

Arkleston Advertiser

Edition 1 Session 2021 -22



Message from the Head Teacher

It has been wonderful seeing the children back in school again and we are delighted with how well they have settled into their routines. Our new P1 children have been incredible, and we are enjoying getting to know more about them, as our newest Arky Stars. Thank you for ensuring your children were ready and prepared for learning on day one. The staff have worked tremendously hard to prepare for the session, although it has not been plain sailing over the last few weeks. Some plans have had to be adapted due to the ever-changing current climate. I am grateful that we have such an amazing team of people who want the best for your children and work hard every day to achieve this.

Our start to the session has included the continuation of COVID mitigations and we thank you for your support and patience. We hope that we will be able to return to our normal timetable soon, but until then, we will continue to follow the guidance of the Scottish Government.

We live by our values at Arkleston, **Success, Team, Attitude** and **Respect**. These underpin everything that we stand for as a school and all of the work that we do. We are proud of our pupils and want to give them opportunities to experience new things and take part in activities that allow them to shine brightly. Our curriculum focuses on supporting our children to be the citizens of today, ready to be the leaders of tomorrow. This requires them to reflect on growing up in Renfrew, Scotland and the world and how they can play their part as a global citizen to make the future brighter for everyone. With our 50th Anniversary in 2022, we will be taking time this session to plan our celebrations. The school has played a huge part in the lives of the Renfrew community and we want to make sure that we celebrate its achievements in style. We are grateful to those members of the community who are already helping to improve our school grounds. If you are able to assist in anyway, please let us know. As a team, we can make Arkleston shine both inside and out for many years to come.

Dates for your Diary



Fri 24 Sept	Holiday – School Closed
Mon 27 Sept	Holiday – School Closed
Fri 8 Oct	Virtual Assembly P1 and P2/1 – Safe Citizens - Harvest (Google Meet link will be sent to parents to join for 09:30)
Mon 11 Oct -15 Oct	Holiday – October Week
Mon 18 Oct	Inset Day – School Closed to children
Tue 19 Oct	Children return
Wed 3 Nov	Pupil/Parent/Teacher Conferences (phone calls depending on Guidance) 15:30 – 18:30

Parent Council

Our Parent Council held their AGM on Tuesday 14 September and a new committee has been elected.

Chair: Saima Aslam
Vice Chair: Debbie Elms
Treasurer: Saima Aslam
Secretary: Laura McColl

The Parent Council work tirelessly to support the work of the school and we want to thank them for all their support. We would like to thank the outgoing Chair – Jennifer Lee, for her hard work during her time in the post.

The Parent Council have purchased the book bags for our P1 children and are coordinating a refresh of the large planters in the playground, turning them into outdoor seating pods. We can't wait to see what they look like.

If you wish to find out more about the work of the Parent Council or wish to join, please visit their Facebook Page or Twitter.

<https://m.facebook.com/arklestonparentcouncil/>
<https://twitter.com/ArkyPC>



Parent Pay

P1 parents have been sent information via SEESAW to sign up for their Parent Pay accounts. Thank you to those who have managed to complete this process. Any difference in name, address, phone number, title etc will create a mismatch. We recommend that all parents create an account as this is the vehicle used by the school to collect charitable donations etc. Whilst P1-4 children don't need their accounts for school meals, your child may also attend breakfast club and will require a Parent Pay account to purchase items.

Breakfast Club

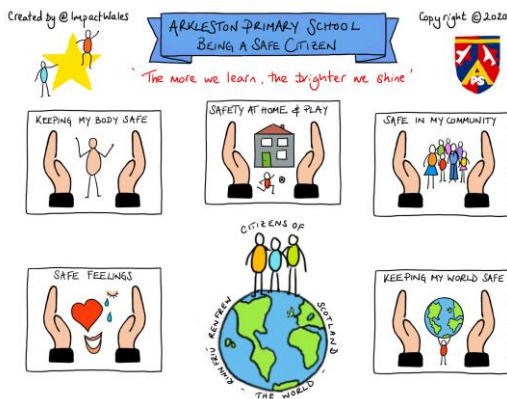
Following successful interview, Mrs Bain is now supervising in the Breakfast Club from 08:15-08:45. The Breakfast Club is still delivered by Environmental Services. We will shortly be administering a new form to those that attend the Breakfast Club, asking for your emergency contact details. Please complete the forms and return to Mrs Bain as soon as possible. Children are expected to uphold our school values at Breakfast Club.



