**Grade 8 Visual ART Photography Assignment**

*You will be taking a range of photographs with a camera or your phone – or both.*

*Using your knowledge of design elements, you will capture a range of images which link in with each of the 7 following themes.*

*Using both the editing apps on your phone and Photoshop (or other editing programs you have access to), you will take and edit many photos along the way but will need to choose one final example for each of the headings below and present in an exhibition at the end of term:*

**Up Close**

I encourage you to get close and personal with your subject. It is an exercise in viewing a common object in a new way and examining its finer details.

* Choose an object that you see or interact with every day.
* Focus on a small part of it, get as close as your camera will allow you to focus and shoot away. Try to capture different angles and unusual lighting to add to the mystery of this tiny world.

From the whiskers of your cat to soap bubbles, there is an entire world that we often overlook because we don't get close enough.

**Motion**

Photography is a static medium which means that it doesn't move. Conveying a sense of motion is often crucial to capturing a scene or emotion and it is an essential skill for photographers to practice.

The goal of this exercise is to understand how shutter speeds can be used to convey motion.

* Choose a subject or series of subjects that will allow you to convey motion in your images.
* It can be slow motions like that of a turtle or fast motion like a speeding car.
* Blur it, stop it, or simply ***suggest*** that there is motion in the photograph.

Challenge yourself to capture the same motion in different ways. For instance, you might stand on the side of the road and stop the movement of the cars completely in one image, then change the setting on your camera/phone and blur out the car in the frame in the next. 

**Shadows**

Shadows are everywhere and they are vital to photography because this is the art of capturing light. With light comes shadows and when you begin to look at shadows as a photographer, your world will open up.

* Take a look around for shadows and record them with your camera.
* You could show the shadow as the total focus of the image. Or perhaps the shadow is incidental to the subject.
* Is the shadow natural, a set up lamp or light or perhaps created by flash?

Shadows are integral to creating depth in a two-dimensional medium such as photography. Take some time to seriously explore the "dark side" of the light.

**Water**

Water is everywhere in photography and it presents many challenges. There are reflections and movements to work with and in this exercise, you will take a deeper look at water.

* Find water anywhere it is around you: lakes, puddles, even the glass on your kitchen table.
* Pay attention to reflections and use them to your advantage in the photographs. Use this opportunity to get familiar with a polarising filter (check in your settings or later in Photoshop) so you can accentuate or eliminate reflections.
* Play with the motion of a stream or the crashing waves. Notice the difference between stopping the flow of water and allowing it to blur to create a real sense of movement.

Be sure to **make water the subject** and not an accent to the image. Water alone is beautiful and mysterious and your challenge is to explore all of its potential as a subject.

**Texture**

You may have captured a few textural details in the 'Up Close' assignment, but this assignment takes that to the next level. The goal in this one is to study textures and forget about the object itself: the texture becomes the subject. You will also begin to realize how light affects the appearance of texture.

* Find a few objects that have very detailed textures like trees or rocks, even knit sweaters or woven rugs.
* Photograph them as close as your lens will allow.
* Use different angles and capture the same texture as the light changes. Notice how the different lighting directions and camera angles can change how much texture appears.

Textures are all around us and many of the best photographs in the world play up the textural element. This assignment should teach you how to recognize and accentuate those elements in your photos.

**Colour**

Colour is important to photography because the world is full of colour. This exercise requires a bit of study in colour theory, which you will then put into practice in your photographs.

Do you remember art class in elementary school? You may have learned that yellow and blue make green, but colour theory goes beyond that. There are cool and warm colours and complementary colours.

* Capture photographs with the primary or secondary colours.
* Look for complementary colours.

**Emotions**

Emotions, that's easy! Just take a photo of a person smiling! Not so. The intent of this assignment is to convey emotion in photographs *without* a face (that includes your dog).

* Take photographs that express each of the basic emotions: happy, sad, and mad.
* How would you express the feeling of anger with no person? What about happiness? Sadness?

It is important to be able to relay emotion in your photographs and you might not always have a person available to do that with. Challenge yourself to think deeper about this one.