



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Marean Jordan, an observer with the Sisters Folk Festival's Studio to Schools program, talks about a sculpture with a middle school student.

## Middle school students explore art in Sisters

By Jim Cornelius  
Editor in Chief

Sisters has become an arts-driven community, with artists devoting their talents to supporting local schools.

Some of the students in Sisters Middle School explored that connection last week on a field trip to four of Sisters' art galleries. They visited Sisters Gallery & Frame Shop; Hood Avenue Art; Gary Cooley Gallery; and Clearwater Gallery, where they visited with professional artists and talked about art and community.

Teacher Judy Fuentes prepared the students for the event. In a note to gallery operator Helen Schmidling, she said:

"I had a fun conversation with students last week where we talked about why people make art and what the relationship is between the artist and the community. I really loved their responses which

included everything from personal expression to social awareness. As Banksy's print had just gone to auction I then showed them that video clip and included it into the discussion as well as a few pieces that were child-appropriate."

At Sisters Gallery & Frame Shop, Norma Holmes talked about her personal journey as an artist.

"My inspiration is nature," she said.

Holmes is a frequent contributor to the community, including donating to My Own Two Hands, the major fundraiser for Sisters Folk Festival's education outreach programs. Among those programs is Studio to Schools, which engages schools and community to create innovative arts education programs. Last week's field trip was part of that effort.

The students toured the galleries in shifts, talked with artists, then engaged in a little plein air work of their own.

## Fire district hosts Halloween event

The Sisters community children and families are invited to a howling good time at the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire Station from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, October 31.

Local youth are invited to check out their carnival games and – if you dare – venture into the haunted maze at the annual Halloween event. There will be refreshments, prizes, and candy for all the trick-or-treaters. Grab your friends and join the volunteers for a screaming fun time! For more info call 541-549-0771 or visit [www.sistersfire.com](http://www.sistersfire.com).

To ensure a safe and happy Halloween experience, the Fire District offers the following safety tips:

- When choosing a costume, stay away from billowing or long trailing fabric. If you are making your own costume, choose material that won't easily ignite if it comes into contact with heat or flame. If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eyeholes are large enough so they can see out.

- Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper are highly flammable. Keep these and other decorations well away from all open flames and heat sources, including light bulbs and heaters.

- It is safest to use a flashlight or battery-operated candles in a jack-o-lantern. If you use a real candle, use extreme caution. Make sure children are watched at all times when candles are lit. When lighting candles inside jack-o-lanterns, use long fire-place-style matches or a utility lighter. Be sure to place lit pumpkins well away from

anything that can burn and far enough out of way of trick-or-treaters, doorsteps, walkways and yards.

- Remember to keep exits clear of decorations, so nothing blocks escape routes

- Tell children to stay away from open flames. Be sure they know how to stop, drop and roll if their clothing catches fire. (Have them practice stopping immediately, dropping to the ground, covering their face with hands, and rolling over and over to put the flames out.)

- If your children are going to Halloween parties at others' homes, have them look for ways out of the home and plan how they would get out in an emergency.

The American Academy of Pediatrics also offers the following safety tips for children when making neighborhood rounds trick-or-treating. Keep in mind a responsible adult should always accompany young children.

- Obtain flashlights with fresh batteries for all children and their escorts.

- If your older children are going alone, plan and review the route that is acceptable to you. Agree on a specific time when they should return home.

- Only go to homes with a

porch light on and never enter a home or car for a treat.

Because pedestrian injuries are the most common injuries to children on Halloween, remind Trick-or-Treaters:

- Stay in a group and communicate where they will be going.

- Remember reflective tape for costumes and trick-or-treat bags.

- Carry a cellphone for quick communication.

- Remain on well-lit streets and always use the sidewalk.

- If no sidewalk is available, walk at the far edge of the roadway facing traffic.

- Never cut across yards or use alleys.

- Only cross the street as a group in established crosswalks (as recognized by local custom). Never cross between parked cars or out driveways.

- Don't assume the right of way. Motorists may have trouble seeing trick-or-treaters. Just because one car stops, doesn't mean others will!

Taking simple safety precautions like those listed above, including keeping decorations far away from open flames and using battery-operated candles or glowsticks in jack-o-lanterns, can help ensure your holiday remains festive and fun.



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