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www.arkleston.renfrewshire.sch.uk
Head Teacher - Ms C Crawford

Safe Citizens of Renfrew



This term we are looking at what it means to be a safe citizen at each of our assemblies and we have spent time thinking about safety in relation to bullying. We are proud to have been part of a project that has now created the Keep Safe app for children across Renfrewshire to use for information and to report incidents of bullying to their schools. This involved our children having many discussions with I am Me Scotland in relation to making sure that the app was child friendly and provided the information that children felt they would need in order to support their mental health and wellbeing. We have also previously worked with Brian Donnelly from Orbital Training (previously worked for Respect Me) when we consulted on our behaviour policy a few years ago. He was pivotal in helping us to ensure our focus lay with supporting any child, upset by the actions of others. We have posted some video clips on SEESAW that we have used in assembly to give you further information in relation to our approaches.

We have had our first month of Good to be Green system and children will receive 20 points for their house for every day they have stayed on green. This information was communicated with you via SEESAW. This will include information about any actions that may have been unsafe or disrespectful that your child has had to reflect upon. Any large issues will already have been communicated with you.

We currently have 3 bases of children out playing at any one time, which is half of the school. We have up to 6 adults in the playground as well as members of the management team. We keep a close eye on the general behaviours within the playground and discuss where these are concerning and work together to come up with strategies to improve things. Please trust us that when we see something happening, or are alerted to something, we always do something about it. This may include chats to children and phone calls home. We never do nothing. There may be a delay in us reporting back to you if you have raised a concern with us, but we aim to do so as quickly as possible.

Nurtured and Included Citizens

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded the UNICEF Gold Award for being a Rights Respecting School. This is the second time we have gained the award and are the only school in Renfrewshire to do so. Thank you to all of the team for their hard work and efforts in achieving this and to Mrs Kajla for presenting the evidence to the assessment panel. The report stated that, 'It was evident that children's rights are embedded across the school and underpin every facet of school life. Particular strengths of the school include:

- There is an excellent knowledge of rights across the school community and the children use the language around rights in a mature and reflective way.
- The strong commitment to children's rights and to the RRSa from leaders at all levels. Quality training and support for staff has been sustained.
- The school has a strong culture of inclusivity and respect which is understood and articulated by children and adults alike.
- The voice of the children is promoted, respected and impactful in many aspects of school life.'

Nurtured and Included Citizens

As a Jade Nurture School, we are committed to creating an inclusive ethos and culture, however we know that children, like adults, struggle to own their emotions at times and when these become overwhelming, they need to have strategies that allow them to make wise choices in relation to their actions. As adults, we have learned how to do this over time and learned what works best for us. For children, this can be a process that takes time and for some children, emotional maturity and regulation comes later in their childhood than it does for others, which can result in children becoming physical when they can't express themselves. We tend to find that this happens more for our P1-3 children. We use our PATHS programme to introduce the vocabulary of emotions and strategies that can be used to manage these.

Learning to manage emotions is as complicated as learning how to read and write. This can be difficult for everyone involved as we know you don't want your child to come to school and experience anything that may upset them. Children need to experience a degree of healthy stress in their lives and know that it is okay to feel stressed as long as it does not become excessive and have a negative impact upon them. Learning how to cope with your feelings, with the support of your family and school, will help us to build healthy, happy, resilient children who are able to cope with the ever-changing world we live in and cope with the stresses and strains of adult life in a proportionate manner.

Adults also lead extremely stressful lives, and we know from experience that children's perspective on events may not always be the same as how they were perceived by the adults around them and this can increase the levels of stress that adults experience. In school we are teaching children to think about the size of the problem, so that we are proportionate with our emotional responses and don't catastrophise things out of perspective. When big things are happening, we will let you know.



In school, we ask the children to colour in their emotion stars booklets every day and this helps staff to identify patterns and trends in emotions for the children and class. A healthy picture of stars would be lots of different colours. This tells us that children are feeling different emotions throughout the day. Together we can help our children to grow into being emotionally healthy adults by learning from the mistakes they make as children.



