

BRAVO!! Times

A Publication of the Grand Rapids Public Schools Art, Music and Physical Education Office

December 2006



Julie's Super Vision

Supervisor
Grand Rapids Public Schools
Fine Arts & Physical Education Department

As the holidays near and the spirit of giving is in the soul, realize that if you are looking for a way to give to the arts, there are many wonderful ways. A donation to the "GRPS Fine Arts Department" is a good way to help classrooms directly. We would provide you with a tax write-off and assurance that 100% of that donation would go directly to serving students. If you'd like to help a specific school, you could send a gift card from Michaels, Service Reproduction, Meyer Music, or RIT Music directly to the teacher at the school. You could become a business sponsor (in any amount) of the Arts Jam - a completely volunteer event in its 6th year this February. Sponsors get recognition in our program and media materials.

We are proud of so many things we do - holiday music concerts occurring at most of our schools this month, the fall Mona Lease a Art project where businesses support student artwork, our upcoming Arts Jam in February, our city-wide jump rope competition, all the PE teachers who attended the state conference to learn the latest PE techniques, and all of our teachers who have written grants to add special materials or spark to our classrooms.

We are thankful for all of our many business partners who show their generosity to our students and staff in many ways - the Arts Advocates, Frederik Meijer Gardens, the Arts Council, the Symphony, the GR Ballet, Civic Theater, WMCAT, the Art Museum, the Children's Museum, the YMCA, GVSU Movement Science Department, Calvin College, Perimeter Frames and all others who find it in their heart to help.

Have a blessed holiday.

Julie



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GRPS Fine Arts & Physical Ed. Dept.
1331 Franklin SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506
Phone: 616.819.2156
Fax: 616.819.2180
Julie Powell, Supervisor
Email: powellj@grps.k12.mi.us
Alesia Albin, Assistant
Email: albina@grps.k12.mi.us
Website Address:
www.grps.k12.mi.us/finearts
BRAVO!! Arrangement by Alesia Albin.



Synthandria Stockwell from Covell proudly poses next to her artwork. Synthandria's art teacher is Nancy VanRooy.

Mona Lease-a Art

Mona Lease-a Art recently concluded its second year in existence, and is gearing up for the next round of Mona Lease-a Artists.

Mona Lease-a Art is a student artwork lease program. One piece of student art work is selected by the art teacher at each GRPS school, grades K—12. The chosen art is sent to a professional to be framed and matted. The beautifully finished piece is then offered to community businesses for a one year lease agreement. At the end of the one year lease period, the art work is returned to the artist to keep forever. Each piece is leased for \$125.00; the money earned from the lease, is used to frame and mat the next year's work, making this a self sustaining program.

Student Artists for the 2006/07 season were honored at a private reception on Wednesday, October 25 at Coit Elementary School. Each honoree received a \$10 gift certificate to Michael's Arts & Crafts to continue their creative interests. Family and friends perused the exhibit and enjoyed seeing all of the finished pieces before local businesses picked up their leased artwork for the upcoming year. Many art instructors were in attendance at the reception to celebrate the evening with the students and their families, and to reinforce pride and encouragement in the accomplishment.

There are still some selections of Mona Lease-a Artwork available for lease. If you, or someone you know is interested in supporting this program, please call the Fine Arts/PE office at 819-2156. The money from each lease provides the funding for another student to have a framed and matted piece of artwork. Supporters not only get to enjoy the art for a whole year, but they share a gift with students when it is finished. The art serves as a memento of GRPS, a reminder of personal talent and interest, accomplishment in school, recognition and involvement by the community, motivation to do more, pride in self, and becomes a permanent part of the student's personal art collection.

Art Clubs

Students at Stocking and Aberdeen will be starting art clubs in December. Two students from each class were picked by their enthusiasm of the arts and willingness to forego recess once a week to embark on a creative journey. These students will be creating murals to beautify the halls, assisting in displaying art work, and deciding on various projects to enhance the visual design of the school. Look forward to pictures of completed works and hard working students in upcoming issues of the BRAVO Times.

You Art What You Eat

At Southwest Community Campus grade 3 has been studying the origin of paper. They illustrated using crayon and water color, characters from a book depicting the story. They are now preparing to make their own paper. The art teacher at SWCC, Karen Williams, is involved with the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, an organization created to combat childhood obesity and the problems it causes. Grade 7 students made small clay figures showing people doing some form of exercise. These will be permanently displayed on a wall hanging to remind students the importance of physical activity to keep bodies healthy.

