

BRAVO!! Times

April 2005



Julie's Super Vision

As spring arrives, so do spring concerts, festivals, and art shows! The love of arts follows all seasons.

In the past two months, we've held our district's own choir, band and orchestra festivals that you can view on Channel 27. The talents of our middle and high school students are evident! What a satisfying feeling to know our momentum is going forward to produce high quality music experiences. These will be annual festivals from now on and the talent will continue to rise as we learn and grow and insist on excellence.

The GRPS Art Show will run from May 24—June 5 at the Grand Rapids Art Museum again this year. Last year over 800 people attended the opening and we expect over 1,000 this year. The Art Show showcases the artwork of hundreds of students grades K-12 in every school. Several community members called last year to tell me how impressed they were with our students' talents.

As budgets remain tight and our school district faces many cuts, I am thankful to be part of a system that values the arts. Bert Bleke has decided not to cut art or music for the 2005-06 school year, when frankly, most superintendents and boards would eliminate arts programs first. The reason that our arts programs thrive in GRPS is because of leadership from above and community support. Thank you to all of our partnering arts organizations who help us prepare our students to be part of the arts in so many venues, and who appeal to our sense of humanity and culture that keeps our lives in balance.

Julie Powell

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News From Our Schools

Creston's Trumpet Trio Gets Top Rating

Creston High School's Trumpet Trio, Anne Van Dyke, Shawn Teza, and Jordan Klein received a Division I rating at the MSBOA State Solo and Ensemble Festival on March 19, at Hudsonville High School.

For those who may not be familiar with what it means to go to a State Festival, you should know that these students are required to perform in front of a panel of judges. The judges rate the group on a long list of criteria, including tone, pitch, rhythm and interpretation of the music. I guess you might say the process is somewhat like the TV show, *American Idol*—roughly speaking. Although you won't find Simon on this panel of judges, the pressure to perform is still very real, and more than a little nerve racking. Scores or "Ratings" from I to IV are given to the musicians based on their performance, a Division I rating being the best. Congratulations, Creston Trumpet Trio!

Suzuki Strings Visit SWCC

Southwest Community Campus was proud to host the Grand Rapids Community College Suzuki Strings on March 18. The group was made up of approximately 20 young violin players, ages 5—11, under the direction of teachers, Cassandra Kroondyk and Sheri Richards. These fabulous violin experts train their students in the Suzuki Method.

What is the Suzuki Method? Dr. Suzuki teaches that the best and most effective way to learn music is to expose children to it at an early age. The idea is that youngsters can learn to play an instrument in the same way they learn to speak a language...by listening, absorbing, and copying. Pupils begin learning to play the music by ear. Just like infants are not expected to know how to read a book,



Creston Trumpet (from left to right) Anne VanDyke, Shawn Teza, Jordan Klein. Photo courtesy of band and orchestra teacher, Keith Westmoreland.

these children are not expected to read music until later.

The Suzuki Method is a philosophy that promotes "Talent Education." In other words, the belief is that certain people are not "gifted." Instead every child has unending potential that can be developed with the proper nurturing and exposure. In fact, music is believed to create emotional and spiritual growth in a child. Students who are a part of the GRCC Suzuki Strings receive one group lesson, and one in-

dividual lesson each week. During the assembly, it was amazing to watch and listen as the GRCC Suzuki Strings performed pieces that ranged from the traditional sound of classical music to the bouncy tunes of a spirited jig. Even though the players looked so incredibly young, their sound quality seemed unbelievably rich and mature. SWCC was proud to have one of their very own students, Simeln Richards, as a member of the Suzuki Players.

Grossology It's Not So Bad!

Alger Elementary School students spent the day at the Van Andel Museum taking in the sights, sounds and yes, odors of "Grossology." Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Graders learned the origin and function of many body parts and processes through visual, olfactory, and aural experiences. Who knew we would get to create a new composition using natural body sounds as musical pitches?!?

Students, Parents, GRPS Administration, Faculty and Staff enjoyed the day together, taking with them the desire to use a Kleenex, and wash their hands more often. All students agreed they had a great time together, getting to know their friends more, meet new people, and learn so much in one afternoon...especially since "it was really gross!"

