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FORT WORTH COUNTRY DAY

A Sweet Treat in Art History Class

5/2/2019

Art history students recently took part in a tasty activity as they decorated cookie cakes to look like stained-glass rose windows. The Upper School faculty then voted on the cookies to determine the most authentic and beautiful design. This year's winning cake was created by seniors **Xitlali Castaneda** '19 and **Adriana Barker** '19.

This activity is part of the unit on Gothic cathedrals that is covered in Introduction to Art History, a course taught by **Lauren Cunningham**, that encourages students to study and closely observe rose windows. **Campbell Robinson** '19 enjoyed the research process: “[**Jackson Norman** '19 and] I looked at the famous rose window at Notre Dame Cathedral. We also googled other rose windows,” he said. “I learned that there are many concentric circles within a rose window. I also learned that the main colors of rose windows are red, white and blue.”

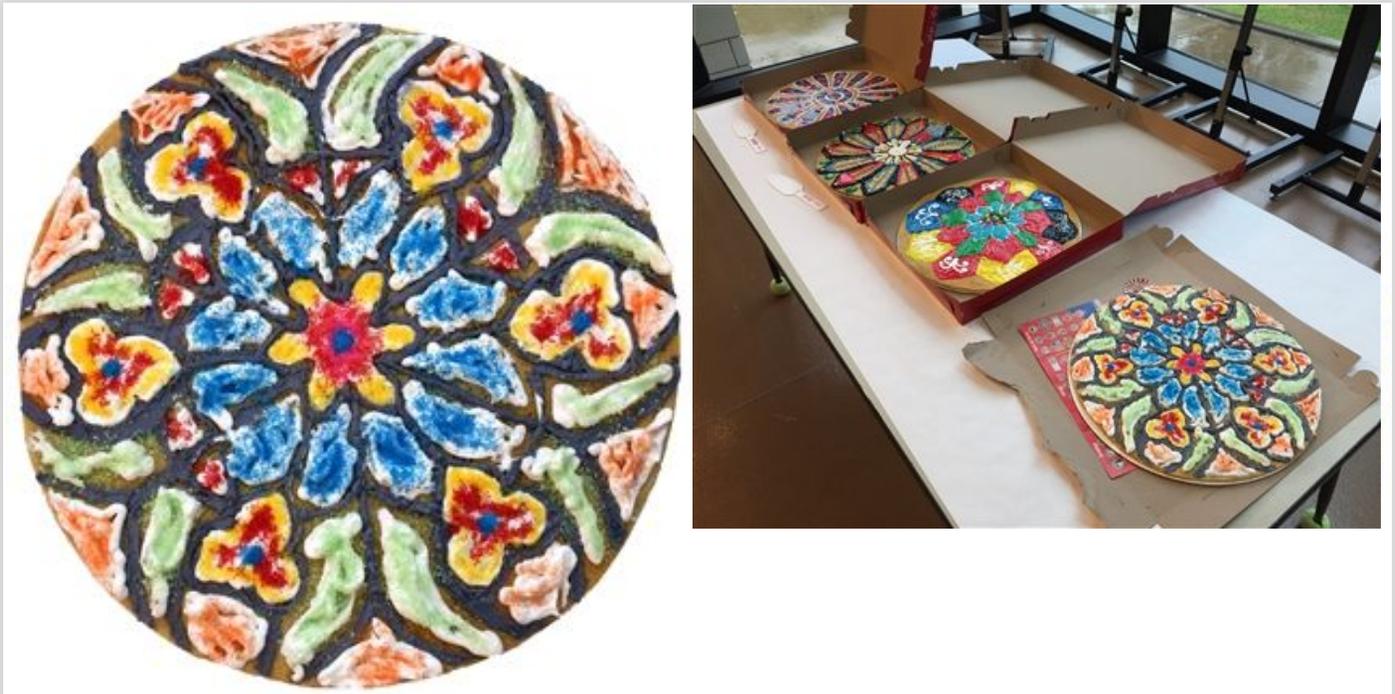
Taylor Womack '20 also immersed herself in the research. “I looked at hundreds of pictures of rose windows from different countries,” she shared. “I wanted to make sure [my window] was as accurate as possible. I learned that rose windows rarely depict roses, which both surprised and dismayed me. [M]any of them depict Bible characters.”

Cunningham said that this activity also can build community, since the students can choose to donate their cakes to different offices around campus. Last year, a cake was given to Plant Operations. This year, the Upper School faculty and Business Office received cakes.

This is not the only food-related activity that Cunningham does with her art history students. Students also study the evolution of Egyptian tombs and create cakes to look like different types of Egyptian tombs. **Megan Lammons** '19 likes working with food. “...it was different,” she said. “I liked the icing process because it made me be patient.”

In the end, Cunningham is promoting learning in a fun way. “Food feels less threatening than working with more traditional buildings materials. Plus, it’s always fun to eat the end result!” she said. **Taylor Womack** '20 agrees: “In all honesty, I most enjoyed eating the cookies. [D]ecorating came in a hard second. This was the best assignment we've done all year.”

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Fort Worth Country Day (FWCD) is a JK-12 private, independent, coeducational, nondenominational college-preparatory school located on approximately 100 acres in Fort Worth, Texas. The mission of Fort Worth Country Day School is to foster the intellectual, physical, emotional, and ethical development of capable students through an academically rigorous college preparatory program that integrates the arts and athletics.

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