

BRAVO!! Times

January 2005



Julie's Super Vision

Happy New Year!

As with every new year, it is a time of reflection and thankfulness to know that we have a lot to be proud of in Grand Rapids Public Schools. Although state funding has continued to decrease, we have been able to support art and music programs throughout all of our schools. I really am proud of the 80+ teachers that teach art or music to our students. On meager budgets and sometimes without a formal classroom, they continue to try to deliver quality instruction to all students.

I hope to see you all at Arts Jam next month! (See article inside for complete information) I especially want to wet your whistle about the framed paintings that will be auctioned off after the concert. They are square pieces of wood that are framed and painted with a variety of styles and colors. They are meant to be hung on a wall or set on an easel or table or mantle. These framed paintings are being done by art teachers, community artists, students, and other arts supporters. They will make great additions to your home or as gifts for other people.

If you have any questions or comments about the Fine Arts program, please email me personally at powellj@grps.k12.mi.us

Julie Powell



Most artists are currently at work creating framed paintings for the 2005 Arts Jam. Above are samplings for your early viewing pleasure. You may recognize these artists. The painting on the left is a portrait of Martin Luther King, Jr. designed and painted by North Park Principal, Jerry Bentley. The painting in the middle is done by SWCC art teacher, Karen Williams. Karen lived and taught school in Thailand for many years, and this picture is strongly influenced by her connections to that country. It was in Thailand where Karen met her husband, Chia. The picture reflects the colors, language and architectural designs familiar to the culture. The picture on the right is an oil color of sunflowers done by Fine Arts secretary, Alesia Albin—yes, typing is just a side job!

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News From Our Schools

Art, It's Poodles of FUN!

Madison, Rachel and Alivia, kindergarteners at Shawnee Park Hearing Impaired program, welcome Sniffie, the art dog, every other Thursday when Mrs. Nancy VanRooy comes to teach art in their school. Sniffie has been coming to art since he was a puppy 5 years ago. He is good at encouraging students to talk to him and about him. His special talent is helping little students overcome their fears of dogs. As you can tell from the picture, he and Madison are especially good friends since last year when Madison was very afraid of him. Sniffie's smile and good humor won her over and now he sits under her chair during art class.



Madison, Rachel and Alivia from Shawnee Park Hearing Impaired enjoy the company of Sniffie the Art Dog.

ACE is the Place

By Caitlin Gedris, ACE High Student Editorial Contact


Union High School has recently been getting some rave reviews. This must prove that standardized test scores just can't sum up potential. It seems as though fun is being mixed into the daily curriculum of many students and it doesn't appear to be a bad thing.

Ivy Cantera, a high school senior declared with a smile that she looked forward waking up in the morning to go to class. It seems that A.C.E. (Arts, Communication & Entertainment) High School is keeping students content. Those who are artistically inclined got their big break this year. Teachers in this small school within Union High School are encouraged to change the way they would normally teach to include more creative methods.

"Were definitely using what we feel works for us to learn better," said Ivy. "Tension is brought down a big step with the small num-

ber of students in many A.C.E. classes. It's also a great clique-busting technique. People are friendlier with each other in these smaller classes," Ivy observed.

Another feature of Union High School is the annual school talent show. Some students (and even a few teachers) with some abilities to strut, got their chance at both an afternoon and an evening performance. For the first show, the auditorium was packed full of enthusiastic students who paid the five dollars for admission. The A.C.E. High rock band, "The ACE Invaders" opened the show with an energetic performance of "Mustang Sally."



It was a hoot to be up on stage doing what I love...It was such a rush hearing the applause and knowing that the audience really enjoyed our performance."

Audrey Stein, a junior and a background singer for the band had nothing but great things to say about her experience on stage. "It was a hoot to be up on stage doing what I love to do," she said. "It was such a rush hearing the applause and knowing that the audience really enjoyed our performance."

Other acts in the Union Talent Show that brought applause to the sea of students included a handful of solo acts and a duet, a comedy and dance routine, and two rock bands called, "Caught in the Act" and "Gizmo." All of these acts were supported by a crew of student volunteers and introduced with the comedy styling of beloved Union High School Teacher, Mr. Jerry Orent.