Music Madness at Jefferson

Jefferson Elementary School hosted a "Music Madness Symbol Contest" during the early part of March. Second through sixth grades participated. The students had to draw or design a picture using music symbols, and put on the back of their picture the name of the symbols they used to create their drawing. Each student received a composer statue of their choice. Winning students are pictured in the photograph to the right that was sent by music teacher, Linda Summey.



Jefferson School—Music Madness Symbol Contest winners. Photo courtesy of music teacher, Linda Summey



The Fine Arts Department will be hosting the 5th Annual Golf For the Arts Tournament on Friday, June 17, 2005. The goal is to provide a fun golf tournament for participants and have all the proceeds directly benefit children who will use the money for things like musical instruments, special art projects and cultural field trips.

Check-in begins on June 17th from 8:15 - 9:00 AM at the Cedar Chase Golf Course in Cedar Springs. There will be a brief informational meeting beginning at 9:30 AM.

The cost of the tournament is \$65 per player which is due to Julie Powell at Franklin Campus on or before June 13, 2003. The price includes 18 holes of golf, snacks, and a wonderful steak luncheon following play. Please submit payment by cash or check only to "GRPS Golf for the Arts". All proceeds will be used to supplement art and music programs for kids.

A fabulous selection of gifts will be awarded to tournament winners for the men's, women's, and co-ed division. More awards will be presented to specialty hole winners. Raffle tickets and a silent auction will be available for purchase for additional prizes.

The format for the tournament is made up of three divisions: Men's, Women's, and Co-ed. This is a four-person scramble - any combination of players. A beverage cart is available on the course for purchase.

Can you think of anything better than a relaxing afternoon of golf amongst friends? You can't...So come on, and join us on June 17th at the Cedar Chase Golf Course!

Call 819-2156 with any questions.

Blandford Rocks at River City

Sixty students from the Blandford Environmental School traveled to River City Studios to learn about the recording business first hand, and to record their own track. Everyone sang on the choruses of "We Are The World" and five soloists each sang a verse and the bridge. Music teacher, Wright McCargar has recorded commercial jingles and CD's at the studio for twenty-five years, and his brother Joe McCargar donated the studio time and engineered the session. Copies of the final CD will be included in each of the students memory book at the end of the year.



Blandford Environmental Students record at River City Studios with teacher, Wright McCargar.



Arts Advocates

Please join us from 6:45—8:00 PM for the next Arts Advocates meeting on Wednesday, April 13, at Franklin Campus Fine Arts Department, located inside the Grand Rapids Public Schools Administration Building, at 1331 Franklin SE.

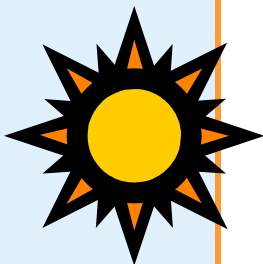
Arts Advocates is a group of parents and teachers who are concerned about maintaining and building the arts (art, music, drama programs) in the Grand Rapids Public Schools. If, this is important to you as well, please join us at our next meeting.

There are plans to revisit the groups' original goals and to discuss the future structure and purpose of Arts Advocates. Please do not miss this very important conversation that will be instrumental in shaping the way Arts Advocates matures and grows within the GRPS district.

Summer Music Opportunities

Knollcrest Music Camp at Calvin College is now accepting applications for the summer 2005 season. Dates for the camp are: August 1-5 (for students entering grades 7-8) and August 8-12 (for students entering grades 9-12). Offerings include concert band, jazz band, orchestra, choir, musical theater, and a variety of other music classes. Camp runs daily from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and include a final performance on Friday night. For applications, please call (616) 526-7145 or e-mail musiccamp@calvin.edu.

You may also register online at <http://www.calvin.edu/academic/music/musiccamp/>.