C.A. Frost-y Pumpkin Patch

The C. A. Frost seventh and eighth grade sculpture class designed Halloween pumpkins for the Grand Rapids Veterans' home. They were painted in black and white acrylic paint. Approximately twenty pumpkins were contributed by local growers and were delivered to the community room at the home. The veterans were very interested and excited to have them and had many questions and comments.



CA Frost Art Teacher at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans on Monroe Ave.

News From Our Schools



Creston High Marches in the annual Grand Rapids Santa Claus Parade on November 18.

Creston Polar Bear Band Chill-in & Thrill-in

By Keith Westmoreland, Band Director

Thousands of Grand Rapids area children gathered with their families to watch the annual Grand Rapids Children's Christmas Parade Saturday, November 18th. The event, organized by the Grand Rapids Jaycees and sponsored by Independent Bank, gives an opportunity for bands like the Polar Bears to march through downtown Grand Rapids and kick off the holiday season. "Our kids always like this parade," says Creston Band Director, Keith Westmoreland. "They love to see the children's eyes light up with excitement as they anticipate the arrival of Santa Claus."



Polar Bear Marching Band at Lowell 12/2/06.

The Creston Band completed their Christmas parade schedule for 2006 after marching through downtown Lowell, Michigan. Hundreds were on hand as the Polar Bears lived up to their namesake and marched in the freezing temperatures of West Michigan's first major snow fall of the season. "We got a snow day on Friday, but the kids were ready to gather early on Saturday to march in Lowell," said director Keith Westmoreland. This was Creston's first appearance in the annual Lowell Christmas Parade since Mr. Westmoreland took over the band program at Creston six years ago.

The Next Arts Advocates Meeting is Wednesday, January 10, at 6:45 PM at the Franklin Campus in Conference Rm. 101. You're Invited!

Sounds of Success

On Tuesday evening, November 28, 2006, Eastern Elementary K-5 presented their annual holiday concert "Sounds of Success." The beautiful decorations



and setting at the Frederik Meijer Gardens was the perfect stage for this moving performance.



Eastern Elementary K-5 perform "Sound of Success" at Frederik Meijer Gardens on Nov. 28.

The event was very well attended by students, parents, families and friends. Approximately 400 people were present to hear the music of Eastern students. Their performance was full of excitement, cheer and enthusiasm.

GREAT JOB Eastern Students!!! A special thank you to teachers and staff for all their hard work. Truly this is the "Good News of Grand Rapids Public Schools!"

Blessings—Shalom,
Mrs. Larson,
Eastern El. Music Teacher

An Arctic Journey

A performance of
Modern Dance about the
Canadian Arctic

At
SPECTRUM THEATRE
Grand Rapids Community College
February 9 & 10 at 7:30 PM
Seniors & Students—\$5
Adults—\$10
Box Office 616.234.3946

Arctic Journey tells the story of the Inuit survival in the Canadian Arctic. It has been created and choreographed by Ms. Elizabeth Kilbourne & Dr. John Kilbourne. The evening length work is performed by dancers from the Grand Rapids area. It is made possible by the Grand Rapids Public Schools, Grand Rapids Community College, GVSU—Padnos International Center, and the Canadian Consulate of Detroit.

MidWest Fest

Each year students and teachers are treated to a multi-cultural musical experience absolutely free of charge. GRPS is able to enjoy various music groups from around the globe courtesy of a grant through Grand Valley State University. Transportation is provided by the Student Advancement Foundation.

This year's group, *Ilays*, was a Somalia group that shares its culture in an energetic mix of music, poetry, dance, and stories drawing from traditional as well as more contemporary Somali culture. The ensemble included writers, dancers, actors, singers, and instrumental musicians. *Ilays* works to build cultural and artistic bridges between communities to foster greater social awareness, understanding, and a culture of peace. More than 1500 students shared the music during two performances held at Ottawa Hills High School on November 6th. Several GRPS students who came to our district from the continent of Africa were invited on stage to model their beautiful clothing that complimented the traditional garb worn by the musicians.



Ilays, Multicultural Somalia Musician entertain students at OHHS with song, dance and stories. Students from GRPS were invited on stage to participate in the music.



Students from KEC Oakleigh and Mr. Hyyser's class at North Park with music teacher, Obe VanderTol.