Altogether, the show grossed a very fine \$1475. Though the attendance for the evening show was not as great as the first, it did allow family, community members and people who don't attend Union to enjoy some excellent entertainment.

Sibley Aboard the Polar Express



Ruth Aguilar was a state winner in the Hospice "The Big Picture" photo/writing contest. Ruth is a 5th grade student at Sibley. There were 4 winners in the state for grades third through fifth. Art Teacher, Mrs. Karen Haight, is extremely proud of her students who won three of the four awards. Hospice was kind enough to make 2 tickets available to Mrs. Haight and a student to attend the world premier, opening gala of the *Polar Express* at Celebration Cinema.



Sibley student Ruth Aguilar is pictured with Mayor George Heartwell, and wife, Susan Heartwell

After a special viewing of the film, the magic continued with a walk down the red carpet into the new DeVos Place where guests were treated to a fabulous dinner and an unforgettable night of dancing. Ruth danced until after midnight, and both she and Mrs. Haight agreed that it was an amazing evening they won't ever forget. Ruth was able to meet many distinguished guests, and is seen pictured in the top picture with Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell, and Mrs. Susan Heartwell, who also attended the premier event.



Sibley student Ruth Aguilar and art teacher, Karen Haight attend the world premier of Polar Express

Fieldtrip Tidbits

Students from Southwest Community Campus, as recipients of the Grand Rapids Symphony Artists in Residence Grant, are looking forward to experiencing these fabulous fieldtrips.

Lollipop Concerts:
K-2nd Graders-Jan. 13-Peter & the Wolf
Sunshine Community Church

Fifth Grade Concert:
Feb. 24 - DeVos Hall

Canvas Art

Several Coit Creative Arts Academy students helped create three 9'x12' canvas backdrops that now adorn the walls of the gymnasium. The backdrops were inspired by the work of Kandinsky. The Coit artists always had Kandinsky prints on hand for continued inspiration. The paintings make a beautiful backdrop for the Coit Creative Arts Choirs.

Creston Chorale In Tune with Toys for Tots



Creston Chorale performs for the kickoff for the annual Marines "Toys for Tots" under the direction of choir teacher, Darla Jewell.

On November 16 the Creston chorale performed for the annual Marines "Toys for Tots" campaign. They performed many numbers including selections by the jazz vocal group "The Jewell Tones." The chorale has been performing for "Toys for Tots" for many years now.

The Chorale has had a very busy season this year, performing at...

- Christmas for Creston
- The Sons of the American Revolution Banquet
- The Gerald R Ford Museum Holiday Music Festival
- Art Van Furniture
- City High School and Riverside Middle Holiday Concert Voices.



Arts Jam 2005 will be held Sunday, Feb. 20 at St. Cecilia Music Society from 2 to 5 PM. The fourth annual benefit will raise money for Grand Rapids Public Schools arts programs. The first three Arts Jams raised approximately \$30,000, which was given to art and music teachers in small grants for badly needed classroom supplies.

This year's event includes a two-hour concert featuring some of the area's top musical performers. Among those on the bill are the Boogie Woogie Babies, a trio singing pop and jazz standards; Junior Valentine and the All Stars, a popular rhythm and blues band; Deb Perry and the Majestic Praise, a gospel choir; Ralston Bowles, a folk-rock singer-songwriter; Grupo Tarasco, a traditional Mexican dance troupe; and Susan Heartwell, a classical vocalist.

Arts Jam 2005 also will host an art auction featuring fanciful framed paintings on wood. Teachers, students and professional artists will produce these works that event attendees can bid on at St. Cecilia.

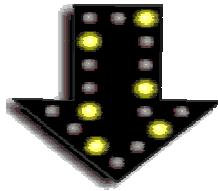
The event will be hosted by WZZM-TV 13 news anchor Juliet Dragos.

Admission to both the concert and auction is \$20 for adults, \$5 for students and \$50 for a family of two adults and up to four children. Tickets are available from the Arts Council of Greater Grand Rapids at 459-2787.

