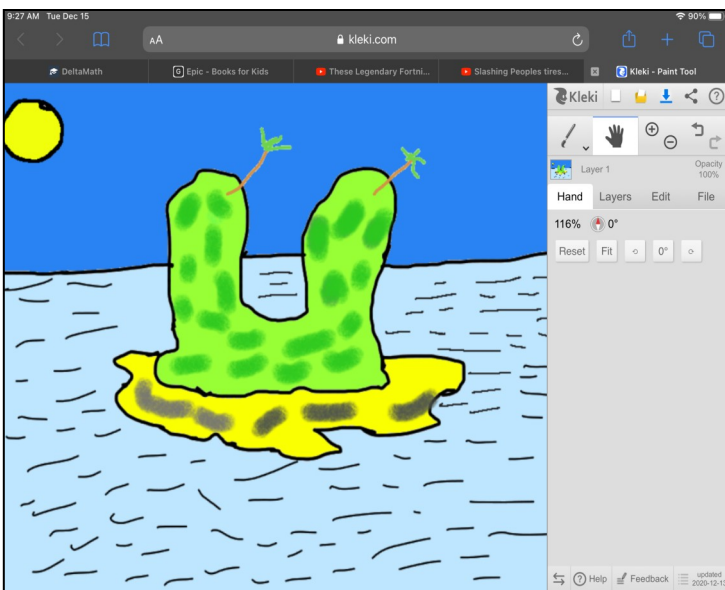
Steven's "Desert" from 8A



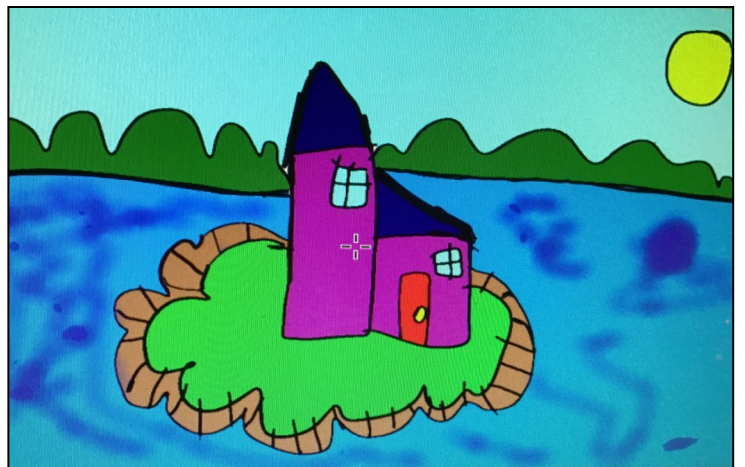
Jakayla's "Country Scene" from 6B



Ariel's "Lighthouse" from 8A



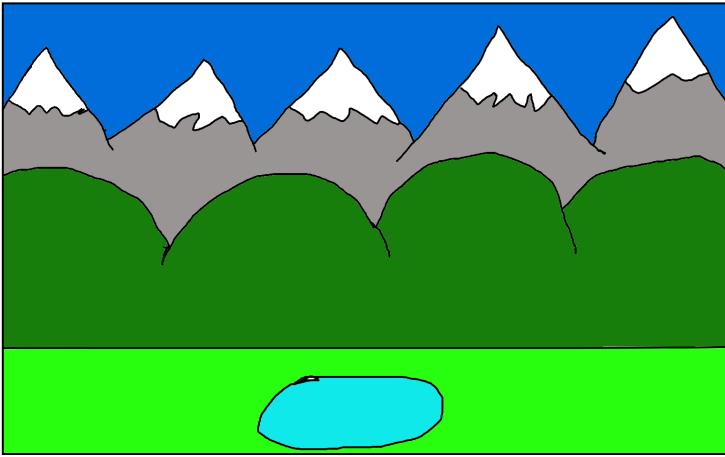
Duran's "Lighthouse" from 8B



