

This is Ms. Susan from the Shorewood Public Library. This week I had a big idea for our art project and it will go right on top of a pencil. You can use your pencil to write down more big ideas. This will be a fun project for family or others in the home to join in. Some adult help may be needed. It will be a project to practice a little bit of patience because it will not be complete in a short amount of time or one sitting. Often, art, like ideas, takes a little time to become an amazing final project.



1- Blow up the balloon to the size of a small baseball. Cut off the very rolled end of the balloon. Insert the pencil into the end of the balloon and secure with tape or rubber band. Cut multiple, long strips from a newspaper, magazine, or recycled paper. You can set the balloon on a cup or bowl to steady.

2- Then mix the flour in a bowl with a small amount of water until it is smooth and thinner than cake batter. This will make the paste for your Papier-Mache pencil topper. When the water from the mix evaporates it leaves a dry paste. Take one strip and dip the entire piece in the paste and then place on the balloon. Smooth down any edges. Keep dipping and pasting until the whole balloon is covered. Make sure to lay down strips onto the part of the balloon that covers the pencil. Set the balloon on top of the bowl or glass to hold it upright while it dries. It will become heavy as you put on more strips.

3- Let the first layer dry completely before adding another layer. You will be able to use the same bowl of paste, as long as you cover it while waiting to add the second layer. After adding extra layers and the ball is completely dry, you can pop the balloon with a pin. Place the ball on the pencil, color, paint or decorate, and sharpen the pencil to make the whole project your very own idea!

Be well – happy creating!

Ms. Susan