

Hi Mom and Dad,

Today the Art Parent came into our class and showed us our **Masterpiece of the Month...Snowflakes photographed by Wilson ("Snowflake") Bentley.**

First we talked about our favorite winter activities and shared details of what we like to do in the wintertime.

We learned about Wilson Alwyn Bentley (1865-1931), "The Snowflake Man" who was a skilled farmer, a self-educated scientist and an artist. As a young man, he discovered that every snowflake was its own masterpiece of design when viewed under a microscope.

Snowflake Bentley was home-schooled by his mother mostly due to the harsh winter climate in his small village of Jericho, in northern Vermont. There he developed a love of learning and discovery. In fact, he attracted the world's attention by adapting a microscope to a Bellows camera. After years of trial and error, he became the first person to photograph a single snow crystal in 1885. Because of his soulful work with snow crystals, he became affectionately known as "Snowflake Bentley."

We listened to a book about Snowflake Bentley and looked at collage which captures more than 400 of Wilson Bentley's snowflake images and illustrates how temperature and the amount of water vapor determines the shape of a snow crystal.

Then we got to cut out our own snowflakes, paste them in a sky and paint them with beautiful sparkly paint.

One nifty fact we learned is that when a snowflake melts, that design is lost forever. Each snowflake is as unique as a thumbprint. Snow even changes as it ages!

Then we listened to several fun poems about snowflakes before writing our own poems!

At the end of the presentation we acted out Five Little Snowflakes Sitting on A Gate, which was really fun.

P.S. Check it out. We can cut out snowflakes on line at <http://snowflakes.lookandfeel.com>

As me about Snowflake Bentley. I will have a lot to share.