

# KIDS IN PRINT

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## Merry Foxmas from two young artists

— By T. Lee Brown —

Young artists Parker Johnson and Makayla Kirkpatrick are fourth graders at Sisters Elementary School. Their teacher is an artist, too — Clay Warburton — known to his students as Mr. W.

"We are doing window painting in our fourth-grade class," explained Makayla last week. "We each draw a picture, then Mr. W pairs us up." Together, students made designs to paint on the windows of real businesses along Cascade Avenue.

They were supposed to draw something "cute and funny, nothing scary, no trademarks like Spider-Man or Marvel," according to Parker. "Mr. W said do something like winter, Christmas, something cute that someone would spend a long time looking at, that they would like," said Makayla. "Something that makes their heart feel warm," added Parker.

Parker and Makayla each came up with their drawings separately. "Mr. W said, 'Oh, look out! Someone did a snow globe, and someone else did a snow globe!'" said Parker. He paired them up to collaborate, which means to work together.

"I drew a snake, but I really liked how Makayla drew the fox, so I decided to go with her animal," explained Parker.

"We did some of the candy canes from Parker's drawing, and the Christmas hat that was on his snake. We both came up with the icicles," said Makayla.

They called their window design "Merry Foxmas, because it stars a drawing of a fox in a Santa hat," said Parker.

Both students were excited about having their artwork in the community, painted on a window and printed in the newspaper. Makayla said she has moved to a lot of places, but never heard of anything like this before. "This is really cool!" She has lived in Sisters for about two or three years.

Parker is newer. His family arrived here last summer. Parker said he thinks it's "really good that people are recognizing our art and seeing how good it is, because where I used to live, they didn't pay attention to the art we made in school. They didn't put it out into the streets; there was just so much graffiti."

"It feels good to be appreciated," said Makayla, "and it also is nice that we're representing our school, our classroom, because we're doing this art project."

Both artists believe it is important for adults to pay attention to what kids are doing and making. "Sometimes adults have days down, and sometimes seeing children's artwork and stuff makes them feel good and warm inside," Parker said.

"If they're having a hard time, or if they're just really tired or stressed out, this art makes everybody feel really good," said Makayla.

"It can make them laugh, too," added Parker.

To see the artwork in person, visit local retailers and restaurants on Cascade Avenue during the holiday season. Locations include Martolli's Pizza and Stitchin' Post.



**Parker and Makayla collaborated (worked together). First, each made their own drawing, which you can see here on the left and the right. Then they combined their two separate drawings to make one new design, which they are holding up in the center.**



"Snowboarder" by Zion Gonzales.

## KIDS GET CREATIVE WITH THE LEGENDARY HODAG

Black Butte School in Camp Sherman will present an original new play for their annual winter performance on Thursday. Students will premier "The Legendary Hodag," written by theater educator Jennie Sharp. The play is about "how Hodags came to live at Hoodoo Ski Area."

The mysterious Hodag is a symbol used by Hoodoo, which is just up Highway 20 from the school. Students at Black Butte School get to ski there on Fridays, as part of their education. The school uses outdoor and environmental education to teach science, physical education, and other subjects.

All are welcome to see "The Legendary Hodag" on Thursday, December 19th at 6 p.m. The performance takes place at Camp Sherman Community Hall.



"Hodag at Hoodoo" by Joseph Yoder.

T. Lee Brown, Kids in Print Page Editor  
kidsinprint@nuggetnews.com

Jess Draper, Kids in Print Designer  
jess@nuggetnews.com

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