



Barnwell School District 45

Innovation – Integrity – Investment – Community

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Year of the Tiger at BPS

Barnwell, S.C. March 10, 2022 – At Barnwell Primary School (BPS), students in kindergarten through third grades recently engaged in a cultural unit study of China through dance, theater, music and art. Kia Valentine, Creative Arts teacher at BPS, coordinated the unit with the Olympics, the Lunar New Year and the Chinese Zodiac.

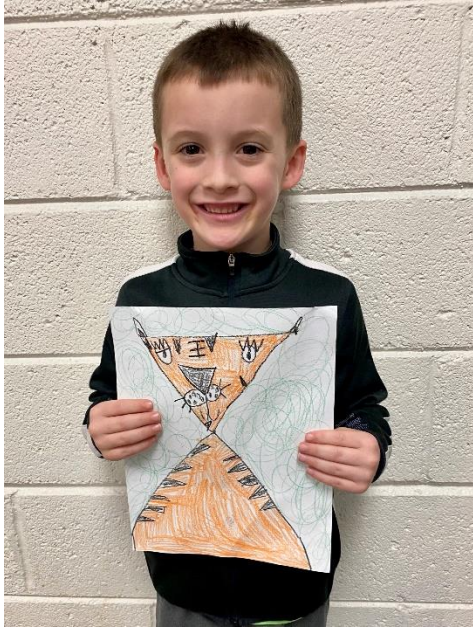
According to Mrs. Valentine, “Because this year is the Year of the Tiger in the Chinese Zodiac, we culminated our unit with the creation of tigers.”

Tiger art creations lined the hall at BPS, and the student work exemplified their creativity, their vision, and their artistic abilities. In the kindergarten classes, students created tigers while focusing on the element of shape and the use of triangles to create art. In first grade, students created collages of tigers in their habitats. Second graders experimented with the use of watercolors to create their tigers, while third graders created mixed-media tiger faces using tempera painted paper and oil pastels.

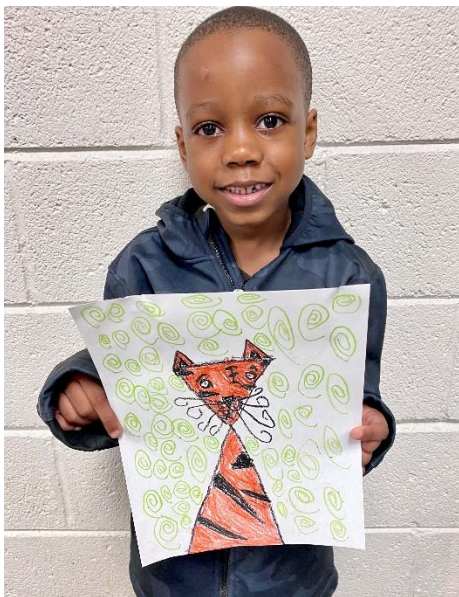
When Mrs. Valentine asked her students about the unit, one of the students’ favorite parts about the study was learning the importance of the tiger in Chinese culture. Legend has it that the emperor made the tiger the “King of the Animals” after proving himself through several battles. After each battle, the emperor would place a mark on the tiger’s head. The tiger ended up with three horizontal stripes and one vertical stripe down the center of his head. This mark is the character for “king” in the Chinese language. The tiger continues to represent strength, bravery, wisdom and resilience within the culture.

All supplies used throughout the unit were purchased with money received from Anderson Oil Company’s Barnwell 45 Spirit Pump. “This is a perfect example of our community’s impact on our students and our schools. Through their generous partnership with our school district, Anderson Oil Company supports our arts program across the district,” shared Superintendent Crissie Stapleton.

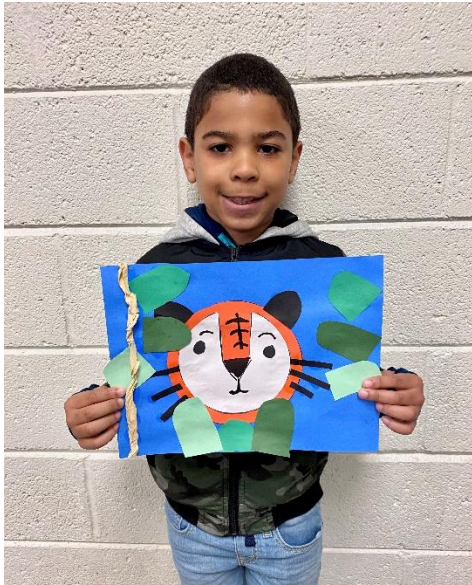
Barnwell Primary School (BPS) students share their artwork from the recent cultural unit taught by Mrs. Kia Valentine, Creative Arts teacher at BPS.



Jaycob Lehman (5K)



Damion Green (5K)



Mikel Griffin (1st grade)



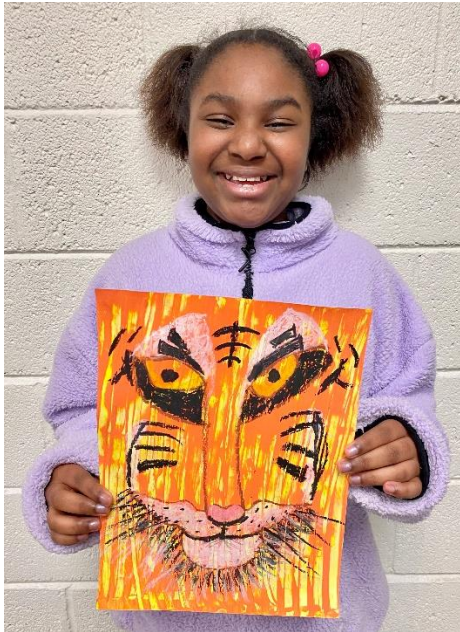
Avery Renew (1st grade)



Jordan Mackins (2nd grade)



Kimberly Hauptmann (2nd grade)



Satura Perkins (3rd grade)



Rekeya Roberts (3rd grade)