Arts Jam is presented by GRPS Arts Advocates, a nonprofit organization of parents, teachers and community representatives working to strengthen the arts in Grand Rapids Public Schools. GRPS Arts Advocates is affiliated with the Stu-

dent Advancement Foundation, an independent nonprofit working to support the schools.

Partners in the event include St. Cecilia and the Arts Council of Greater Grand Rapids. Sponsors include the River 100.5 FM, the Grand Rapids Press, Kendall College of Art and Design and Structure Interactive.



Arts Jam Tickets On Sale Now

Adults \$20

Students \$5

***Family Pass \$50**

**To Order Call 459-2787
Or contact the Fine Arts Office at 819-2156**

Arts Advocates

Please join us for the next Arts Advocates meeting on Wednesday, February 2, 2005 at 6:45 PM in the Union /A.C.E. High School Art room, located at 1800 Tremont NW.

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.

Midwest Fest

The Midwest World Fest Spring performance featuring *The Japanese Bamboo Orchestra* will be happening March 1, 2005. Principals will receive details about the show from the Fine Arts Department through email. These popular musical performances fill up fast, so if interested, do not delay in making the reservation. Reservations are taken on a "First come—first serve" basis. *The Bamboo Orchestra*, Founded by Makoto Yabuki in 1994, is based in Japan as well as in France. Inspired by nature, the group creates soothing compositions, using traditional Japanese woodwind instruments made of bamboo. The resulting Asian sounds, infused with colorful tones and sensations, succeed in transcending musical genres and regional boundaries. The orchestra believes if you open your heart to the music you will find joy and comfort for tomorrow.

Community Arty - Facts



Frederik Meijer Gardens

Henry Moore: Imaginary Landscapes January 21 – May 8, 2005

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to have your students experience the unique sculpture and drawings of one of the most important sculptors of the 20th century at the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park.

Henry Moore (1898-1986) is universally considered among the most important sculptors in the history of art and the most important figure in British art of the 20th century. His work is inspired by the human figure, nature and organic materials, ideas derived from each were transformed into sculptures.

This exhibition, developed in conjunction with the Henry Moore Foundation outside London, examines large scale sculptures, Marquette's, prints and drawings influenced by the landscape. Moore's career began with figurative imagery but he gradually moved toward abstract, organic, and simplified forms often drawn from nature. A 25-minute video, *Henry Moore: A Life in Sculpture*, will be playing in the Hoffman Auditorium.

A Discovery cart activity will include looking closely at the sculptures by Henry Moore and then try your hand at creating a sculpture using clay. It's not as easy as it looks! Lectures, demonstrations, and classes that relate to the exhibition are available including "Sculpting the Sublime – Henry Moore and the Imaginary Landscape" by Anita Feldman Bennett, Curator of Henry Moore Foundation, Sunday, January 23, at 2PM. In addition, "Inspired by Nature" a panel discussion with Brent Dennis, Jim Karsina, Chuck Heiney, and Wayne Norlin, Thursday, February 10 at 7 PM Please see www.meijergardens.org for more program details.

Call Eunice Bredemeier, Membership Manager, for information regarding the Educational Group Membership at 975-3168.

Sketching stools are available as well as a **classroom** (\$20/hour) for pre- or post- visit activities. Call for more information.

Concert For Literacy

Saturday, January 22,
7:30pm

CONCIERTO POR
ALFABETIZACION -
Sábado, Enero 22, 7:30pm

A high-energy concert with original music and classic tunes from 3 of West Michigan's most popular bands:

Un grandioso y energético concierto con música original llena de clásicas y armónicas melodías con las bandas más populares originarias del oeste de Michigan:

Phil Biggs & the New Road Home Band
Michael Crittenden & Troll for Trout
Mid-Life Crisis

Forest Hills Fine Arts Center - 600
Forest Hill Ave SE
Magnífico Centro de Artes de Forest
Hills - 600 Forest Hill Ave SE

Call 632-1005 for ticket information; tickets will be for sale at the door, seating is limited.

Para información de boletos, llame al 632-1005; Los boletos estarán a la venta en la puerta. Los asientos son limitados.

