

El Museo Nacional de Arte Mexicano

¡El Día de los Muertos!

Fifth grade students, teachers, and instructional assistants enjoyed their field trip to ***The National Museum of Mexican Art*** on Thursday, October 21st, 2010.

Students were lead through a guided tour of the ***Mexicanidad Exhibit*** where they learned about Mexico's rich history through some well-known pieces of art. A docent-guided tour of ***The Day of the Dead Exhibit*** allowed the fifth graders to learn about the cultural celebration that takes place every year in Mexico on November 1st and November 2nd in honor of loved ones who have passed away.

Various Mexican artisans presented their works and techniques during ***Folk Art Week***. Visiting Oaxacan artist, Jacobo Angeles, taught some children how to make ***Alebrijes***. ***Alebrijes*** are brightly-colored Mexican folk art sculptures of fantastical animal-like creatures made from the wood of the Copal tree. The ***Alebrije*** name is often used in reference to the fanciful woodcarvings created by artists in Oaxaca, Mexico. These popular wood sculptures are also known as animalitos, monos, or simply figuras. The children enjoyed painting their own ***Alebrijes***. The folk art craft activity was a favorite for many. ***¡Qué divertido!***

Alfonso Castillo Horta and Soledad Martha de Castillo, visiting from Izucar de Matamoros, Puebla, Mexico, taught some children how to make and decorate ***Cerámicas Policromadas***. Polychrome ceramic sculptures are beautifully designed Mexican ceramics. They are extremely unique and quite colorful. The Horta Family figures are inspired by five generations of artisans in their family. The sculptures have been featured worldwide and the artisans have won many awards for their creations. The artisans modeled for The Lane students how to form clay to make such unique Mexican pieces as the ***Tree of Life/El Arbol de la Vida***. The artisans made ceramic pieces for the children by hand, and they shared tips and techniques for painting the pieces. The children enjoyed decorating one of a kind owls and sugar skull ceramics. ***¡Qué especial!***

Thank you to the PTO for generously supporting this memorable trip. It was a special day for all. ***¡Muchas Gracias!***