

OXBOW Schoolhouse

Spring Tidings



Artwork by Oxbow Schoolhouse 5th Grade Student

“May my soul bloom in love for all existence.”
~Rudolf Steiner

News from Ms. Martin's Class, Grades 1 and 2

Now that the snow is melting and little green sprouts are making their way up towards the sunlight, we have begun once again to do our jump rope activities outside, to the great delight of the first and second graders! After so many wonderful weeks of winter play and sledding out on the hill, the play yard is like a whole new world of wonder for the children. The sights and sounds of spring are everywhere; peels of joyous laughter fill the air as squishy, squelchy mud kitchen

creations are carefully crafted, delicate fairy gardens are planned and planted with pleasure, and the construction of two enormous mountains has begun anew. Grade 1/2 is surely enjoying the magical outdoor transition of winter to spring!

As the many signs of spring brighten up our days, the creative energy has been alive and flowing inside the classroom as well! The children were eager to begin our play block; excitement continued to build as we assigned parts and began practicing lines. Our community was treated to a wonderful show, as our budding actors and actresses performed a story from our African Fables block called "The Name of The Tree." Bravo to all who faced their fears and gave two fabulous performances for students and parents. You have made your teachers extremely proud!

News from Ms. Kennedy's Class, Grades 3 and 4

Grades 3 and 4 spent February and March immersed in Norse Mythology. During February the students were told of the creation of the Norse worlds and of the gods and other creatures that populated them. Then they heard about the adventures and misadventures of Odin, Thor, Loki, Freya, Iduna, and others! All throughout March the class breathed life into one of their favorite stories, "The Loss of Thor's Hammer (or a Most Unusual Wedding)," by becoming the Norse gods and goddesses as well as their foes, the Frost Giants, on stage. Their performances on March 29th received rave reviews, and everyone was happy to have participated in such a lively way in our class play block.

The class is full of avid birdwatchers and has become experts at spotting our avian friends outside our windows. We had a beautiful green-headed grackle and a red-headed woodpecker stop by to say hello most recently. The warming of the earth has inspired the creation of fairy gardens at recess, and the bright sun has encouraged us to get out for some morning walks once more.

As the calendar turns to April, we will spend time going further with fractions in our third math block of the year, and then it's on to our animal projects after April vacation. The class is looking forward to sharing their reports and dioramas based on a local animal of their choosing at Arts Night. During the musical portion of Arts Night, the students will be sharing some sea and river chanteys. It's sure to be a spirited performance!

