

Weekly Recap

February 11-15
Upper School

Monday, February 11

MORNING MEETING & MINDFULNESS

Ms. Denise and Ms. Bridget

All

This morning, we introduced our two-week photography elective. Group discussion: What do you already know about photography? What do you want to learn about photography? Next, we reviewed the weekly rhythm, courses, teachers, and photo teams to expect for the photography elective. We talked about our celebrations for Valentines this week- making things for those we love and have gratitude - and reminded students not to bring candy to share.

EYE SPY

Ms. Denise

Ian, Charli, Christian, Eva, Olivia, Sarah, Zoey, Jonas, Jacob, Grady

This morning, we introduced our first mini-project of the photo elective - making our own eye-spy photo books! We started by looking through many example images. Each student then choose their favorite images and completed an “I see... I think.. and I wonder...” writing prompt. With the remaining bit of time, students decided to work together or alone on their first image and started sketching their ideas and writing down a list of needed materials.

FOOD PHOTOGRAPHY

Ms. Bridget

Ian, Charli, Christian, Eva, Olivia, Sarah, Zoey, Jonas, Jacob, Grady

Today is the first day of our Food Photography Elective. We introduced our project which is creating a Food Photography Cookbook that encompasses the students’ photos that they will be taking over the next two weeks. The class coversF topics such as Food Photography Equipment, Lighting Basics (Natural/Artificial light), composition, post processing, food styling, working with chefs, recipe photography, commercial photography, food photography marketing, amongst more! The first class today was a time to cover “the day in a life of a food photographer”, how to stage your fruits and veggies, and how to use the lighting in the room to benefit your photography the most. Students used a variety of produce and practiced the tips they learned as they staged the produce and took photographs in both natural and artificial lighting. We started to create cover art for our class cookbook.

FORENSIC PHOTOGRAPHY

Ms. Amanda Rose

Avery, Brie, Charlotte, Damian, Genevieve, Grace, Kenley, Landen, Lily, Neven, Nate, Samuel

Today, we discussed how photography is such a huge component of solving crimes (there is always more than meets the eye). We saw how biased our own opinions on scenery were and came up with ways to get around it.

RECORDING NATURE: PHOTOGRAPHY AND MATHEMATICS

Mr. Dave

Avery, Brie, Charlotte, Damian, Genevieve, Grace, Kenley, Landen, Lily, Neven, Nate, Samuel

The students were introduced to the concept of converging lenses and focal length. Using both sunlight and a flashlight, students used a magnifying glass to focus an image onto the wall and measure the focal length using a tape measure. By completing geometrical ray tracing diagrams, the students were able to understand why focused images are upside down past a converging lens. The students also used their cameras to take the same image, but focus on near versus far objects.

READING ON THE ROCKS

All

We spent a half-hour this afternoon reading free-choice books at Pineapple Park.

SCIENCE OF SIGHT

Ms. Amanda Rose

Ian, Charli, Christian, Eva, Olivia, Sarah, Zoey, Jonas, Jacob, Grady

Today, we learned how all of our senses connect by trying to determine the taste and smell without eyesight.

PHOTOJOURNALISM

Ms. Savannah

Avery, Brie, Charlotte, Damian, Genevieve, Grace, Kenley, Landen, Lily, Neven, Nate, Samuel

As an introduction to photojournalism, the students participated in a group effort scavenger hunt of the community. In order to complete the scavenger hunt, they needed to read the clue, determine the location based on the clue, go to the location and take one picture that includes all of the group members (without any help from an outside person) and one picture that tells the story of the what was happening at the location.

The students then picked one of their pictures and explained to their group what story they captured.

Tuesday, February 12

MORNING MEETING & MINDFULNESS

Ms. Denise and Ms. Bridget

All

8:15-8:30 - Morning Journaling

Prompt: Write about a person you love. What makes them special?

8:30-9:00 - Morning Meeting

Review of schedule and photography elective expectations. Group discussion: consent in photography. Ask others before taking pictures of them. Friendship Fortunes! We spent morning meeting making valentines friendship fortunes to show gratitude to those we love.

EYE SPY

Ms. Denise

Ian, Charli, Christian, Eva, Olivia, Sarah, Zoey, Jonas, Jacob, Grady

This morning, the kids were eager to expand their ideas and jump into building their mini “sets” for their Eye Spy photo books. We spent the whole period building! Will take photos of the amazing images for our books on Thursday.