Jakayla's "Lighthouse" from 6B



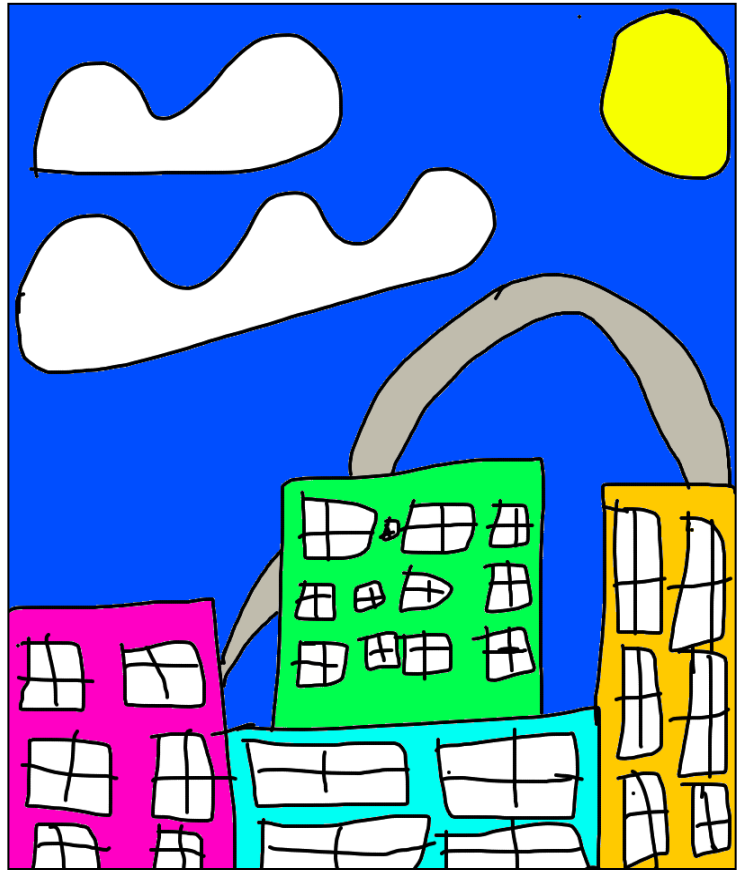
"City Scene" by Duran, 8B



"Country Scene" by Crishawn, 8B



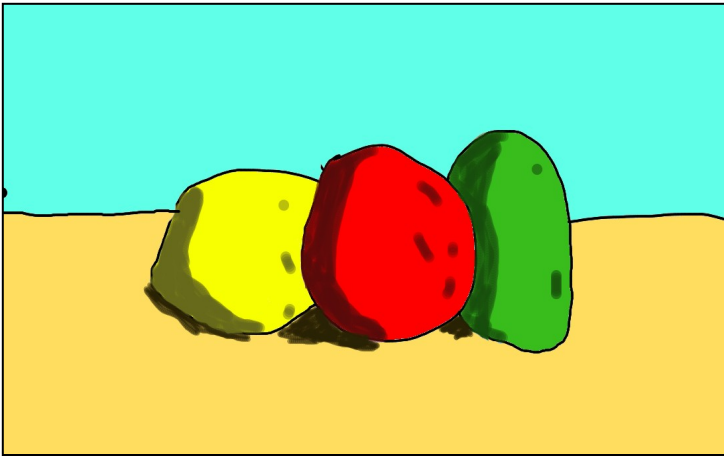
"City Scene" by Tristan H., 8A



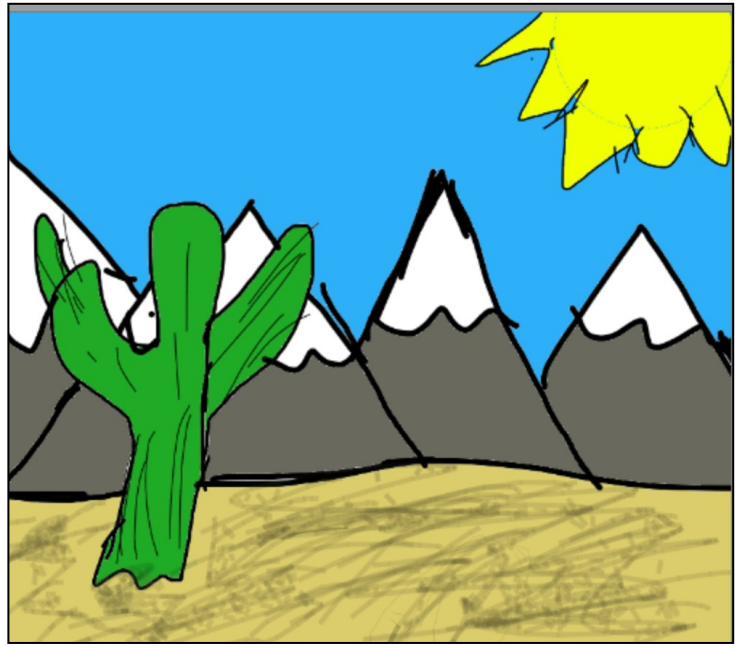