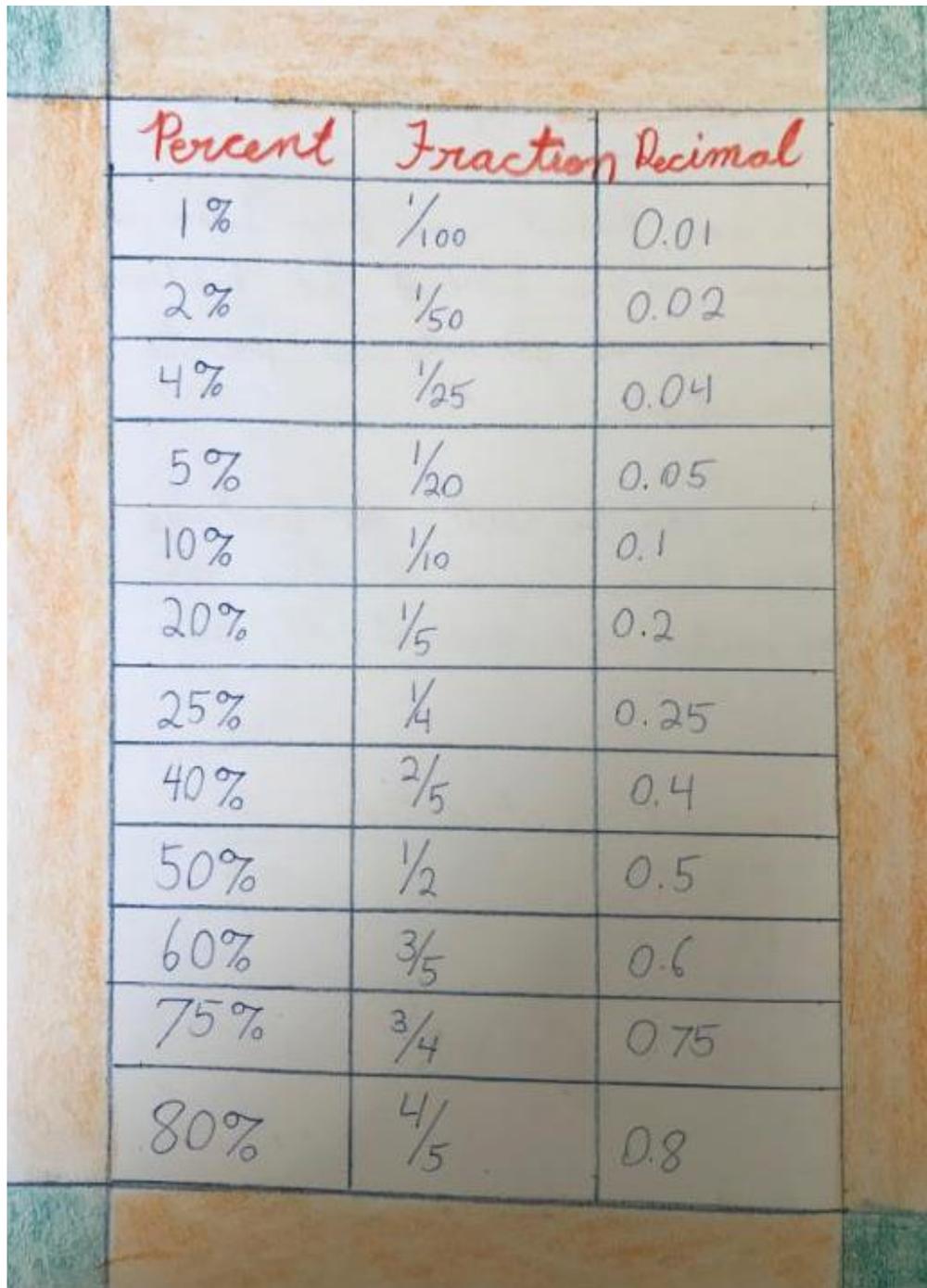
News from Ms. Hilbert's Class, Grades 5 and 6

Grades 5 and 6 have been challenged in main lesson with a Business Math block, applying their knowledge of working with fractions and decimals to practical problems of all sorts. After learning that percentages are yet another way to express parts of a whole, the students are becoming flexible with seeing the relationships between fractions, decimals and percents, and are using them to solve a variety of problems. We are finishing out this block with learning about different types of charts and graphs and discovering which types work for best presenting various information. Students are combining their mathematical and artistic talents to create their own main lesson book pages that show different types of graphs and the types of information they best present.

The class has also jumped into learning lines and blocking scenes for our class

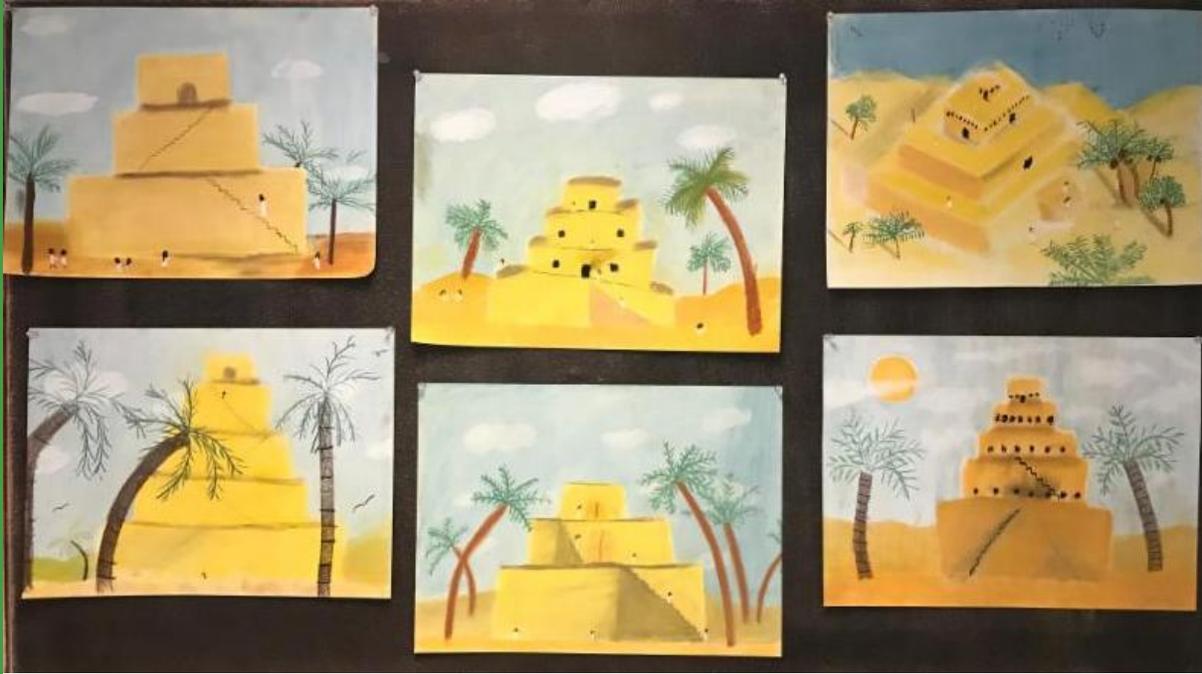
play. This year, the fifth and sixth grade class has chosen to present the story of Isis and Osiris from ancient Egypt. We hope you will all join us for one of our performances:

