**Dear parents and guardians:**

Your child's class will be partaking in a 4 week long unit entitled “Diversity Through Art and Media in the Past, Present and Future.” This unit will be center on diversity in America and their lives, how they see themselves, and representations seen in art and media in the past, present and future. The goal of the innovative unit is to teach multiculturalism and diversity in a fun way while meeting standards for fine arts.

 School faculty and guardians are encouraged to join and partake in discussion, as well as email paintings and events they would like discussed in the unit. This is a great opportunity to see and give input on what your child is learning at school, and we hope many take advantage of it.

 The unit will include the following lesson plans:

*1. Personal History and Identity*

In this activity, students will be given the opportunity to learn and explore their family history, where they came from and what that means to them. The activity will also discuss stereotypes, how they perceive themselves and how they identify as a person. Students will watch clips from several relevant films to instigate discussions and critical thinking activities. As homework, students will create self-portraits of themselves that reflect their history and identity.

*2. Representations in Art History and Media*

In the second activity, stereotypes will be discussed alongside examples in art and the media. Students will reflect on how they feel about these representations and be challenged to try and identify the message the artist is trying to convey. Students will also be shown how choice of words, color, contrast, and other tools that can be used to convey a message and perspective to the audience. As homework, students will create their own pieces of art that convey a message. Student work will be displayed and presented on the classroom wall. Students will also be encouraged to begin planning their final project. The lessons build up to a final project, in which students will complete and present a brief essay and art project of their choice about what they have learned from the unit.

*3. The Future of Diversity*

In the final section, the class will discuss art in public, political messages in art, and be challenged to consider what kind of future they see for the United States regarding diversity and multiculturalism, and what they have learned. Current topics and relevant controversies will also be discussed.

Feel free to contact me at (123) 456-7890 or 123@gmail.com for questions, comments and concerns.

Meghan Gardner