Healthy and Active Citizens



Article 15 – Right to meet with friends and join groups and clubs

Article 31 – Right to relax and play

Article 29 – The right to become the best that you can be

We continue to think about how we can promote healthy and active lifestyles at Arkleston and are delighted that we can now resume PE lessons in the gym hall. Children are advised to wear their PE kit on their PE days or to wear it under their clothing. Classes will also have outdoor PE and children should ensure that they have a waterproof jacket with a hood to ensure they can participate, regardless of the weather.

Many classes are continuing to participate in The Daily Mile. This is no more than 15 mins of jogging/running - at a pupil's own pace - around the track we had drawn a few years ago. The daily mile is designed to improve levels of fitness in children and to provide that brain break that is sometimes required. For further information, watch the video linked below.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V0RahcsF4al>

Mr Mitchell, our Active Schools Coordinator, has been in to discuss school clubs. We will be provided with one Active Schools Club to begin soon, further information to follow. Several staff have also offered to run school clubs and Mr Mitchell will be delivering Play Leader refresher training to our P7 children, allowing them to run lunchtime clubs. We hope to get these up and running after the October break.

Football for Fun

We are beginning the process of addressing an issue that has been raised by pupils over numerous years. Football at playtime in school. We traditionally only allowed football on the MUGA at playtime, as the playground was a free space for all pupils to use and numerous children were being hurt by balls being kicked with force. As we have reduced numbers of children in the playground, there has been a greater degree of flexibility, however we are still seeing the same issues arising. Children are complaining about the aggressive nature of football and the over competitiveness of players. This can lead to children becoming aggressive with each other over what should be a fun kick about. Our playground should be a safe, happy and healthy place to be and when it is not, we have to look at what we can do differently. We have many talented footballers, who play for professional teams locally and we are proud of the skills that they learn and are able to use when they play competitive football representing their team. In school however, football is for fun. There is no prize for winning. It is a time when everyone should be able to have a kick about for 15 mins in the morning and 15 mins in the afternoon on their classes scheduled MUGA slot. There are numerous children however, who don't feel safe on the MUGA, because of the aggressive playing style of a few. In discussion with our cluster colleagues and the School of Football at Renfrew High, we are aware that this is not just an issue at Arkleston Primary, but a mindset issue in every school.

Renfrew High School are concerned that if we don't work together to address these issues, many talented footballers will lose the opportunity to attend the School of Football in the future as their behaviour is hindering their ability to progress through the programme. If we don't promote a different attitude towards making football more inclusive at primary school, then we risk having children not reaching their full potential and risk losing the chance for children to take part in a sport that they might not otherwise have tried. I am sure there are some hidden talents in our playground that we could tap into if all children had an equal opportunity to participate.

This week we will be arranging a meeting with child representatives from across the cluster to discuss this issue and to come up with ideas of how we can change things in our schools. Once we have some ideas, these will then be taken back to the schools to be presented and voted upon. The winning idea will then be used to apply for funding from Renfrewshire Council to support this. Some of the ideas so far, include a gender-neutral football team and training for children to become referees. We can't wait to see what else the children can come up with.

The SFA Handbook clearly states that one of their objectives is 'To support and promote the principle of Fair Play by encouraging everyone involved in football to read, understand and accept the Laws of the Game, to show respect to opponents and to behave in a sporting manner both on and off the field of play.' If this is the SFA guidance, then we have to be ensuring this is also the way our children approach football for fun at school. We would love to involve representatives from local clubs in these discussions and are keen to hear your views too.

We find at Arkleston, that the largest proportion of yellow and red cards are given for playground issues and these predominantly centre around football. We will keep you updated with our discussions and look forward to trying new approaches to ensure everyone has a happy and healthy playtime.



Who will be working with your children this session?