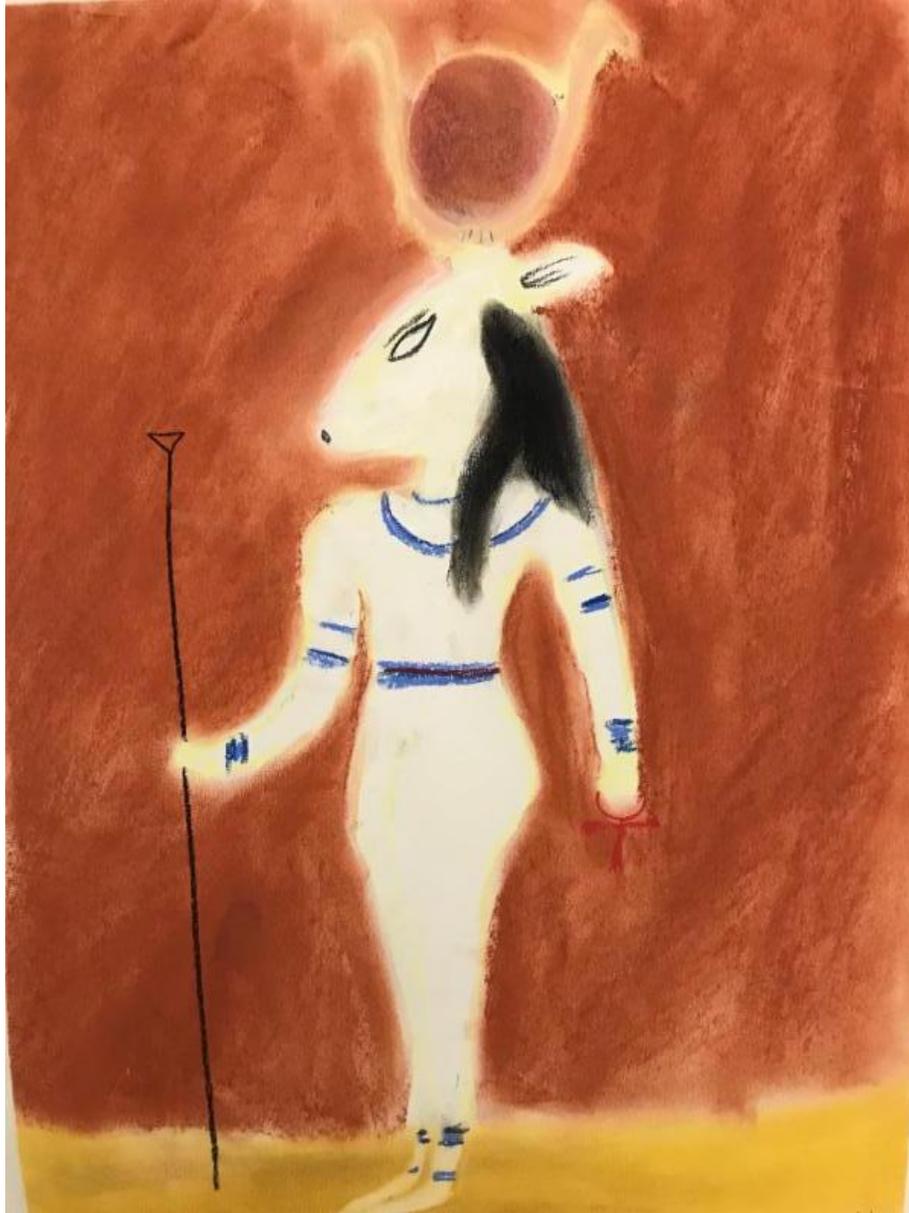
The Story of Isis and Osiris
Thursday, April 12
Showtimes: 2:15 pm and 5:00 pm