FOOD PHOTOGRAPHY

Ms. Bridget

Ian, Charli, Christian, Eva, Olivia, Sarah, Zoey, Jonas, Jacob, Grady

Today’s class topic was composition and camera angles which includes diner’s angle, top down, and straight on. We covered food photography’s wide and tight shots, orientation, and cropping. We did an activity that showed how to crop using our hands to display the motion of cropping and how to focus/zoom in on our subject in photography. We compared this to a binocular. Student’s learned about how portrait shot’s emphasize shape and leaves lots of room for copy vs. the landscaping shots that achieve depth by taking advantage of the diagonal lines. Students drew their work (photography) after they took pictures of the food. We did a short worksheet activity that narrowed in on the differences between Diner’s angle, top down, and straight on. Students had to identify which one was which and conclude by drawing lines to their example pieces.

FORENSIC PHOTOGRAPHY

Ms. Amanda Rose

Avery, Brie, Charlotte, Damian, Genevieve, Grace, Kenley, Landen, Lily, Neven, Nate, Samuel

Today, we furthered our knowledge of observation by taking portraits of each other and looking at expression as clues to how person felt when photo was taken.

RECORDING NATURE: PHOTOGRAPHY AND MATHEMATICS

Mr. Dave

Avery, Brie, Charlotte, Damian, Genevieve, Grace, Kenley, Landen, Lily, Neven, Nate, Samuel

After a short introduction to the numerical milli-centi-kilo-mega prefix system, the students determined the number of pixels in their cameras. By finding the chip resolution either on a taken photo or through an internet search for the camera model, the students each calculated the total number of pixels in their camera, numbering in the millions. To reinforce this concept, groups were formed to complete three more multi-digit multiplications calculating pixels in the tens of millions.

READING ON THE ROCKS

All

We spent a half-hour this afternoon reading free-choice books at Pineapple Park.

SCIENCE OF SIGHT

Ms. Amanda Rose

Ian, Charli, Christian, Eva, Olivia, Sarah, Zoey, Jonas, Jacob, Grady

Today, we learned about the eye and practiced labeling and coloring a diagram.

PHOTOJOURNALISM

Ms. Savannah

Avery, Brie, Charlotte, Damian, Genevieve, Grace, Kenley, Landen, Lily, Neven, Nate, Samuel

The students were introduced to the photojournalism project details and brainstormed the story of the Verdi Eco School and the many stories told underneath that overarching umbrella. The students then spent the remainder of class taking photos of the farm, pineapple park and the classes occurring at that time.

Wednesday, February 13

MORNING MEETING & MINDFULNESS

Ms. Denise and Ms. Bridget

All

COTTER NOT AVAILABLE DUE TO CONSTRUCTION

8:15-8:45 - Open Studio: Valentines. We spent the morning making gifts for those we love

8:45-9:00 - Morning Meeting

Check in: How are your photography classes going so far?

Review of Schedule

Breathkeeper Ritual

EYE SPY

Ms. Denise

Ian, Charli, Christian, Eva, Olivia, Sarah, Zoey, Jonas, Jacob, Grady

This morning, the kids spent the class building their mini “sets” for their Eye Spy photo books. We are taking pictures of them tomorrow and completing the writing portion next week. So proud of these kids for being so eager to create their ideas!

FOOD PHOTOGRAPHY

Ms. Bridget

Ian, Charli, Christian, Eva, Olivia, Sarah, Zoey, Jonas, Jacob, Grady

We learned about depth of field today. Some of the content included the softness and sharpness of an image and how it is a stylish decision largely influenced by the fashion prevailing at a particular time. In the early days of food photography, images were shot with infinite focus, but now (during the past 20 years) food photographs have softened sometimes to the degree where only the smallest sliver of the subject is rendered sharp. Students demonstrated their knowledge of this by taking photographs that both encompassed the use of sharpness and softness. We concluded that it is best to stick with a moderate depth of field- one that shows the full subject in focus, with the background and background elements displayed in a soft tone. Students also created still lifes of the fruits (papaya, lemon, pineapple) using the tools of both depth of field and sharpness vs. softness.

FORENSIC PHOTOGRAPHY

Ms. Amanda Rose

Avery, Brie, Charlotte, Damian, Genevieve, Grace, Kenley, Landen, Lily, Neven, Nate, Samuel

Today, we learned about how our eyes naturally can give us away! Especially on video! We recorded “interrogations” and watched if our eyes moved to the right or left.