Base 2 Primary 1 Primary 2/1	Mrs L McManus (P1) Mrs K Reid (P2/1)	Base 7 Primary 7/6 Primary 7	Mrs A Sinclair (P7A) Mrs L Farrell and Mr E Davies (P7)
Base 3 Primary 2 Primary 3/2	Miss L Rainey and Mrs M Mitchell (P2) Mrs L Campbell (P3/2)	CA/ASNA CA - Classroom Assistants ASNA – Additional Support Needs	Mrs C Bain (CA) Miss M Black (CA) Mrs H Liddle (CA) Miss M Brown (CA) Mrs L Craig (ASNA) Mrs L Stewart (ASNA) Mrs J Van Neirorp (ASNA)
Base 4 Primary 3 Primary 4	Miss E Jeffrey (P3) Miss V Clark (P4)	NCCT	Mrs M Mitchell Citizenship P1-4 Mr E Davies P5-7 PE/ICT
Base 5 Primary 5A Primary 5B	Mrs J Sinclair (P5A) Miss L McColl (P5B)	Head Teacher – Ms C Crawford Depute Head – Mr D Bonnar Principal Teacher – Mrs S Kajla Acting Principal Teacher – Mrs L Farrell	
Base 6 Primary 6	Mrs I de Pellette (P6)	Senior Clerical Officer – Mrs A Richardson Clerical Officer – Mrs K Burns Facilities Operatives Mr McCall Mrs C Barr	

There are many people who contribute to the work of the school. Each one plays an important role in making sure that the school runs smoothly. We have strong community links with Glendee Nursery and Renfrew High School.



Over the session there will be many visiting specialists, students and volunteers working within the school to support the children. Some of these are:

Mr Paul Harrison
Home Link
Ms Justina Chondromadidis
Educational Psychologist
Mr Andrew Mitchell
Active Schools
Mrs L Thomson
P7/S1 Transition Teacher
Mr Brian Hawthorn (Pastor)
Mrs Julia Barron
Music Instructor
Ms Caitlin MacDonald
Chanter Instructor
Mrs Hazel Douglas
EAL Support
Mrs Catherine Kenny and Corub
Reading with Dogs
Ms Vicky Mulholland
Calm Minds



Pupil Information / Attendance

The annual data check forms have been sent home. We would appreciate it if you complete these and return these as soon as possible. It is important that we have the most current and up to date information about each child on our system in case of an emergency. If your details change over the course of the session, please let the school know.

We appreciate that sometimes parents have to make last minute changes to their child's arrangements at the end of the day. Please contact the school as early as possible if this is the case.

If your child is going to be absent from school for any reason, please contact the school to ensure that the registers have the correct information. Safe and well text alerts will be made to the parents/carers of any child marked absent on the register after 9.15am. If you receive a message please contact the school.

As we have a staggered entry at the moment, there is flexibility between 08:50 and 09:00. If your child arrives once the doors are shut, they should report to the office before going to class. Attendance is monitored regularly and where a child's attendance/late coming is becoming a concern, we will contact you to discuss the reasons. Attendance is monitored at the end of each session and you may receive a letter from us noting any concerns for your records.

Drop Off

As part of our authority Travel Plan and to ensure your child's safe arrival at school, we would ask that children should be dropped off at the main gates of the school or Tesco car park and not in the driveway/car park. The janitor will be at the school gates each morning and afternoon to ensure the driveway is clear. Only parents with a parking permit will be allowed access to the grounds. These are given on an individual basis after discussion with the head teacher. Parents requiring a disabled parking space will find two within school grounds. Please do not park in these unless you are displaying your blue badge.

Medicines



If your child requires medication during the course of the school day, please complete a permission slip at the office. All medicines must be handed into the office and refreshed regularly where appropriate. Children are allowed to have their inhalers in their school bags if they are old enough to manage the administration of their medication.

Water Bottles

Please make sure your child has a water bottle with them. They are allowed to drink still water throughout the day, which can be topped up at our water coolers.

Your Thoughts Matter and Make a Difference

If you have any ideas or suggestions on how we can improve the work that we do please email

arklestonenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

and put Family Feedback in the sub-heading



What have we been up to?



Base 2 - Primary 1 have been busy learning the first six sounds (satpin) and are beginning to use these sounds to build words like sat, pan, and tap. We have also learned to read some tricky words and have been trying to spot these in the stories we read. We have been learning all about the numbers to 10 and now we can count forwards and backwards to 10, as well as ordering the numerals and counting out objects. We love spotting numbers and dice patterns in the world around us! We are very busy practising for our Base Assembly for October.

