

## **Artfully Speaking**

**By Margaret Gearin**

**The First grade Artists of Highland View ES, are in the process of creating very tall full length 2-dimensional self-portraits on rectangular Bristol board totaling approximately 2 1/2 feet high. Recently, the students completed two rough draft drawings. One of a person made out of basic geometric shapes and the another made with creative lines forming shapes, as if the figure is dancing with lots of movement. Now, the students are drawing themselves largely from head to toe, then will be busy blending colors with the marvelous medium called oil pastel. Unlike dry pastel, oil pastel is thick and rich like peanut butter and comes in a myriad of colors. The purpose of blending is to invent, like artistic scientists, new combinations of shades and tints in order to produce visual and tactile texture. Visual texture is absorbed through our eyes, without having to actually feel the surface of the area. Tactile texture is felt through our fingers, touching the uniqueness of surfaces, even while our eyes are closed.**

**Once the art students have successfully covered all of their “Peek-a-Boo” Bristol boards with layered colors from “corner to corner” and “edge to edge”, the next step involves scraping designs into the surface of the oil pastel with an unfolded large metal paperclip. This process combines a density of designs all coming together to form details which further describe the various line patterns of our skin tones and hair styles along with shapes highlighting our clothing called textiles.**

**Please praise the artist(s) in your family after viewing their Hoppin’ and Poppin’ self-portraits while visiting the Art Stroll Show this coming Springtime...**

**Enjoy Art!**