



Art With a Heart
Spring Newsletter 2008
6002 Sunnyside Road
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www.artwithaheart.us

Spring Topics:

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Student Spotlight



Isley Foster was spotted as an artistically gifted child the first class at Andrew J. Brown. By the second class he was proving our intuition correct because he sold a piece of artwork for \$2.00 to another budding art collector, peer, and artist. One of the signs that he saw things like an artist was his ability to shade abstract shapes with an ink pen to show value.

When Isley was asked about why art is important to him he said, "Because art has taught me about nature and how to be creative." His favorite things to draw are people and Dragon Ball Z characters. He hopes to grow up to be an animation artist and, as you can see from his picture, he is well on his way to reaching that goal. The teachers at AWaH encourage him to draw pictures from real objects because that is the path that will make him the most successful animator, according to the Disney Studios.

Powerful Programming

Spring Programming has started at:

- Christel House Academy
- Andrew J. Brown
- Central Catholic
- Oaks Academy
- Westminster
- Holy Cross
- Brook Park
- St. Joan of Arc

One of our teachers, Kristen Busenbark, had to teach a classroom filled with kindergartners how to draw a leprechaun; difficult feat for an adult, let alone a five year old. Of course, when Kristen started, everyone instantly said that they could not draw a leprechaun. With her positive reinforcement and assurance, she guaranteed them that in ten minutes they would have a completed leprechaun on their paper. She started out with a simple box that would be the top of the leprechaun's hat and it all evolved from there. Sure enough, when the ten minutes were up, every student in class had their very own leprechaun on their paper, complete with a pot of gold.



Now, the greatest part of this experience was that they all believed in themselves at the end of such a short amount of time. Just ten minutes changed the views of many children into believing that they really could draw anything that they put their minds to. All they needed was a teacher to show them how to use the basic shapes, that they already knew how to draw, to create something that was very exciting to them. At Art With a Heart we call this success. We have found that success breeds better focus and effort in the next things the children try.

The most satisfying thing for Kristen, was how many ideas they had for their leprechauns after they were taught the basic steps. Some children put a lot of gold in their pot to make their leprechaun really rich, some made theirs into girls by adding a skirt instead of pants, some even named their leprechaun and drew his entire family, including a dog.

Looking ahead in programming, it may be cold outside but teachers are in the summer camp planning mode here at AWaH! From field trip planning to shopping for Chinese art supplies, our 2008 Summer Olympic theme is getting in shape. We are planning for the ultimate children's Olympics celebrating both Chinese art history, Olympic sport art, and staying physically fit.

With the spring comes our art exhibits! We always want to share the gift of children's art with as many people as possible. Please put one of these events on your

calendar and come encourage our budding artists. They truly need interested adults to ask them about their creations. Get ready because they have stories to tell!

Please visit our website under calendar, www.artwithaheart.us, for sites, times, and directions for our exhibits!

Please join us on Sunday April 20, from 12 to 4 pm, for our huge Spring Art Exhibit where students artwork will proudly be displayed!

Invitations will be mailed in early April!

Grateful Hearts



Congratulations to the Art With a Heart Junior Board, Mentoring Minds and Hearts, for recently receiving a grant from United Way for \$4,555. This was the largest amount United Way awarded youth philanthropists this grant round; it is such a great honor! This grant will help to provide art supplies and Step by Step drawing books, made by the Junior Board, in order to further the AWaH students' education when class is completed.

We are so proud of all of you!

When helping out in the classrooms, our teachers and volunteers have the privilege of hearing just about everything that is said. Below are some of the inspiring quotes that our volunteers have recently turned into us.

Katelyn Patton, Junior Board Member volunteering at Andrew J. Brown, heard an older Art With a Heart student come in to visit a younger AWaH class and was looking at the children's artwork. He was so impressed with the students artwork and said, "Wow, you are really learning." The child replied with confidence, "I already knew how to draw." The older child replied, "Oh really, then you will learn to really shade and see like an artist with Art With a Heart."

The teaching staff is so **thankful** to hear our older students sharing that Art With a Heart is about building skill, no matter what level they start.

Alex Severine, Junior Board member of Art With a Heart, says that children at risk made her feel like a hero. "One week I can teach kindergarten students how to make a star and the next week they tell you they can't remember. Within only a few questions, though, they are teaching others step by step how to make a star with a confident, toothless, smile. These students make being a leader so rewarding. I couldn't have a better high school internship."

Getting Involved



Do you want to learn a creative new skill that can help you expand your artistic talent? Art With a Heart is looking for volunteers who want to learn a new skill in glass cutting at no cost!!

We have many volunteer opportunities available at all of our sites as well as in the office. We have a great need for volunteers to help prepare materials for Summer Programming.

We are happy to announce that March is Youth Art Appreciation month! Many of our talented art students have made posters to celebrate and to help make people aware of how important art is to them, and how much it has impacted their lives. If you would like a poster to put in your office to express your support of artistic youth programs, or if you would be willing to put a poster in any high traffic areas to encourage others to become involved in the arts, we would greatly appreciate it.

Please contact us at your convenience.

You do not need to be an artist to volunteer, you just need to have the passion to make a difference in a child's life!

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