All proceeds benefit the GRPS Literacy Programs



**Feed your Soul
With Live Music Performances**

Featuring...

Eddie Evans-Hyde, GRPS Alum

With Performances from...

Union High School Orchestra

Central High School Band

City High School Jazz Band

Samona Bryant, GRPS Graduate

Allison Groce, GRPS Graduate

Obe VanderTol, GRPS Alum, Music Instructor

Nate Weber Jazz Combo, GRPS Music Instructors

Jay Round

Java Jive, with GRPS Alums

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 2005
6 p.m.—9 p.m.**

**First (Park) Congregational Church
10 East Park Place
Ransom off Fulton**

**2005 GUMBO
GALA**

**Feed your Body
with our abundant Soups, Bread
and Desserts**



A Benefit to Support the Grand Rapids Public Schools
Instrumental Music Program

**Tickets are
\$25 in advance,
\$30 at the door.
Order today
By phone at
616-459-3203**



Master Arts Theatre

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

The Last of Mrs. Lincoln, by James Prideaux, February 10 - 26, 2005. Show times are Thurs., Fri., & Sat. at 7:30 PM and Sat. matinees at 2:00 PM. The Last of Mrs. Lincoln is a vivid study of the trouble-filled years in the life of Abraham Lincoln's widow. Mary Todd Lincoln was a woman of great courage and compassion. The Last of Mrs. Lincoln is a deeply moving drama told in a sequence of varied and theatrically brilliant scenes of Mrs. Lincoln's life after the assassination of her husband. The play is a true and touching portrait of a remarkable and much maligned woman.

Also being produced by Master Arts Theatre will be 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.

Timeless Events Presents

The Valentine's Day Ball

Benefiting The Grand Rapids Public School Fine Arts Department

Monday February 14th, 2005
6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Crowne Plaza Grand Ballroom
5700 28th Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Enjoy An Evening of Romance Featuring
A Candlelit Gourmet Dinner

Tommy "Sinatra" Patton &
Mary Rademacher
With "The General Assembly" Big Band

Ballroom Dance Exhibition
And Instruction
Ambiance and Sound Provided
By Moonlighting



\$75 per person
Includes Dinner
Entertainment
And Two Cocktails

For Tickets Call
616.813.5026

Gallery Stroll

Each month art teachers in GRPS are on a rotation schedule to provide student artwork to display at the Administration Building. Here is a sample of the colorful and interesting masterpieces you can see this month if you stroll through the Franklin Campus Gallery.



By Burton Middle School Students;
Art Teacher, Joanne Perko



Above, oil pastel done by Union A.C.E. High student Cang Du; Art Teacher, Rick Brunson.



Above, Creston High School Senior, Ninesha Taylor;
Art Teacher, Carolyn Hintz



Above, Ink drawing, from 8th gr. SWCC student, Mayra; Art Teacher, Karen Williams

Left, 3rd grade student, Mortisha from Burton EL;
Art Teacher Trisha Clark

Artist Corner



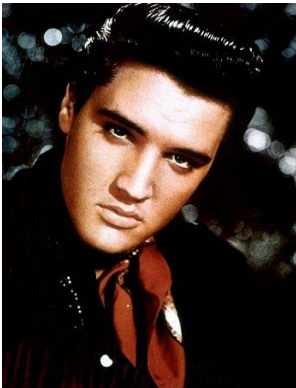
Learn about this Famous Artist...
Hollis Sigler
American, 1948-2001

Hollis Sigler is best known for her psychologically complex narrative paintings. She combines a brilliant color palette with a deceptively naïve style. The childlike look to her art portrays a patriarchal culture that historically treated women as little more than children. Her work conveys difficult emotional content demonstrated in such a simplistic way that even the most complex issues are easy for the observer to understand.

Hollis was born in Gary, Indiana in 1948. She earned a B.F.A. degree from Moore College of Art and three years later received a M.F.A. degree from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Hollis quickly earned a spot in Chicago's art scene and gained world recognition through her mono-prints, lithographs, three-dimensional lithographs and woodcuts—all of which are intensely personal. For example, her most recent work included a group of drawings called "The Breast Cancer Journal," in which she explores the social, psychological and political effects of the disease. Hollis Sigler died in March 2001 after her openly explored, 15 year struggle with breast cancer.