Sing-along Camp Song

This picture was taken by art teacher, Mike Kelley. Mike works at KEC Oakleigh. Mr. Kelley's class from KEC Oakleigh and Mr. Hyyser's kids from North Park (5th grade) go to Brookcherith Camp each September. Here you see the campers pictured with Music Teacher Obe VanderTol. Each year Mr. VanderTol goes along to entertain and expand the camping experience by conducting a sing-along with the group. You can tell from the happy faces that everyone has fun!

City-wide Orchestra Concert

On Tuesday, October 17 the first City-wide Orchestra Concert was held at Central High School. Middle school orchestra students from Westwood, CA Frost, MLK Academy, and GR Montessori joined to open the evening with "Secret Agent 440" and "Symphony #94" by Haydn. These beginning and intermediate students did an excellent job taking their individual practice times and styles to blend them to a larger group composition. This is a difficult transition for students to accomplish at this level and their pride and performance spoke loudly of their success.

Following the younger students, the more advanced high school orchestra players took the stage with Central, Creston, Ottawa Hills, and Union High Schools being represented. Pieces included, "A Modal Festival, Brandenburg Concerto #3" by Bach, and the audience favorite, "Lord of the Dance." The last piece was by all standards a difficult and fast paced song that required deep concentration and obvious skill.



The City-wide Orchestra performs at Central H.S. Schools represented were Westwood, CA Frost, MLK, GR Montessori, Middle Schools—also Central, Creston, Ottawa Hills, and Union High Schools.



Students at Shawnee park Oral Deaf Program use boom whackers to learn about music.

Ordinary Learning by Extra-Ordinary Learners

The students of Shawnee Park Oral Deaf Program, GRPS, are actively engaged in learning. They are studying music by learning to read notes, interpret the note values, create music (structured sound) and work as a team. Their vehicle to achieve these elements are the “Boom whackers”.

This program is filled with students who are willing to learn and explore. Students work with “shakers,” exploring beat, right & left, and eye/hand coordination skills.



Music class at the Shawnee Oral Deaf Program are filled with enthusiasm. Students dance with bean bags to the “Bean Bag Boogie”. It is fun work on learning the beat, following directions and developing fine motor skills.

Classroom teachers and the music teacher Mrs. Marti Larson consider these extraordinary learners a blessing to all who know them.



Fitness Trivia

1. Approximately how many scalp hairs fall out daily?
2. How many gallons of blood does the heart pump a day?
3. What does “macrophage” mean?

Answer:
1. 80
2. An average heart pumps 2.4 oz. per heartbeat, at a pace of approx. 72 beats per minute. That puts the average heart at 1.8 gallons per minute, or 1,900 gallons per day. By the time someone is 70, that equals 700,000 gallons—not bad for a 10 ounce pump!
3. Big Eater

Ottawa Hills High School & Creston Take Awards

Director, Randy Burt, from Ottawa Hills High School and Director, Keith Westmoreland from Creston High School were bestowed the Titles “Best Marching Band” and “Crowd Favorite” for their participation in the Jaycee Santa Clause Parade on November 18, 2006. The honorary title came with an extra bonus in the form of money. Each school was awarded a separate check in the amount of \$750.00. There is much these directors can do for their programs with the prize money! Several Greater Grand Rapids Area Schools, including public and private, participated in the friendly competition that takes place as part of the Santa Clause Parade each year. It is a noteworthy tribute that both of the winning categories went to GRPS.

A Star is Born

On December 6th, music teacher, Jen Wilson put away her lesson plan book, and traded her boom box for a microphone and some Rock-and-Roll lyrics. Her band, Creekside, played in the “E3 Bistro Open Mic-Off.”

Each week in November a different open mic host from around the city hosted a night at E3. Performers were judged by the spectators on each of these nights, and the top three or four acts were passed on to the final night of competition. Creekside (Jen Wilson & Jesse Sayers) performed on the in front of judges Kathy Gates (WLAV), Pete Bruinsma (WYCE), and Bruce law (Music Revue Magazine & Johnny Advertising), taking a unanimous 1st against 14 other competitors in the final round. Their grand prize includes three hours of recording time at River City Studios, hair and photo shoot with Dan Adams studios, and a half page ad in music revue magazine!

Windy City Art Trip

On October 26th students in the GRPS/Kendall Dual enrollment class, housed at City Middle/High, visited the Chicago Art Institute and the Chicago Art Museum. Instructors Rick Brunson and Joe Reed plan this trip so students see the options that are waiting after high school. It is important to know not all post secondary art facilities take the same approach or offer the same majors. Students have the chance to learn about art outside the classroom, and often these real life experiences are the most influential instruction a student will experience. Many students who finish the dual enrollment art program in GRPS do go on to enroll in art related classes at college.



