

Mrs. Dulcey's Art Room

Meet the teacher

I'm Mrs. Joan Dulcey and have been the art teacher at St. Peters for 22 years. I started teaching here when my youngest daughter was in the fifth grade at St. Peters. I teach grades K-8 and cannot begin to tell you how many students I have taught!

I have a BA from Temple University in Philadelphia. During that time, I also spent one semester in Rome, Italy studying art history up front and personal. I also attended several art classes at the Tyler School of Art.



My particular interest is in Straw Art. I have been working with straw for over 30 years and also sometimes paint and quilt, but straw is my medium. I have traveled throughout the US and Europe. I have taken workshops in England and Serbia and taught in Poland in the summer of 2016 at an International Straw Festival. My work has been in the White House and I have won awards in two International Straw Mask competitions.

My husband and I have been married for 40 years and have two grown daughters and 5 grandchildren, ages from 3 to 11 years old. We are so thankful to have healthy happy grandchildren who don't live too far away.

What happens in the art room?

I am blessed with a wonderful imagination, so I teach many different types of art forms to the children from 5 to 14 years old. Its great that I can watch the progress of my students

over many years. I try to build on their skills and introduce increasing levels of art techniques each year. Because children have varied interests when it comes to art, I try to cover many aspects so that the children love to come to art and learn to appreciate art works, even if they don't think they are good at it. We do some group projects, but mostly the children work on their own.

As I am one of the teachers for the middle school "electives" as an extra class for 6-8 grades, I do some different kinds of projects with these students. Last year I brought back puppet shows. The students designed their own puppets as well as wrote the scripts and performed the shows.



We will have a fun and an exciting year from "painting like Michelangelo" (under the tables} in Kindergarten to mini tree houses in the 8th grade.

A new project I added this year for the 8th grade was writing their own original children's book. The books were clever and creative. Some even rhymed the text. They drew and colored the illustrations, and they learned to bind their books with traditional book binding techniques. In the spring when the books were finished they read

their books Kindergarten, first and second grades. The audiences clapped and cheered and were on the edge of their seats for a few. We will be doing this again this year.

A favorite fourth grade project is to read a biography and make a hand puppet to go with the person whose biography they read. They then present their book report to the class using their puppet.



Come back to see some beautiful artwork throughout the year.

January 2019 Update for the Art Room:

December was a crazy busy time in the art room. We had several projects at all grade levels to celebrate the holidays, including advent activities and gifts for their parents.

8th grade has finished their children's books and are starting on a Pop Art block print of a famous person or cartoon character. They will also soon read their books to the lower grades.

7th grade is starting a lesson on Calligraphy since they finished their Egyptian masks. They did a fabulous job on their masks. I can't wait to see what they do with the Illuminated letter and calligraphy.



Some Egyptian masks, grade 7

6th grade is excited about their new project on Surrealism. Their imaginations are going crazy. This is always a fun project.

5th grade is working with clay to make Pottery in the style of the Native Americans from the south west. They will give a presentation to the class about their creation.

4th grade is working on learning color values while painting a snow scene. They will soon start reading their biography and making hand puppets.



Grade four, "Children at Play"

3rd grade helped decorate our hall for the winter with a fun project called catching snowflakes. They are currently learning about Molás, an art form of colorful applique and embroidery of the Kuna people from the islands off Panama. They are making replicas of this art form using colorful paper. We do a lot of cultural crafts in 3rd grade.



Catching Snowflakes. third grade. The children love this project!

2nd grade is learning to make animals from the Rain Forest. We have started with the colorful Toucan using oil pastels. We will next be making iguanas.



Second Grade's paper quilt. Learning about shapes, pattern and space. First quarter.

1st grade is currently making snow scenes but will soon learn about still life drawings. We will also work on fun 3-D dragons to celebrate Chinese New Year coming up in early February.

Kindergarten just celebrated the New Year with fun Banger toys they made. They will be exploring other animal activities as well. Penguins, one of my favorite is coming up next.

We participated in a fund raiser with our artwork, through the company Original Works. Parents were able to purchase mugs and other objects with their child's artwork printed on them. We raised over \$500 which is going to a school in North Carolina which suffered water damage during the late summer hurricane last year.

We will also participate in a program called Students Rebuild. Each year this group chooses a cause that children should be aware of and how they can help through their artwork. Two years ago we made decorative hands. The cause that year was Extreme poverty. For every hand we sent to Students Rebuild, \$1.70 was donated by the Bezos Family Foundation to help the very poor. We raised about \$500, the only cost to us was the postage to send our hands to them. This year, the special cause for awareness is our oceans and how we can protect them. For every sea creature we send to Student's Rebuild, \$2 will be donated to towards youth focused Ocean Conservation. Let's see if we can raise \$600 or more this year! For more information on this awareness group, visit: <https://www.studentsrebuild.org/challenges/ocean>