Strut Your Stuff Palmer

Members of the Palmer Elementary School Choir have submitted their entry into the state-wide "Strut Your Stuff" competition sponsored by Family Fare Stores. To qualify the choir had to record an original version of the Family Fare jingle. Instrumental tracks were created by director Wright McCargar, vocals were sung at school and the track was mixed at River City Studios. Students learned how a commercial jingle is created, how vocal tracks are recorded into a computer music program, and how the finished product sounds after the mix-down process. The results of the competition will not be known until April. Best of luck to the choir on winning the \$5,000.00 grand prize.

Art Teacher Recognized

Each year the Michigan Education Association and the Michigan Art Education Association announce their annual purchase exhibit to acquire artwork for the enhancement of the MEA headquarters in East Lansing and MEA regional and Uniserv Offices throughout the state. This exhibit provides an opportunity to showcase the artwork of Michigan education personnel.

GRPS art teacher, Karen Haight, was one of the participants whose artwork was selected. Karen's entry was a ceramic sculpture called "Tree of Life." We congratulate Karen on this noteworthy honor. Karen teaches at Ken-O-Sha, Sibley and East Leonard Schools

Burton Trip

Seventh and eighth grade students at Burton Middle School are taking a trip to Federik Meijer Gardens Sculpture Park to view the Henry Moore Exhibit on April 28. The students will arrive at 9:30 AM for an hour long, guided tour of the *Imaginary Landscapes* exhibit. Later students will have the opportunity to get outdoors to visit and observe the sculptures that are nestled throughout the sprawling garden park. Students will return to school at 1:30 PM, to begin thinking and planning their own sculpture projects.

Fantastic Festivals

For the first time, in February and March 2005, the GRPS Fine Arts Department hosted its own Band, Orchestra, and Choir Festivals. Official judges were hired to assess the musical selections and offer "Clinics" to help improve the quality of the performance. Band and Orchestra held their festival at the Forest Hills Performing Arts Center, while Choir sang at Trinity United Methodist Church on Lake Drive.

The festivals were a great experience for students and teachers alike, and will now become annual events. The planning and preparation required for festival performances, raises the bar for standards of excellence that will move our music program into a more competitive spot at state festivals.

An A.C.E. High Update *by Caitlin Gedris, ACE Student Editorial Contact*

It might look easy from the spectator's view, all those artsy things that the students work on at ACE. Recently at the Arts, Communications and Entertainment School within Union High, a fashion show has been put together, after-school guitar lessons have been started, and there has been talk of a radio class for the next school year. It sounds like simple fun stuff, and of course there is plenty of that mixed in, but there is also a lot of hard work pouring into the program from many students and staff members.

The great thing is, Union has plenty of things to brag about these days. Whether it is the intimate smallness of the school, its emphasis on the arts, or a combination, something went very right.

By the time the school rock band stepped in front of the audience for their fashion show performance, they had already played their songs about a million times on that stage to practice. The Ace Invaders play electric guitars and sing their souls out for a report card grade, as fantastical as that sounds.

They played in front of 1,500 people in the "Pure Passion for Fashion" show, as models from Union strutted flawlessly to the music. The drama department was also involved in the event, with three skits on the topic of modesty and abstinence.

Maria Macavie, a backup singer in the Ace Invaders, had only sweet things to say about her experience in the show. "It was quite exciting and I had a wonderful time," she said matter-of-factly.

The one person that is "Stress in the Flesh" at Ace High has got to be Mr. Chad Williams. He is in charge of coordinating all the events at ACE, and is frequently summoned from place to place, (and is probably often requested to be three places at once). Recently he created a guitar club that meets on Fridays. Members get a brand new instrument to borrow, and loads of musical equipment to use. They also get affordable lessons by Dan Medawar, a professional guitarist. As a member of that guitar club,

I feel the need to say a public thank-you to both of these guys. There has been talk of more instrument clubs for next school year, including the drums.

Union has just recently started its own AM radio station. It is known to play lots of traditional Latin music. Next year, the students will take some control of the airwaves. This is a big leap for the "Communications" part of ACE.

