**The Element of Color**

**& Artist Frida Kahlo**

**Frida Kahlo** is our female focal artist this month, as well as the element of COLOR.

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 COLOR mixing, Portraiture and Self-Portraiture, for which Frida was well-known. Young artists took on color mixing with acrylic paints in Earth Tones to attempt re-creating 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.

**What your young Artist may observe through this creative activity...**
- 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 background:**
Frida 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.

**Supplies:**
- Watercolor paper
- Acrylic paints-earth tones
- Paint brushes
- Imagination

~ Ms. Suzy O. Frillman, Art Enrichment

**Link to further information about Frida Kahlo:** [https://nmwa.org/art/artists/frida-kahlo/](https://nmwa.org/art/artists/frida-kahlo/)