

**Artfully Speaking**  
**By Ms. Gearin**

**In the Art studio, the three different grade levels which are creating with clay are: the Third grade artists, the Second grade artists and the Kindergarten artists.**

**Art students in third grade are sculpting ancient Mexican clay masks in the style of the Aztec culture. Art historically speaking, Aztec Mosaic Masks are especially known for the beautiful repetition of geometric tile patterns and complemented by intricate organic line and shape motif designs.**

**Ask your artist(s) the meaning of the terms mosaic and motif...**

**Art students in second grade are just beginning to sculpt Egyptian Clay Vessels. The process of sculpting is called the historical coil method, which literally reflects the way snakes coil around and around in order to become comfortable in their habitat.**

**Ask your resident artist(s) to actively resemble a snake coiling 'round and 'round...**

**Art students in Kindergarten will start their art of modeling with clay equaling the size of their hands cupped like a bowl. The first day they play with the clay by pressing, patting, pulling, poking, pinching and pounding while using their art muscles. During the following sessions, the students form Pinch Pots with the same clay then add a decorative trim to the top of the pot similar to flower petals. Then each student will sketch patterns of line designs on the interior and exterior surfaces of their pots and will paint their creations after the pots have been baked in the ceramic kiln.**

**Ask your resident artist(s) to form a pinch pot using their two human hands...**

**Enjoy Art!**