Any visitor to Union High school is destined to be pulled into a tour by a proud teacher, or two, who is itching to explain in graphic detail, the successes of the ACE High students. Be warned: there is no plausible way to roam the arts wing on the school and not find yourself in such a tour. The great thing is, Union has plenty of things to brag about these days. Whether it is the intimate smallness of the school, its emphasis on the arts, or a combination, something is going very right.

Burton Middle Turning the Tables on Mosaics



What do you do with old, broken tables that are no longer usable? Throw them away? NEVER, according to art teacher, Joanne Perko who recently had a reception to unveil six extraordinarily beautiful mosaics that were designed and created by Burton Middle School students.

The kids began the project by researching the diverse cultural heritages represented by the students who attend Burton Middle. This led them to identify symbols that embrace and depict the people of Latin, African, European and Native American descent. The results were six tables from these multi-cultural influences: Mayan, Aztec, African, Native American and American Folk Art.

The cost of the project was funded through a grant from the Arts Council of Greater Grand Rapids. The finished pieces are a part of Burton's permanent gallery collection and can be seen hanging in the cafeteria. What better place for a table top?!!!

Superintendent, Burt Bleke took time out of his busy schedule to attend the reception and to listen to the student presentations that explained these beautiful, and priceless works of art.

Mosaics at Burton Middle, created from old tables under the direction of art teacher, Joanne Perko. Bottom left students, Robert Rogers & Raymond Delacruz: Bottom Right, Superintendent, Bert Bleke admiring the finished works of art.

Arts Calendar Spring 2005

Wed., April 13	6:45 PM	Arts Advocates Mtg. At Franklin Campus
Thurs., April 14	7:00 PM	Fountain Vocal Concert at Central HS Auditorium
Mon., April 18	4:00—5:00 PM	Music Staff Mtg. At Hillcrest
Tues., April 19	7:00 PM	Eastern Vocal Concert at Frederik Meijer Gardens
Thurs., April 21	7:00 PM	Creston Spring Concert
	7:00 PM	Aberdeen Elementary Vocal Program in Gym
Mon., May 2	4:00—5:00 PM	Art Staff Mtg. At Hillcrest
Fri., May 6	1:30 PM	Sibley Vocal Program
Tues., May 10	7:00 PM	Westwood Spring Music Concert
Fri., May 13	2:00 & 7:00 PM	Coit Spring Vocal Program— A Disney Spectacular & Oliver Meets Annie
Mon., May 16	4:00—5:00 PM	Music Staff Mtg. At Hillcrest
Thurs., May 19	10:00 AM	Alexander Vocal Program
	1:30 PM	Madison Vocal Spring Concert
Mon., May 23	7:00 PM	Shawmut Hills Vocal Concert at Creston High School Auditorium
Tues., May 24	All Day	Art Show Installation—Art Teachers Only
	6:30 PM	North Park/Wellerwood Vocal Music Concert
Wed., May 25	6:00—8:00 PM	Student Art Show Reception at the Grand Rapids Art Museum
Fri., May 27	10:15 AM	Jefferson Elementary Spring Concert
Fri., June 3	12:45 PM	Ottawa Hills HS Salt and Pepper Chorale at Festival of the Arts “City Stage”
	1:15 PM	City High Jazz Band “Jazz Express” at Festival of the Arts “Circle Stage”
	2:45 PM	Central HS Concert Choir at Festival of the Arts “Calder Stage”
	5:00 PM	Creston Chorale at Festival of the Arts “Circle Stage”
	6:30 PM	Honeytones (with Arts Advocates Friend, Charlie Honey) at Festival of the Arts “ Clock Tower Stage”
Mon., June 6		Take Down Art Show Exhibits—Art Teachers Only
		Professional Development Day for Staff
Mon., June 6		Take Down Art Show Exhibit—Art Teachers Only
		Professional Development Day for Staff
Thurs., June 9		Last Day of School for Students
Fri., June 10		Professional Development Day for Staff
Fri., June 17	8:15 AM	Golf for the Arts, Cedar Chase Golf Course, Cedar Springs

Please notify the Fine Arts Office at 819-2156 with any additions, deletions or corrections.