GRPS/Kendall students in Chicago.



Winter Concert Schedule

December 2006

12/14/06	6:30 PM	Shawnee Holiday Program at OHHS
12/14/06	7 PM	Sherwood Festival of Lights
12/14/06	7 PM	Alger Middle Holiday Concert
12/14/06	7 PM	Congress Vocal Concert
12/14/06	7 PM	SWCC Winter Concert
12/14/06	7 PM	Creston Holiday Concert
12/18/06	7 PM	City Middle/High Orchestra and Choir Concert
12/19/06	7 PM	City Middle /High Band Concert
12/19/06	7 PM	Harrison Middle Band & Choir Winter Concert in Auditorium
12/19/06	7 PM	Ottawa Hills High School Winter Band & Choir Concert
12/19/06	7 PM	Covell Holiday Concert at Union High Auditorium
12/20/06	1 PM	Dickinson Holiday Concert in gym
12/20/06	1:30 PM	Campus Vocal Concert
12/20/06	4 PM	Central High School Winter Concert in Auditorium
12/20/06	7 PM	Montessori Middle Instrumental Winter Concert in Auditorium
12/21/06	10:30 AM	MLK 4th grade performs for preschool and Kindergarten
12/21/06	1:30 PM	Harrison Park Holiday Program
12/21/06	7 PM	CA Frost Holiday Program
12/21/06	7 PM	Riverside Middle Winter Concert
12/21/06	7 PM	E. Leonard Holiday Concert
12/21/06	7 PM	Westwood Choir Concert
12/22/06	12 PM	KEC Oakleigh Holiday Program

T'was A Night to Remember

By GR Montessori PE Teacher, Suzanne Hakeem

I am Suzanne Hakeem—a Physical Education teacher at Grand Rapids Montessori School. Recently, Ms. Giesken, a middle school teacher at GR Montessori asked if I would be able to take her place as a chaperone, with a couple of our middle school students.

“Sure,” I think to myself. “Now where do I HAVE to take them?” The answer secretly thrilled me....Ms. Giesken had a special evening planned for a couple of her students who had written outstanding papers about their personal heroes. As a reward these young men were being treated to dinner and a Pistons basketball game at the VanAndel Arena.

“You’ve got to be kidding! Dinner, Chauncey Billups, AND a Pistons basketball game!” This sounded way too good to be real.

Ms. Giesken explained that the two students, Demarceo Thomas & Lewi Coleman were selected from all of the middle school students based on the content of their writing papers. That made me curious, so I asked permission to read their compositions. Demarceo & Lewi proudly shared their stories. After listening I could see why their work was chosen.



Then I began thinking about the evening. “Somebody pinch me,” I wanted to say. Right then a sobering thought passed through my mind. “What about my mother? I will need someone to sit with her. Maybe I can’t go.”

You see, my mother needs special care and a loving caregiver. I don’t get the opportunity often to go out for an evening of fun. I am not complaining, but it does take considerable pre-arrangement to consider an offer of this magnitude.

I must have voiced my concern out loud, because I was surprised to hear, “No prob-

lem!” This came from Ms. Hanson, the 7/8th grade classroom aide. Without hesitation she said, “I can come over and sit with your mom.”

UNBELIEVABLE! Well you can probably imagine the rest of this fairytale. The media and winning game score spoke for itself!

If all of this wasn’t enough of a gift, it got better. Lewis’ mother, Dephina shared the adventure with us. It was an extra bonus to have her company and she only enhanced the play-by-play scoop on all of the Piston players—including Chancey. She glowed the entire time, sharing this evening with her son...who, by the way, just happened to write his hero paper about his mother.

My sincere gratitude goes out to Ms. Giesken for thinking of me. Another thank you to Diane Hanson for sitting all night with my Mom, which involved cooking dinner and sitting through two straight hours of “Everybody Loves Raymond.” Finally, I want to send an extra special thank you to Demarceo, Lewi and his Mother, Delphina, for making this evening “Truly a special night to remember always!”

Jump Rope Competition 2006

On Saturday, December 2nd over 200 student athletes participated in the 9th annual GRPS Elementary School Jump Rope Competition held at Ottawa Hills High School. Students from 11 schools showed their skill speed and determination in eight different jumping events including speed jumping, criss crosses, double unders and the crowd favorite, double dutch. The events were divided into three age groups of 7/8, 9/10, and 11/12 year old jumpers.