"City Scene" by Brandon, 8B



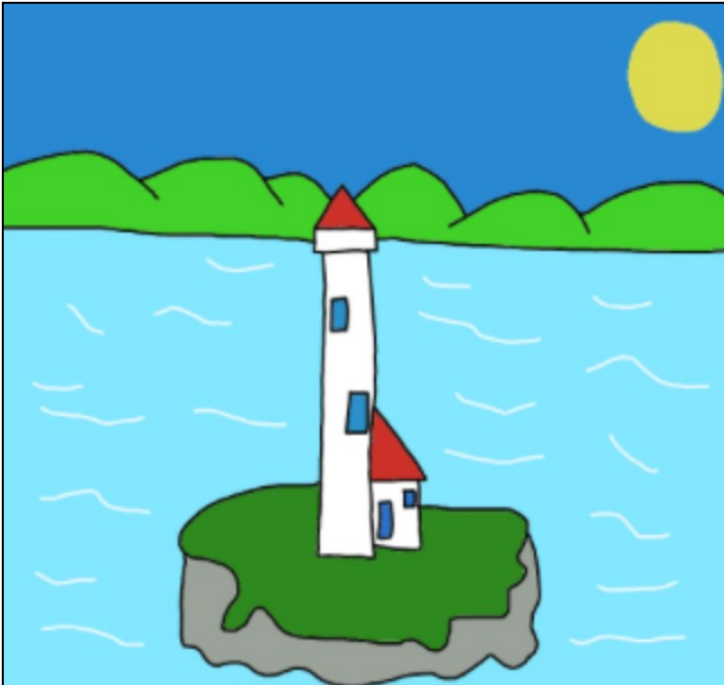
"Desert" by Kira, 7A



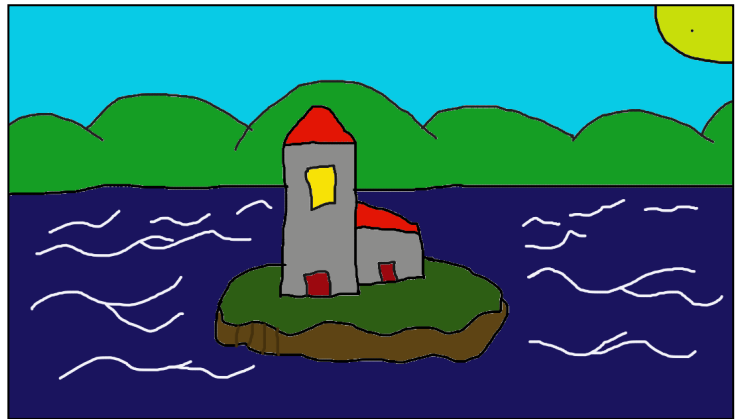
"Still Life" by Tatum, 7A



"Desert" by Nicholas, 7A



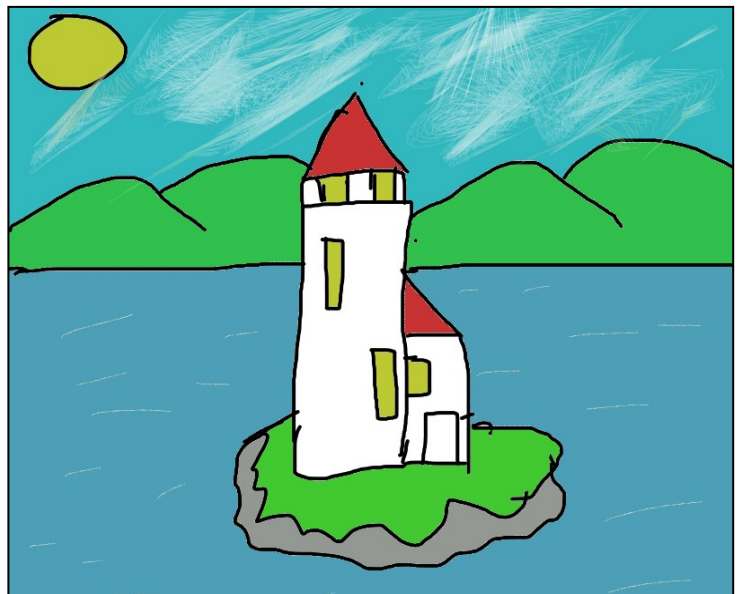
"Lighthouse" by Angie, 8B