A hand-drawn table on a piece of paper with a light brown background and a blue border. The table has three columns: 'Percent', 'Fraction', and 'Decimal'. The rows list percentages from 1% to 80% in increments of 5%, along with their corresponding fractions and decimal equivalents.

Percent	Fraction	Decimal
1%	$\frac{1}{100}$	0.01
2%	$\frac{1}{50}$	0.02
4%	$\frac{1}{25}$	0.04
5%	$\frac{1}{20}$	0.05
10%	$\frac{1}{10}$	0.1
20%	$\frac{1}{5}$	0.2
25%	$\frac{1}{4}$	0.25
40%	$\frac{2}{5}$	0.4
50%	$\frac{1}{2}$	0.5
60%	$\frac{3}{5}$	0.6
75%	$\frac{3}{4}$	0.75
80%	$\frac{4}{5}$	0.8





News from the Specials Class: Señora West, Spanish

Spanish classes have had a lot of fun progressing along the different levels in each of the classes.

In the 1/2 grade class, we have learned a lot of songs highlighting animals such as “The Itsy Bitsy Spider” and “Five Little Ducklings” in Spanish. We have also learned some authentic songs such as “Los pollitos” and “Cinco elefantes.” The children love singing and dancing in class. We have also been working on listening to stories in Spanish. Recently, they have heard retellings of some of Aesop’s famous fables.

In the 3/4 grade class, we have been learning about the house and all the rooms in the house. We have worked our way through the vocabulary associated with the kitchen, living room, bathroom, bedroom, and office. Helping us along is a character named “Nico Malo” (Bad Nick). Nico is a 10-year-old boy who tries very hard to be a good boy but keeps making mistakes. You can ask your student to tell you about some of his adventures! We also introduced how to tell time in Spanish!

In the 5/6 grades, reading has been our focus this year. We started out with short reading selections about everyday life in the Spanish-speaking world, and now we

have progressed to reading a short novel called “Casi se muere.” The students are excited to learn about what happens to the protagonist Emma, an exchange student from Phoenix that is spending the summer in Chile. The students have also enjoyed playing several games to encourage speaking in Spanish. We are looking forward to a Caribbean feast after April break.

We always welcome authentic cultures and guest visitors in our Spanish classes, so if you have something cultural to share, please don't hesitate to reach out.



In April, A poem by James Hearst

This I saw on an April day:
Warm rain spilt from a sun-lined cloud,
A sky-flung wave of gold at evening,
And a cock pheasant treading a dusty path
Shy and proud.

And this I found in an April field:
A new white calf in the sun at noon,
A flash of blue in a cool moss bank,
And tips of tulips promising flowers
To a blue-winged loon.

And this I tried to understand
As I scrubbed the rust from my brightening plow:
The movement of seed in furrowed earth,
And a blackbird whistling sweet and clear
From a green-sprayed bough.

The green of Spring is not far behind! Before you pull those garden weeds, use this web and app resource to identify and forage those wild edible and medicinal plants.

www.wildmanstevebrill.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Music. Painting. Sculpture. Handwork.

Oxbow Schoolhouse Arts Night

Join us as we celebrate the arts!



MAY 12, 2018 • 5:30-7:00PM
270 BARNUM ROAD • DEVENS, MA

Enjoy student art exhibits and performance. Admission is free.
Performance at 6:00PM.



NOW ENROLLING

FOR THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR



INSPIRED LEARNING WITH
Small Class Sizes and a Curriculum Rich in:

*Creative Thinking
Art & Music Every Day
Spanish
Cursive Writing
Integrated Movement
Yoga & Mindfulness
Outdoor Play
Joyful Learning!*

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