

## STUDENT ART: Display is running currently at Sisters Library

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enrichment and integration in the Sisters School District.

Karen Williams, the grant-funded K-4 art specialist at Sisters Elementary School, worked with the third- and fourth-graders to use line and color to create movement, inspired by artist Amy Silliman. First- and second-graders took the worm's eye view of snowmen while learning different watercolor techniques.

Long-time K-8 art teacher Judy Fuentes is teaching fifth- and sixth-graders at the Sisters Middle School as part of the Studio to School program. Some of the middle school art on display in the library includes alliterations from the fifth graders. They designed their own humorous alliterations and illustrated them using pen and ink.

The colorful, whimsical shapes that have a feeling of Matisse to them were also created by fifth-graders. They blended colors, learned about Henry Matisse and composition, while creating dynamic collaged pieces.

"I contour draw with students; that is drawing without lifting your pen or pencil from the paper as you investigate what you see. A few contour drawings of classmates done in oil pastel are representative of fifth grade work," said Fuentes.

Ceramic bowls, masks, cups, angels, and gnomes were created by fifth- and sixth-graders.

"Creativity oozed forth like the clay in their hands," Fuentes explained. "They

had so much fun making purposeful pieces for family members!"

There are also some sixth grade skeleton banners made last fall in recognition of the Day of the Dead.

When queried about her own artistic endeavors, Fuentes said, "I enjoy expressing myself with paints, printmaking, and mixed media, but love all different art exploration with kids."

Artist and elementary school teacher Clay Warburton encourages the creativity of his students, and examples of their colorful, large-scale work can be found in the library computer room.

Valerie Perry provides art experiences for the students at Sisters Christian Academy. Examples from her students are located on the wall above the sink in the community room.

Bethany Gunnarson has been teaching art classes at Sisters High School for seven years and began teaching one period a day at the middle school three years ago.

Gunnarson's seventh- and eighth-graders have been studying a variety of things throughout the year. In the exhibit are life drawings they did.

"They observed the objects in front of them and tried to create realism through observation of the form, and used pen and ink to draw,"

Gunnarson explained.

The middle school students also created digital portraits on iPads and made clay creature sculptures starting with a hollow form.

"We studied felt sculpture using the needle felting technique and students had to sculpt a food item of their choice," said Gunnarson. "We are currently studying fabric design and wearable art."

The Advanced Art students at the high school each created a flat illustration using acrylic paint and ink that was inspired by combining three images of their choice. They also practiced creating an image using the stipple technique and only three primary colors. There are also several examples of still life drawings done in pastels.

"The Drawing and Painting students meshed the styles and subjects of two famous painters to create their own original paintings. The two-dimension and three-dimension students created radical block prints that tessellate into one large square print," added Gunnarson.

Besides teaching, Gunnarson is the busy mother of a toddler, so she doesn't have much time for her own art making, "but I am interested in just about everything that I teach, from ceramics to jewelry and painting."

Fuentes explained how she and other teachers collaborate on lessons.



PHOTO BY SUE STAFFORD

Clay Warburton's classes always turn out colorful art.

"Bethany, Karen, and I are working together seaming our lessons so students have a thoughtful sequence of art education. We also meet with other teachers to create

integrated lessons," Fuentes explained.

The exhibit, curated by Paul Bennett, local artist and FOSL art committee member, will be up through March.

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