Sigler's work has greatly influenced Chicago's schools of painting and has been powerful in raising funds and awareness for the Y-Me Foundation.

Musical Notes



Famous in life, Elvis Presley has grown even more famous in death. Although it has been 27 years since his passing on August 16, 1977, fans still remain faithful. "The King" as he is commonly referred to, was born in Tupelo, Mississippi on January 8, 1935. His twin brother, Jessie, died at birth. It is amazing to think that Elvis would be 70 years old if he were still alive today.

Elvis' musical influences were the country, pop and gospel music of the south. Elvis frequently attended the all-night gospel sings at church and

absorbed the R&B scene as a teenager on Beale Street. His singing career began to take off during the 1950s when Elvis hit the charts as a rock n'roll rebel...an image promoted by his 1956 appearance on the *Ed Sullivan Show*. Elvis was televised from the waist up to hide the swinging hips that became the hallmark of his controversial dance style. Much later in life, he suffered a period of decline symbolized by sequined jumpsuits and melodramatic concerts, but for true Elvis fans, this period is easily and quickly forgotten to embrace the wonderful and lasting changes that Elvis Presley produced. His unique sound and style masterfully blended diverse musical influences that bridged social and racial barriers of the time.

In addition to music, Elvis starred in 33 successful films and honorably served this country in the U.S. Army. Globally, Elvis has sold over one billion records, more than any other musical artist. His talent, good looks, charm, and humble beginnings endeared him to people world-wide. He is regarded as one of the most popular figures of the twentieth century. His hits, "Jailhouse Rock," "Hound Dog" and "Blue Suede Shoes," just to name a few, continue to dance across the airwaves making him a rock legend phenomena .

Thoughts Around the World



By Lisa Honeycutt,
Alger Music Teacher

Alger Band and Orchestra students are organizing a fund raising effort for victims of the 12/26/04 East Asian Tsunami disaster. Many students have expressed their concern over the needs of the people in the affected countries. Their thoughts can't help but focus on the children.

Many students are involved in the organizing effort, but the initial idea came from a highly motivated, passionate eleven year old. "As I watch TV and read about the Tsunami, I think about all of the kids missing their families. Who takes care of them? They just sit quietly looking, watching, wondering what to do next. A lot of them don't have anything. What is that like? I want to share my clothes and food with them", exclaimed Janie Calvin, Alger violinist.

Coronetist Jonathan Davis offered to collect music, and make CD's of Alger groups performing. "We could make cards and write letters to try to help them feel better. They should know we are thinking about them and want to help. We'll have to send CD players, you know."

These are all very good, sincere suggestions. A glimpse into the reality of the loss began to come into play when the groups talked about not having a home or electricity. Where do we send the supplies? How do we send them? Who needs what?

The student committee discussed the difficulties in sending clothing, food, toys, music, and other items. We decided to raise money and donate it to the Red Cross, as they have a system in place to deliver what is needed. After receiving the "Thumbs-up" from Alger Principal, Mike Nassar, Janie Calvin ran back to the music room smiling, jumping and pumping her fist in the air yelling, "YES!"

Music Trivia

We'll provide you with the initials of composers and a clue designed to help you guess the identities.

1. **FM** - His relationship with his composer-sister was symbiotic - a few weeks after she died, he passed, too.
2. **PT** - Was supported most of his career by a wealthy female patron whom he never met.
3. **JB** - Wrote only four symphonies but was considered a titan of song.

Answers: 1. Felix Mendelssohn 2. Peter Tchaikovsky 3. Johannes Brahms

Art Trivia

He was born in Bradford in the UK in 1937, but has lived mostly in Los Angeles. He has worked in a range of media, including acrylics, watercolors, and photography. He published a book on his investigations into the use of optics by the Great Masters. Who is he?

- Jackson Pollock
- Howard Hodgkin
- Richard Hamilton
- David Hockney

Answer: David Hockney