"Lighthouse" by Tristan H., 8B



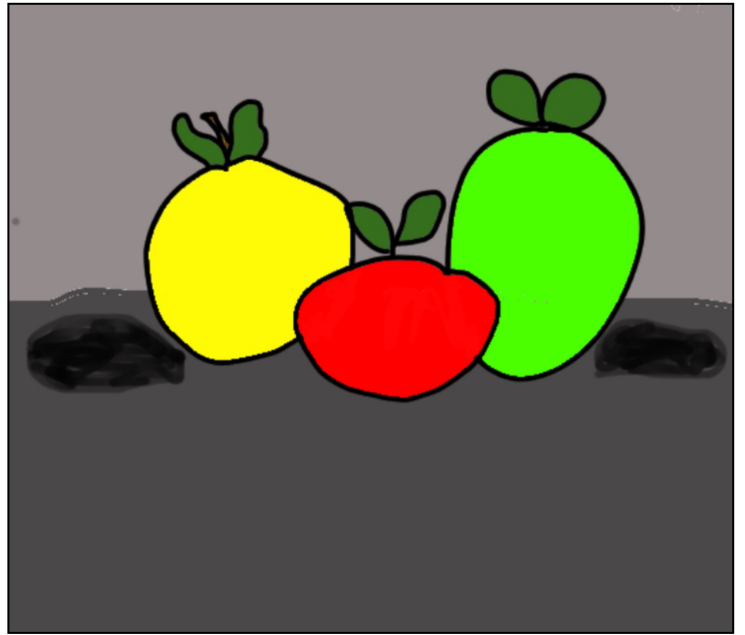
"Lighthouse" by Chrishawn, 8B



"Lighthouse" by Zarina, 8B



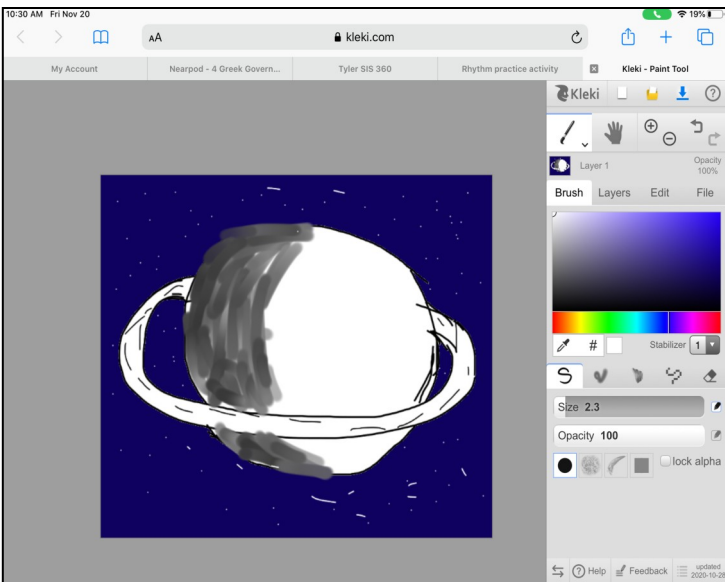
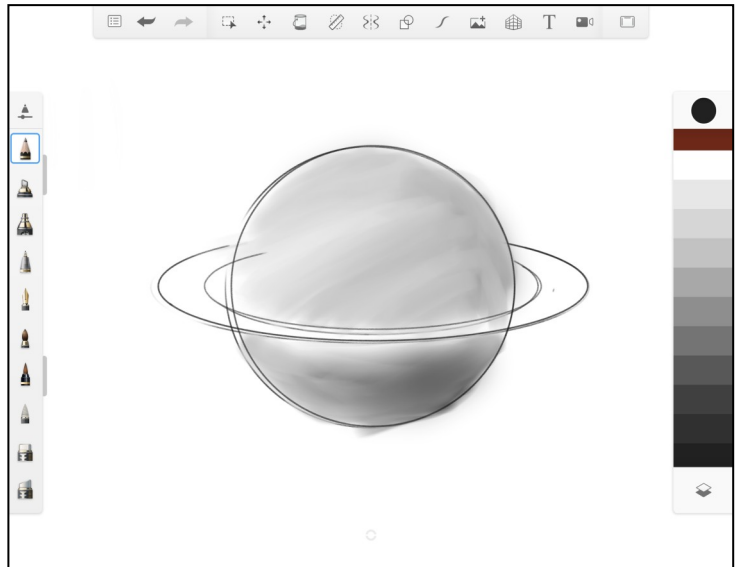
"Lighthouse" by Mya, 7B



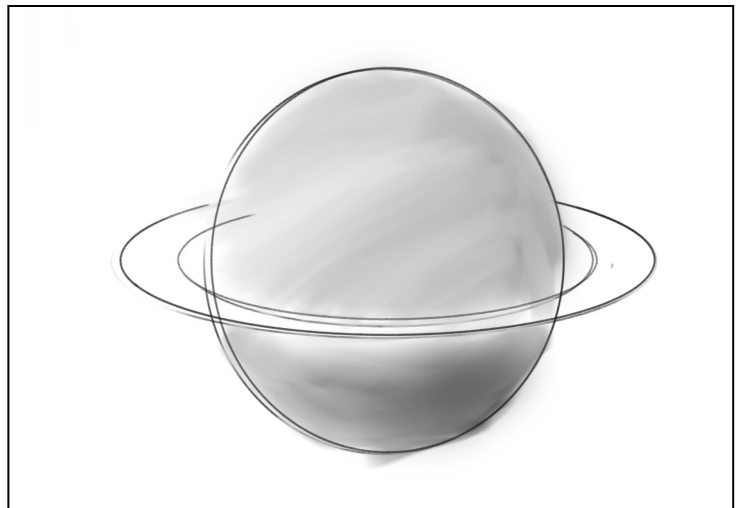
"Still Life" by Dliyah, from 6A



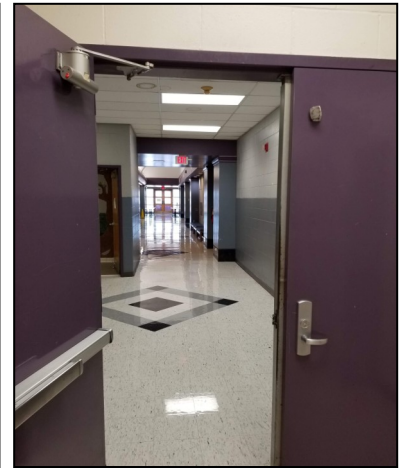
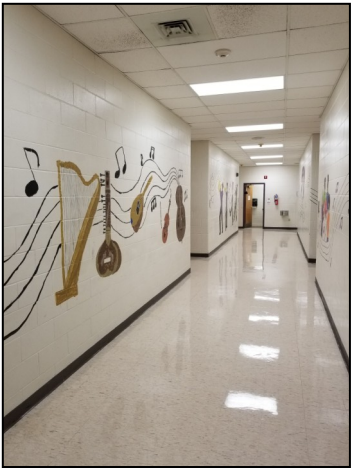
Janell's "City Scene" from 6A



"Saturn" by Nicholas in 7A on Kleki



"Saturn" by Kennedy, from 7A on the Sketchbook App



Recently, we were in the building and took these photographs. Something was clearly missing...



*It's you, Jaguar Nation!
Stay safe, stay strong, and have a warm
and restful Winter Break. See you soon!*

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