The top three scoring teams—Experienced Division: 1. MLK 2. SEAC 3. CA Frost
In the Novice Division: 1. Campus 2. SEAC 3. CA Frost

Schools participating were MLK, SEAC, Jefferson, Hall, CA Frost, Mulick, Sherwood, Alexander, Aberdeen, Campus, Congress. The event was sponsored by the Fine Arts and Physical Education Department of GRPS and coordinated by PE teacher, Jon Rose. Special thanks to the students and staff from Cornerstone University for volunteering to work at the event.

For detailed individual and team scoring, contact Jon Rose at Henry School—819-2600.



Top: MLK Principal, Jerry McComb & Student. Left: Aberdeen Jump Rope Team with coaches, Deb Posthumus and Jane Podolak

Healthy Bodies—Healthy Minds

C. A. Frost was one of 80 Michigan schools to be selected to receive a School Wellness Grant through the Michigan Action for Healthy Kids (MAFHK, sponsored by the United Dairy Council). The grant totaled \$5,800, which was to be used to purchase a refrigerated vending machine to stock with healthy snacks and drinks, equipment or supplies to supplement a quality physical education program, and time for the Coordinated School Health Team to meet to discuss various health related topics and devise ways to improve the overall health of the school. The goals of Michigan Action for Healthy Kids (MAFHK) are:

- Ensure that healthy snacks and foods are provided in vending machines, school stores and other venues within the school's control.
- Provide all children, from pre-K through 12th grade, with quality daily physical education that helps develop the knowledge, attitudes, skills, behaviors and confidence needed to be physically active for life.
- Increase consumption of healthy food choices and increase participation in physical education and physical activity among students.

On Friday, October 13, 2006, C.A. Frost had a media event with Chef Jon Ashton, food and drink sampling, dancing, trivia contests, and the reveal of the new healthy vending machine. Students had an extended lunch and got a chance to try some new food and drink choices, including yogurt and granola parfaits, V8 Juice, Milk Slammers and various juices. Students also signed a giant banner that has been placed near the vending ma-



Students sign health banner: Eat Healthy, Play Hard



Chef Jon Ashton dances with students.

chine... "Eat Healthy, Play Hard" is the motto to remind all who pass the importance of healthy eating and exercise.

The vending machine has been a success so far! Middle school students working on a nutrition project are responsible for monitoring and stocking the machine several times a day and they are planning on researching ways to improve the overall health of the school. The items in the vending machine must be divided equally into fruit, vegetable and dairy products. Here are some things we have had in our healthy vending machine: apple and orange slices; apple, orange and mixed berry



Students use the healthy vending machine for the first time.



Students draw for prizes and the media day to reveal the new vending machine.

100% juice; V8 Fusion; V8 Juice, carrots and dip; drinkable yogurt; milk; and cheese sticks. Soon to be added are yogurt parfaits, fruit cups and various cheeses.

The vending machine is accessible to all students at various times during the school day, and all of the proceeds go to the middle school students. Our students have been extremely excited to have this new addition to our school, and our goal is for students to remember a healthy body leads to a healthy mind!

A New Path for the Spring Art Show

There are a few changes in store for the annual City-wide Art Show. This event usually takes place at the end of May. This year it will be moving to March. Up until 5 years ago the art show happened at Breton Village Mall. In 2003-04 it was moved to the Grand Rapids Art Museum where it would be in a central location so parents from GRPS could attend more easily. The art show stayed at the GR Art Museum for two years, until they began construction on a new facility. Due to this temporary situation, the show took place at the Urban Institute for Contemporary Art in 05/06. The plan was to return to the new art museum this year, but construction is taking longer than expected. The UICA generously invited the show back to their facility; but the busy exhibition schedule caused the Art Show to be moved forward. This year the annual City-wide Art Show will run from March 20-22, 2007 with over 1200 student artists on display, representing 73 schools. The reception will take place on March 20 from 6—8 PM. It is free to the public.



Students at MLK Academy enjoy making art in Ms. Tara Terwillegar's class.