Primary 2 we have been practising our double sounds and reading lots of tricky words. We have been using our reading comprehension skills to answer questions about what we have read. We have been writing personal stories all about ourselves and our favourite toys. In numeracy and maths, we have been learning about the months and seasons of the year, and numbers to 100. We have learned about place value in 2-digit numbers, and can partition these numbers into tens and ones. We have been enjoying counting in multiples of 2 and 10, and looking for patterns on the hundred square.

Base 3

Primary 3/2 have been busy learning about fractions. Primary 2 have been working on halves and quarters, whilst Primary 3 have been learning about tenths and fifths. We enjoyed taking our learning outdoors to create chalk fractions in the playground. We have also enjoyed doing a thinking challenge every Friday, working on our skill of being creative. We used this skill to create our own zoo and amusement park!

Primary 2 have been introducing more learning through play in the classroom. We have enjoyed having more independence and choice in our activities. In numeracy, we have been learning about Place Value, specifically tens and ones - with some children even challenging themselves with hundreds! We sharpen our mental maths skills daily by doing Number Talks which allows us to discuss our strategies and find new ways to make a number. In literacy, we have been reading the Rainbow Fish. This story has led to discussions around friendship, sharing and kindness. We have enjoyed learning about different sea creatures in our Under the Sea topic, in which we have made connections with the environmental impact that we can have on our rivers, seas and oceans.

Base 4 - Primary 3 have been enjoying our novel George's Marvellous Medicine. We are learning how to predict what will happen next in a story and how to add adjectives to make our writing more exciting and interesting. In maths we have been learning about place value and thoroughly enjoying counting in tens and hundreds in place value basketball. We have also learned about money including all coins and we have created a money garden with coin rubbings. We also made a link between our RME learning in Islam and maths, by creating Islamic art based on Vedic squares. Our whole base topic is on mythical creatures. We have been learning facts about Kelpies, Medusa and the Loch Ness Monster. We looked at the work of artist and sculptor Andy Scott. We've also had a visit in our classroom from a fairy called Frankie. She has left us creative tasks to do and has answered some of our homework questions on mythical creatures. We have been writing letters to Frankie to find out more about her.

Primary 4 have been learning all about money. We can tell you all the different coins and notes that we use to pay for things. We are going to be working out some change too! We have been learning about place value and the position of a number up to 1000. We create number talks where we choose a number and find all the different ways of making it. We enjoy Fun Friday's where we place maths bingo. We created a mind map and gave different ideas for a topic. The overall winning topic was Mythical Creatures. We have met a new friend called Frankie Fairy. She has been keeping an eye on all of our hard work and has been writing letters to us. We responded to her letters this week and created wands and wings too. In Literacy we have been reading our class novel, George's Marvellous Medicine. So far, one of our favourite parts of the story was when George was running around adding all the disgusting ingredients to his pot! We have been busy working on each chapter and using our comprehension skills to answer some tricky questions. During P.E (indoors) we have been working on our fitness. Miss Clark challenges us by giving us a station to work for then asking us to count how many beats per minute our heart rate is at after our hard work. Outdoors we have been working with Mr Mitchell playing different team games and working on our ball skills.

Base 5 Primary 5 have been transforming their base into 'Superhero Headquarters'. After mind mapping what they already knew about superheroes, completing a carousel to build a spectacular word bank and using chrome books to research the characteristics of a range of superheroes they embarked on creating their own Superhero profiles. We completed a survey of our classes' favourite superheroes and constructed bar graphs. We investigated the work of Roy Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol and created some amazing comic book style pop art. At home we are practising our multiplication tables to defeat Batman and Hawk Girl. We are also enjoying the class novel, 'My Brother is a Superhero' by David Solomons.

Base 6 In Primary 6 we have been enjoying our novel study the Song of the Dolphin Boy which links very well with our Topic of Endangered Oceans. We have been deepening our knowledge of how human behaviour affects animals and plants in the seas (Global Goal 14). In Maths we have been using our division skills to find fractions of amounts and extending our place value knowledge.

In Literacy we have used our novel as a focus for the learning of characterisation and inference. We are really enjoying our novel and can't wait to find out what will happen next! We are learning how to play netball as part of our P.E. focus on possession skills. So far, we have been practising different types of passes, pivoting and dodging. We have learned about positions and rules of play too. We are getting better every week and have demonstrated some great teamworking skills.

Base 7 Primary 7 have been keeping up to date with current affairs, with a specific focus on discrimination in sport.

