

MARIPOSA COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

MEDIA RELEASE

Mariposa County Arts Council

(209) 966-3155

phillips@mariposaartscouncil.org

www.mariposaartscouncil.org

May 15, 2017

For Immediate Release

Mariposa County Arts Council Provides Artist Residencies in All Elementary Schools Across the County

The Mariposa County Arts Council and the Mariposa County Office of Education recently wrapped up a third year of their Artists in the Schools program, a multi-month artist in residency program that taps art's academic and social potential.

As the program's name implies, trained teaching artists are placed in all of Mariposa County's 5th grade classrooms for 8-12 week residencies. These artists have worked with their respective classroom teachers to develop an art infused, standards-aligned curriculum that teaches art in concert with at least one other academic subject (mathematics, science, and English Language Arts). The residencies provide in-depth, hands-on visual arts and music experiences that develop students' critical thinking and creative problem solving skills while challenging students to transfer knowledge across traditional subject areas boundaries.

According to Arts Council Executive Director, "Technically and conceptually, the arts have always leaned heavily on math and the hard and social sciences so program is designed to contextualizes the arts for students instead of presenting them in isolation. Furthermore, we know that the arts have the potential to deeply impact a student's academic experience and performance, kids who participate in the arts are: 4 times more likely to participate in a math/science fair; 3 times more likely to win an award for school attendance; 4 times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement. For these reasons, we are thrilled to see this program growing in all our schools."

The first of these residencies began last February and the last residency wrapped up at the end of May. Here is what took place in each classroom:

Greeley Hill Elementary, Lake Don Pedro Elementary and Sierra Foothill Charter School worked with visual artist and sculptor, Jackie Baxton. Ms. Baxton curriculum explores three-dimensional artwork (students created and compared

MARIPOSA COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

both a molded and sculpted model of their own hand) while also applying lessons about measurement/data, geometry, and anatomy/bone structure.

Mariposa Elementary worked with ceramic artist Phyllis Becker. Ms. Becker's unit was titled "The Mud Beneath Your Feet," and examined the chemical reactions and the (mathematically measurable) dynamic effect they have on the molecular and atomic structure of matter through the creation of whimsical ceramic pieces.

Woodland Elementary worked with illustrator, graphic designer, and computer game creative director, Trowzers Akimbo. Trowzers' curriculum focused single point perspective, abstraction systems and animation production. For their final project, students created their own GIFs using readily accessible and free software.

El Portal Elementary and Yosemite Park Elementary worked with painter and illustrator, Moira Donohoe. Donohoe created hand-bound books with her students containing marbled imagery, illustrated maps, and linocut prints depicting the flora and fauna of Mariposa County.

Superintendent, Robin Hopper lauds the program, saying, "We recognize that providing our students with a robust arts education equips them with the necessary skills they will need to enter the rapidly changing global economy. In Mariposa, art has been integrated into classrooms in a way that offers hands-on, inquiry-based instruction and relies heavily on developing tools and strategies to create, communicate, collaborate, and think critically, preparing our students to successfully contribute and thrive in the 21st Century."

Demonstrating the Arts Councils' commitment to broad reaching arts education programs, Goger states, "This program provides robust and consistent arts education infrastructure across all elementary schools in Mariposa because we believe that all students should have equal access and ample opportunities to participate in the arts."

This program is made possible in part by the California Arts Council's Artists in the Schools grant program.

The Mariposa County Arts Council is funded in part by the County of Mariposa, the California Arts Council (a state agency), and the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency).

The MARIPOSA COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL, INC. is an incorporated not-for-profit organization, created to promote and support all forms of the cultural arts, for all ages, throughout Mariposa County.

MARIPOSA COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL