

Dear Parent or Guardian,

This week, we read a great book called *The Old House* by Pamela Duncan Edwards and discussed the importance of family and friendships. To celebrate our learning, each student created a photo frame to share as a gift for someone special in his or her life. To finish the gift, simply add a photo and help your child wrap and/or deliver the frame.

We explored a technique called crackle finish to give the frame a rustic look. This is a fun and easy technique that you can enjoy at home with your child with a few simple supplies:

- Elmer's® X-TREME School Glue™ or Elmer's® Glue-All
- An unpainted wooden frame, box, birdhouse, etc. (available at most craft stores)
- Acrylic paint (at least two colors with high contrast)
- Paint brushes

I encourage you to create your own crackle finish project together with your child. The directions are simple. To create the crackle finish look, begin by painting a base coat of acrylic and allow to dry thoroughly. Next, apply a generous amount of glue and use a paintbrush to spread the glue over the base coat. A thicker coat of glue will create larger cracks in the top coat of paint. A thinner coat of glue will create fine cracks. While the glue is still wet, apply the top coat of paint (a different color than the base coat). As the paint dries at a different rate than the glue, you'll begin to see cracks in the top coat where the base coat will show through.

There is an abundance of research that demonstrates the positive affects of parental involvement on student achievement and social and emotional growth. The most accurate predictor of a student's achievement in school is how the family supports learning at home. I hope you will embrace this opportunity and enjoy this fun learning activity together.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,