Primary 7 have also been looking at Global Goals. We simplified the language used and created posters that we can use as a teaching resource to help children in lower primaries understand what we are trying to achieve. We have written letters to the local authority asking for their help when it comes to recycling at Arkleston. We have also been thinking about our own character strengths and how we can use them to be the best buddy we can be to our new primary 1 pupils. We have been thinking of the skills that we have that we could use to lead and help the primary 1 develop their own skills.



What do the pupils have to say?

I like that I am back in a new primary. **P2 Ruiradh**
 I like that I can colour with my friends. **Ayla P2**
 I like counting to 100. **Alfie P1**
 I like climbing trees in Beastie Street. **Harry P1**
 I like playing with the pipes in Beastie Street. **Kaleb P1**
 I like learning and doing art. **Liam P1**
 I like learning about lighthouses. **Cooper P1**
 I like making cakes in the mud kitchen. **Darcy P1**

I have been enjoying doing all my jobs. **P2/1**
 I like playing and learning with the Primary 2s. **Avaya P2/1**
 I like climbing the trees at Beastie Street. **Olivia P2/1**
 I have enjoyed making new friends. **Blake P1**
 I like playing on the climbing frame. **Mia P1**
 I have enjoyed visiting Beastie Street. **Ella P1**

I like using technology in primary 7. We have learned how to use Word, we are going to make a PowerPoint and have learned all about the safe and responsible use of computers and the internet. **Robyn P7**
 I am enjoying our PE sessions. Some are indoors and some are outdoors. I like it because we are keeping fit. **Caragh P7**
 I like that we are able to do hard work but have fun at the same time in P7. **Alex**

I am enjoying all the interesting conversations we are having in primary 7. We discuss current affairs every day and I am learning a lot about the world. **Olivia N P7**

I like how all pupils in our class get to be vocal and share our opinions without judgement. **William P7**

I love that we work together across the base. **Kelsie P7**

Question

What do you like most about being back at school?
Ms Crawford

Article 13: Your right to express your thoughts and opinions



I like playing maths games like dominoes. **Struan P3**
 I liked making our class charter. **Sophie P3**
 I like playing outside with my friends at break. **Sonny P3**
 I like reading more books. **Jax P3**
 I like meeting new teachers. **Codi P3**
 I liked making my name tag. **Safa P3**
 I like having a table to sit at. **Ethan P3**
 I like learning in maths. **Shine P3**

I like that we are getting lots of new things to play with in class. **Lucas P3/2**
 I have liked learning about nouns and I like it when we got to make a noun cloud. **Ruairidh P3/2**
 I really like the number talks we do in maths. **Lola P3/2**
 I like our new topic about the River Clyde. **Rhys P3/2**
 I like doing all the different activities for funky fingers. **Amelia P3/2**

I like reading George's Marvellous Medicine. **Jamie P4**
 I like learning about money and practising my handwriting in my handwriting jotter. **Connor P4**
 I like being reunited with my class and teacher **Evie P4**
 I like our topic mythical creatures. **Taylor P4**

I liked learning about nouns and doing our noun cloud. **Amber P2**
 I liked making my monster with playdough for funky fingers. **Harley-Jay P2**
 I have liked being with my friends in class. **Maja P2**
 I like doing counting in maths and playing with the activities. **Jackson P2**

I have enjoyed the Superhero Multiplication challenges and making graphs **Phawak P5**
 I like Maths, Literacy and in my free time I enjoy reading. I also like the challenge of the geographical jigsaw puzzles. **Harry P5**

Arky Stars: Article 29 – Your right to be the best you can be

- Lucas A P1 has joined a football team, Theo P2/1 has started karate, Abbie P4 joined cheer, Ella P4 joined Brownies and Blake P1 has joined a running club and Sam P5 joined a new football team
- Connor P4 can now sparr in kick boxing and Emaad P5 earned a new belt in karate
- Evie P4 has learned to swim a width independently, Jouri P4 has learned to swim and Waleed P7 has now reached stage 5 in swimming
- Cameron P5 learned how to play a classic by Beethoven on the piano
- Kai P4 has learned to play basketball, Chloe P5 learned a new trick in football and Jack P5 won a medal at hockey
- Olivia P7 has been sharing her art skills with her class. What a talent!