Fishing for Fun At the Fishladder

3:29 a.m. EPHIPHANY
April 8 and 9 at Park Theatre
in Holland, MI
248 South River Avenue
Show starts at 7:30 p.m.

For two nights only, this original comedy cabaret examines what happens when the ideas you get in the middle of the night are not so brilliant the next morning. Mary Jane will be accompanied by Sean Ivory, a world-renowned pianist and composer. Why a talent of this caliber agrees to join her is a mystery only the show can answer. Surprise guests join us throughout the evening but we can't ruin the surprise and tell you who they are.

For tickets and directions, please call 616.355.PARK or visit www.parktheatre.org <<http://www.parktheatre.org>>

SPRING IMPROV INTENSIVE
Tuesdays, April 26,
May 10 and May 3
Times: 7-10 p.m.

Place: Fishladder Training and Performance Center
Space is limited.

During these three sessions, the participant will have the opportunity to experience the amazingly playful world of improvisation by exploring the fundamental tools of listening, give and take, agreement, trust and ensemble building. Participants testify to their improved abilities in communication, teamwork, and creativity in the workplace and beyond.

For registration, call 616.458.2476 or respond to this e-mail.



Community Arty -Facts



First grade students from Coit Creative Arts Academy experience the En mi familia exhibit at the GR Children's Museum.

Welcome to the Family at the Children's Museum

Where can you go to a birthday party, a late-night dance and inside an artist's studio all in one day? At the Grand Rapids Children's Museum's newest exhibit: In My Family/En mi familia. Inspired by the work of renowned Mexican American artist, Carmen Lomas Garza, this exhibit invites visitors to become "part of the art" as they enter interactive life-size vignettes based on her paintings. Exhibit highlights include:

- **Climb into Carmen's World**—Learn about the famous artist & author
- **La Tamalada**—Learn how to make tamales from the experts.
- **Dance At El Jardin**—learn real dance moves as you watch a video of conjunto music.
- **Birthday Barbecue**—Fill a *piñata* with treats and collect them as they spill out.
- **Storytelling Kiosk**—Record a video and share your family story.
- **Artist's Studio**—Watch a video of Carmen demonstrating how to make a *papel picado* and giving a tour of her art studio

This exhibit is open until May 7. Call the museum at 235-4726 for admission details or visit them on the Web at www.grcm.org for detailed information.

This year the Fine Arts Department, in partnership with the Grand Rapids Children's Museum, provided all first grade classrooms in the district the opportunity to visit and enjoy this exhibit. It is the beginning of a new tradition for first grade students that will continue for years to come. In the photograph above, the oh so cute first graders from Coit Creative Arts Academy discover all of the fun activities waiting for them at the Grand Rapids Children's Museum.

Gallery Stroll



"Sky Studies With Trees" by Lincoln Campus Students. They studied a variety of skies: night skies, rainbow skies, sunset skies and story skies, then created their own with paint. Art teacher, Elaine Dalcher



Far left, "Heron" Ink and watercolor by Joline Dreyer from City High School (11th gr.)



Left, "Cartouche" by Cally Willette, 9th Gr. City High School Student

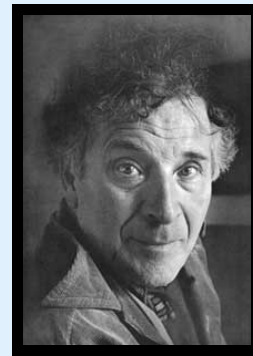
City Art Teacher, Katherine Block



Above, watercolor by Brad from Shawmut Elementary Teacher, Nancy VanRooy

"How Does Your Garden Grow?" by a student at Hall Elementary School. Teacher, Lois Ege

Artists' Corner



Learn about this Famous Artist...
Marc Chagall
 Born: July 7, 1887,
 Place: Vitebsk, Belarus
 Death: March 28, 1985

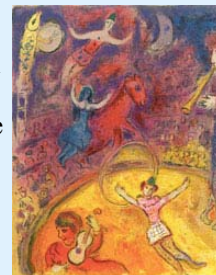
Like many artists, Marc Chagall was at odds with the century in which he lived. His heritage and experiences as a Russian-born Jew resurfaced again and again



like laughter through tears through his artwork. Despite his personal and social conflicts, Chagall has a secure spot in history as one of

the most critically acclaimed artists of the ages.