RECORDING NATURE: PHOTOGRAPHY AND MATHEMATICS

Mr. Dave

Avery, Brie, Charlotte, Damian, Genevieve, Grace, Kenley, Landen, Lily, Neven, Nate, Samuel

Today the students incorporated the concept of object velocity into picture taking. The students practiced both taking a blurry picture of a moving object where the background is focused, and taking a focused picture of a moving object with the background blurry. The students then completed multiple calculations of an object’s (car, person, turtle, etc) velocity using given “measurements.” Stress was put on interpreting the answer depending on the given units of measurement (miles per hour, ft/s, etc).

READING ON THE ROCKS

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We spent a half-hour this afternoon reading free-choice books at Pineapple Park.

SCIENCE OF SIGHT

Ms. Amanda Rose

Ian, Charli, Christian, Eva, Olivia, Sarah, Zoey, Jonas, Jacob, Grady

Today, we tried to draw pictures without use of our eyes and also learned what colors other animals can see and not see.

PHOTOJOURNALISM

Ms. Savannah

Avery, Brie, Charlotte, Damian, Genevieve, Grace, Kenley, Landen, Lily, Neven, Nate, Samuel

Unfortunately, we were rained out today and were unable to take pictures of the remaining parts of our campus. Instead, the students explored the work and techniques of photojournalists across the world. Some of the photojournalist that we explored included Edward Burtynsky, Corey Arnold and Margaret Bourke-White. We also analyzed the photo essays found in magazines like National Geographic and Time.

Thursday, February 14

MORNING MEETING & MINDFULNESS

Ms. Denise and Ms. Bridget

All

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!

Today we spent our morning making and trading valentines. We shared out at morning meeting the people that are the important to us in our lives, and played a Brain Smart Start game before our classes began.

EYE SPY

Ms. Denise

Ian, Charli, Christian, Eva, Olivia, Sarah, Zoey, Jonas, Jacob, Grady

Photography day! Our sets are finally ready for their photoshoots. Today the kids learned about perspective and different camera settings while practicing taking and editing images for their Eye Spy photographs. We also started to write the Eye Spy poems that will accompany our photographic images.

FOOD PHOTOGRAPHY

Ms. Bridget

Ian, Charli, Christian, Eva, Olivia, Sarah, Zoey, Jonas, Jacob, Grady

Today we learned about ISO settings. As a general rule, we should always shoot at the lowest ISO setting the lighting conditions allow. The higher the ISO, the more “noise” an image will have. We also learned about food styling tips, styling on location, and prop-styling tips. We used some of the food photography materials like tweezers and spray bottles while staging our fruit and vegetables for their photo shoot. We discussed what it would be like to work with the chefs that prepare the food for the photo session. Students learned about how sometimes the food in the photoshoot is fake and decorated with non natural materials. We looked into McDonald’s and how it is documented that the commercials we see don’t accurately portray what someone would purchase at McDonald’s. We learned techniques to keep produce fresh while taking photos. Some of these techniques include brushing lemon juice on freshly cut produce to keep it from browning and turning the lights off when they are not needed (to keep produce fresh looking). Students practiced some of these techniques, took photos of the food, and continues to compile content for their class cookbook.

RECORDING NATURE: PHOTOGRAPHY AND MATHEMATICS

Mr. Dave

Avery, Brie, Charlotte, Damian, Genevieve, Grace, Kenley, Landen, Lily, Neven, Nate, Samuel

We began today's lesson learning about lasers. The concept of "laser" as an acronym was explained, and the students witnessed a demonstration of focusing white light in comparison to focusing laser light. The students then used a measuring tape to determine the width of the frame in a picture they took. This information, plus their knowledge of the number of pixels across their camera's chip, allowed them to calculate their camera's pixel resolution in inches per pixel (very small). We ended our "Friday" with groups preparing a short photo scavenger hunt for another group to complete.

READING ON THE ROCKS

All

We spent a half-hour this afternoon reading free-choice books at Pineapple Park.

PHOTOJOURNALISM

Ms. Savannah

Avery, Brie, Charlotte, Damian, Genevieve, Grace, Kenley, Landen, Lily, Neven, Nate, Samuel

It was a beautiful day today, which allowed us to finish up our photography session for this week. We were able to photograph the Highland House, the 1861 Farm, the Nature Play Backyard, and the Nature Immersion and Journey's classes.

Friday, February 15

NO SCHOOL - TEACHER PLANNING DAY