**THE BIG BEARS / SUN BEARS AND ARTIST FRIDA KAHLO**

**Frida Kahlo** is our female artist of focus this month while our classroom focus is on getting to know ourselves, our classmates and our smaller community of WUNS. We read “Frida Kahlo and her Animalitos” by Monica Brown and John Parra. Another recommended Frida read, “Frida” by Jonah Winter and Ana Juan. Both children’s books are thoughtfully written for younger audiences, and both boast dazzling, colorful imagery! Our artistic focus was Portraiture and Self-Portrait, which Frida was well-known. Young artists took on color mixing with acrylic paints in Earth Tones to attempt recreating their own skin color/tone that would be an important element of their artwork. Ultimately, each Artist would create a Portrait of a friend or family member, along with a Self-Portrait of themselves. These works will be briefly be displayed in the classroom as a part of a larger exhibition of artworks (from the St. Louis Art Museum and beyond) that represent portraits and self-portraits.

*There are a couple of wonderful possibilities for our Pre-K students when seeing their work among notable past and present artists;*

- the opportunity to observe likenesses and differences in portraiture styles and depictions
- the opportunity to generate questions and conversations about the depiction of human beings.

**Frida’s Kahlo, Mexican Artist’s background:**
Kahlo was the third of four daughters born to a German Hungarian-Jewish father and a mother of Spanish and Mexican Indian descent. She did not originally plan to become an artist; rather, Kahlo, who was a polio survivor, entered a prestigious pre-medical program when she was 15. Three years later, Kahlo was gravely hurt in a bus accident. She spent more than a year in bed, recovering from multiple fractures.

The children’s books offer age-appropriate looks into Frida’s young and artistic life. She was passionate about making Art, and used it as a creative outlet and a calming strategy (which we have also been learning about in the classroom). The artwork will soon make its way home to you all! Enjoy!

Link: [https://nmwa.org/art/artists/frida-kahlo/](https://nmwa.org/art/artists/frida-kahlo/)