ARTS JAM

A BENEFIT FOR THE GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS MUSIC AND ART PROGRAMS



Join the Jam

Sunday, February 25, 2 PM
St. Cecilia Music Society

Hosted by David Lockington

Dylana Jenson
La Famiglia
Nobody's Darlin

John Hair and New Connections
Members of the GR Ballet
Schubert Male Chorus

Call
459-2787

Or
819-2156 for
tickets

Tickets
\$20 Adults
\$5 Students
\$40 Family Pass

Featuring...
a silent auction for "Ar**T**ables" (end tables)
And "Symphony of Black and White" Food Reception

Jam in Review

2002

Place: Wealthy Theatre
Hosted by: John Varineau
Groups: Rich Ridenour, Beats
Settin' Home, Edye Evans Hyde,
Roberta Bradley, Shades of Blue,
Perugino String Quartet
Art Project: None
Money Raised for the Arts: \$6,000



2003

Place: St. Cecilia Music Society
Hosted by: John Varineau
Groups: Edye Evans Hyde, Kathy
Wagner, The Grand Rapids Night
Band, Potato Moon, Embellish, Billy
Vits
Art Project: Chair Fair
Money Raised: \$9000



2004

Place: St. Cecilia Music Society
Hosted by: Kim Covington
Groups: Rich Ridenour, Potato
Moon, Marvin Sapp, Carlos de la Barrera, Ralston
Bowles & Drew Nelson, Creative Arts Repertoire
Ensemble
Art Project: Floor Cloths
Money Raised: \$17,000

2005

Place: St. Cecilia Music Society
Hosted by: Juliet Dragos
Groups: Susan Heartwell, Ralston
Bowles, Junior Valentine and the
All Stars, Grupo Tarasco, Debra
Perry and Majestic Praise, and
the Boogie Woogie Babies
Art Project: Framed Paintings
Money Raised: \$14,000



2006

Place: St. Cecilia Music Society
Hosted by: Mayor George Heartwell
Groups: Potato Moon, Edye Evans Hyde,
Freddy DeGennaro, Billy Vits, Troll for
Trout, Laura Armenta
Art Project: Wooden Sculptures
Money Raised: \$18,000

Community Arty-Facts



Picture Courtesy of the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park.

Christmas at the Gardens; It's the Most Magical Time of the Year

Christmas and Holiday Traditions Around the World is perhaps the most magical time at Meijer Gardens! It's a world transformed with the glow of 300,000 lights, more than 40 captivating international trees and displays, strolling carolers, and horse-drawn carriage rides (provided by Grand Carriages LLC).

Designed by nationally-known railway garden designer Paul Busse, who has created railway gardens in some of the largest botanical gardens in the country including New York Botanical Garden and Chicago Botanic Garden, the *Gardens Holiday Express* features authentic historical Grand Rapids buildings, bridges, and popular landmarks. And, as is Busse's trademark, all of the buildings, bridges, and trestles are made of natural materials including cedar and hickory bark, twigs, grapevines, acorns, walnut shells, lotus pods, shelf fungus, and even cinnamon sticks. The train journeys through forests and valleys of juniper, arborvitae, cypress, bugleweed, holly,



birch, dwarf spruce, and sedum. It's a unique and beautiful railway garden experience, and new elements are added every year.

A great time to visit the exhibit is on Tuesday evenings when we remain open until 9 pm. The exhibit is at its most beautiful at night and features a luminary-lit walkway, star-lit carriage rides (provided by Grand Carriages LLC), holiday entertainment, family activities, Santa, holiday treats, and Taste of the Gardens Café specials. Don't forget that Santa's reindeer visit every Saturday until Christmas!

Christmas and Holiday Traditions Around the World 2006 opens 5 pm November 21 and runs through 5 pm January 7.

Text and photographs are from the Frederik Meijer Gardens Website at : http://www.meijergardens.org/calendar/christmas_around_world.php. Visit the website for more complete information of events.

GRCC Players 2006/07 Season

Desdemona, a Play About a Handkerchief
by Paula Vogel
Directed by Michelle Urbane
Show Dates: December 13—16, 2006

As the wrongly accused wife of Shakespeare's Othello, Desdemona has long been viewed as the "victim of circumstance." Now we introduce Pulitzer Prize-winner Paula Vogel's comic deconstruction of Shakespeare's play—aligning tongue-in-cheek humor while raising serious questions as to the role of women through the ages. *Desdemona* was far from the quivering naïf we've all come to know. "Vogel remains one of the smartest most original and engaging playwrights to come along in the last few years." - NY Newsday.

The Creation of the World and Other Business

By Arthur Miller
Directed by Kyle Amanda Dutkiewicz
Show Dates: Feb 28—Mar. 3, 2007

This comedy/drama tells the story of the Biblical struggle between God and Lucifer, with Adam and Eve and Cain and Abel as their pawns.

Curtain for all shows: 8:00 PM
Ticket cost: \$8 Regular, \$5 Students
Call 616.234.3946 for ticket reservations.



Grand Rapids Children's Museum What's Happening?