Chagall seduced the viewer with his passionate use of color and illogical imagery. Cubism, Futurism, and other art movements of his time, both shocked and revealed themselves to Chagall. His mature, but often playful style, caused him to be associated with the Surrealists (a label he adamantly denounced).



In addition to painting, Marc Chagall's influences included book illustration, set and costume design, murals, lithography and some truly dazzling stained glass windows. The range and quality of his work is a testament to his incomprehensible genius. It is said he came into the world each morning "To see life afresh each day."

Musical Notes



Though Ludwig van Beethoven was moody and touted an unpredictable temper, he was a relentless self-critic who had unending patience for writing and rewriting his material until it satisfied him. Ludwig's father was well known at the local taverns, so when little Ludwig showed musical talent, his father became ambitious for his son's career. He saw in Ludwig the chance to profit from his talents, and began him in lessons on piano and violin when he was five years old.

Later, Ludwig became an organist at the Bonn Cathedral. Beethoven's composing ability and talent earned the notice of wealthy and influential patrons. He became a student of Joseph Haydn. Haydn was looked upon as one of the greatest composers of his age. During these formative years in Vienna, he composed many pieces of music: *Moonlight* and *Pastorale* sonatas, concertos for piano, the First and Second Symphonies, the Third Symphony, and many other fine works. To Beethoven, music was poetry.

In 1801, disaster struck. Beethoven was losing his ability to hear. Even as deafness descended, he continued to write the music that filled his soul and mind. As his condition worsened, Beethoven became more and more irritable and difficult, but still managed to maintain relationships with many of his powerful and influential friends. By 1819, he was totally deaf and so never heard the beautiful scores of some of his greatest works. At the opening performance of his Ninth Symphony, he sat staring at the orchestra until someone pulled his sleeve. He realized the whole audience was applauding wildly. Death came to Beethoven in Vienna on March 20, 1827.



Master Arts Theatre

Still looking for ideas to make literature, social studies, history, and theater come alive for your students? Master Arts Theatre has an upcoming show, which can stimulate class discussion and catch the attention of your students.

Don't miss Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. "Two households, both alike in dignity, In fair Verona, where we lay our scene." (Prologue to *Romeo and Juliet*) Thus begins the romantic tragedy of two young lovers, probably the most studied play that Shakespeare ever wrote. The performances will run April 14 - 30, 2005. Show times are Thurs., Fri., & Sat. at 7:30 PM and Sat. matinees at 2:00 PM.

Master Arts is located at 75 Vee Street SW, (off Division Ave., two short blocks South of 76th St.). Tickets are \$13 for adults and \$11 for students & senior citizens. All seats reserved. Call (616) 455-1001 or (800) 455-5003 for reservations or information. Call for group discounts for groups over 20. There is a limited possibility of specially scheduled daytime matinees for large groups.

Henry Moore Exhibit

Don't miss the Henry Moore Exhibit—"Imaginary Landscapes," now open for your viewing pleasure at Fredrik Meijer Gardens, located at I-96 and the Beltline. The Exhibit is open until May 8. Visit the Gardens at meijergardens.org or call 888-957-1580 for more information.

Music Trivia

Many works of classical music have nicknames provided either by the composer or someone else. Shown below are the proper names, see if you can guess the nickname.

1. Piano Sonata No. 14 by Beethoven
2. Waltz in D Flat Major, Opus 64, No. 1 by Chopin
3. Symphony No. 41 in C Major by Mozart

Answers:
1. Moonlight 2. Minute 3. Jupiter

Art Trivia

She was born in London in 1931 and while a leading exponent of Op Art, her work has to some extent been overshadowed by that of Victor Vasarely. Who is she?

- Germaine Greer
- Tracey Emin
- Bridget Riley
- Barbara Hepworth

Answer: Bridget Riley