- *Penguin Play-Slide into Winter* exhibit runs through January 14, 2007.
- *Arthur's™ World*-a traveling exhibit from the Boston Children's Museum runs January 18 -April 29.
- The museum is CLOSED Monday Jan. 15 and Jan. 22.
- The museum is OPEN Monday, January 8 for *Pals* Private Play Time for *Pals* members only from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: Lindsey Zabor at the Grand Rapids Children's Museum, 616.235.4726 Ext. 201, lzabor@grcm.org

URBAN INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTS

CHALLENGE EXPRESSION. PROMOTE DIALOGUE. INSPIRE COMMUNITY.

Art by Barry Underwood, Mount Chromogenic Print

DRAWING NO CONCLUSIONS: A SURVEY OF CONTEMPORARY DRAWING

Opens December 8

Drawing No Conclusions will provide a venue for contemporary artists to continue to challenge the traditional methods, media and philosophy of drawing where its boundaries have been profoundly blurred. With this exhibition, the UICA seeks to explore the expansive discourse surrounding this ancient but newly invigorated discipline, examining drawing as it is practiced and defined by today's artists. Such a survey will demonstrate the continued significance of drawing by showcasing the breadth of work currently being produced through both conventional and innovative methods.

BARRY UNDERWOOD: LIGHT Opens December 8

Media photographer Barry Underwood's experiments with light and color create a sense of altered reality, adding illuminated objects or giving natural images an unexpected color makeover. The Ohio resident will be displaying his artwork in UICA's Race Street Gallery until January 19.

WILLIAM PAPPENHEIMER: PUBLIC MOOD RING

Opens December 8

Public Mood Ring is a combined internet and spatial installation, which displays the emotional condition of public news stories as color hue. It is based on the wearable "mood ring" which chemically changes color according to body temperature. The online artwork responds to participants news concerns and recalibrates the color of the light it casts with intense LED lighting. Public Mood Ring will be in UICA's In Space Gallery until January 19.

RYAN BUYSENS: CONTRIVANCE I & CONTRIVANCE II

Opens December 8

Contrivance I and Contrivance II consists of

numerous rotating mechanisms that, once in motion, create effects that let the incorporated images come to life. The purpose of the moving image mechanisms is to create a perceptual experience for the participant. A simple animation displayed upon a mechanical playback apparatus, displays visual phenomena that can only be described as mesmerizing.

Contrivance I and Contrivance II will be in UICA's Front Street Gallery until January 19.

Upcoming Movies (visit the Website for a showtime listing):

SHORTBUS—Currently Showing
AMERICAN HARDCORE- Currently Showing
OLD JOY—Opens December 15

UICA WRITERS' STUDIO Wednesday, December 13 6:30 PM 9:30 PM

UICA offers a location for weekly writers' meetings. These meetings are designed for writers in pursuit of publishing new works of poetry, short stories, novels and non-fiction. The group is open to anyone looking for serious, professional quality feedback from his or her peers. Meetings are held every Wednesday from 6:30 to 9:30 PM.

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Actor's Theatre will continue its 26th season with the following productions.

Bach at Leipzig by Itamar Moses January 25 - February 3, 2007

This comic farce of wordplay and wit begins when the organ master of Leipzig's cathedral dies suddenly, setting off a contest to find his successor that draws six of the finest – and most determined – musicians from across Germany. Based on actual persons and events, this "brainy comedy doesn't settle for cheap laughs, though it has a lot of them. [Moses] has got more-much more-on his mind" (Seattle Weekly). "...Dazzles with its range [as it] swerves from clever wordplay to comic swordplay..." (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. A West Michigan premiere.



Fat Pig by Neil LaBute March 22 - 31, 2007

A classic boy meets girl in any big city in modern America...with one exception – girl is overweight and boy is concerned about appearances. The writer of such films as In the Company of Men and Nurse Betty, LaBute's "view of men and women is unsparing...holding up a pitiless mirror to ourselves" (Journal News). "There is no playwright on the planet these days who is writing better than Neil LaBute." (The New Yorker)



Side Show by Bill Russell and Henry Krieger

May 17-26, 2007

Nominated for four Tony Awards, this musical tells the story of Violet and Daisy Hilton, Siamese twins who move from freak show to stardom in vaudeville and finally, a featured role in the famous cult movie of the 30s, "Freaks".



Call 616.234.3968 or 616.234.3947 for ticket prices, reservations and other information. Purchase a season ticket during the holidays for only \$80.00.



Musical Notes

Learn About this Musician: George Frederick Handel
Born: c. Feb. 23, 1685—April 20, 1759
Place: Halle, Saxony (Germany)

George Frederick Handel was the son of a surgeon; his mother the daughter of a Lutheran minister. His attendance at church and court functions sparked Handel's interest in music and by the age of 8 he was an accomplished organist. He also knew how to play the oboe and violin. Handel began performing to audiences in Berlin by age 11. His father died, but had provided for his education, and Frederick enrolled as a law student in 1702. He supplemented his income by working as a church organist.

In 1705 Handel conducted the first performance of his opera "Almira". Three more operas quickly followed, however these works have been lost. He saved enough money to study in Italy. This is when he began to compose in earnest. Eventually he moved into a court composer, working for Elector Ernest Augustus of Hannover.

The people of England loved Handel's compositions and the opera "Rinaldo" brought him acclaim. In 1712 Handel moved to London where his music allowed him immediate access to the royal circle of London. Handel returned to Germany often but his success provided the means to purchase a house in London. He became a British subject which allowed him to work as a composer for the Chapel Royal. When Queen Caroline died in 1736, Handel wrote the funeral anthem. Handel continued to primarily work on Italian operas but they eventually went out of style, so he began composing several oratorios. Then Handel suffered a stroke. At this low point in his life, Handel composed the oratorio *Messiah* in a shocking 21 days in 1741. When he performed the composition, King George II was so moved he rose to his feet during the singing of the mighty "Hallelujah" Chorus. Although originally performed for Easter, it has become traditional since Handel's death to hear it during the Christmas season. Concerts often feature only the first section of *Messiah* plus the "Hallelujah" Chorus.

Throughout his life Handel seemed to know what people wanted in their musical selections and his compositions changed to reflect their mood. When operas became unpopular and oratorios became the rage, Handel wrote to accommodate. In 1750 Handel was seriously injured in a carriage accident in Holland. He eventually recovered but his eye sight gradually began to fail him and in his last years he was almost completely blind.

Music Trivia

Bing Cosby is perhaps best known for 'White Christmas'. In what movie did he sing the song?

Answer: Holiday Inn



Artist's Corner

Learn About this Artist: Vincent van Gogh
Born: March 30, 1853—July 29, 1890
Place: Zundert in the Netherlands



"A Starry Night"
June 1889 -The Museum of Modern Art,

Van Gogh was born the son of a Dutch minister. His name, was passed down from his grandfather, and then given to Vincent's elder, still-born brother. It is thought this impacted him psychologically, coming out in his art as images of male figures painted in pairs. In his early years, Vincent worked as an art dealer in his uncle's business and was then employed in a bookstore, translating the Bible into English, French and German. Unhappy, Vincent enrolled in a university, but failed. Soon he followed his father's footsteps and became a missionary. He chose to live in squalid conditions, sleeping on straw and reportedly sobbing at night. He was accused of undermining the dignity of the priesthood, which led to fights between Vincent and his father. Vincent left and began to pursue art as a career.

In 1881 van Gogh returned to his parent's house where he spent time with his cousin who tutored him in Biblical studies. He proposed marriage, but she flatly refused, Vincent began to stalk her and in desperation burned his hand by holding it in a flame. Vincent moved to Hague and developed a relationship with an alcoholic prostitute. When his father discovered this, he pressured Vincent, who remained defiant. It is believed van Gogh had a son with this woman, but since he left the relationship after only a year, it was never legitimized, nor was the boy's parentage.

When Vincent's father died in 1885 he grieved deeply, but for the first time, his artwork began to gain attention. His life was full of trouble. Living on a diet of bread, coffee and tobacco, his teeth began to fall out. He also dealt with bouts of syphilis that required treatment. Around this time, Vincent developed the style of applied small dots of paint to the canvas. His work earned him the interest of famous artists, including Gauguin. Yet, Gauguin and van Gogh's relationship was stressed. Vincent stalked Gauguin with a razor, and then cut off part of his own ear, wrapping it in a newspaper and sending it to a prostitute asking her to "keep this object carefully." He was hospitalized suffering from hallucinations and paranoia, but continued to paint; many of his famous works come from his time as a patient.

Van Gogh ended by shooting himself in the chest while standing in a wheat field (the same field that appears in one of his famous paintings). Then walked a distance back to his upstairs room, never mentioning his wound. He slowly died over a 2 day period.

Art Trivia

Which American artist was a baseball player before becoming a painter?

Answer: George Bellows