Happening at JFK, Northampton

Students in Art teacher Michelle Mallory’s and STEM teacher Jack Dembkowski’s forum used their time this spring to brighten up the lobby here at JFK. Michelle is a graduate if UMass, with a BFA in Studio Arts and an MA-Art Education. After winter planning sessions with lots of ideas from students and staff, they decided to create a new mural for the front lobby depicting the four seasons. But a simple painted mural was not in the works. Ms. Mallory is an remarkable art teacher, and is always coming up with great new ideas to stimulate and challenge how students look at and interact with art. She wanted to incorporate texture and dimension as well as addressing issues of recycling and reuse. The outcome – the Bottle Cap Mural.

Students and teachers brought in hundreds of bottle caps, removing them from the waste stream. The PTO generously funded the plywood and screws, and Royal Talon donated the paint.

Off they went as a forum, priming, painting and securing the caps using hundreds and hundreds of screws. The teamwork amongst the students was marvelous to see as this was no small project. The planning, communication and collaboration involved in creating such a large mural is a great example of what Forum at JFK is all about. Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings would be filled with the sounds of drills and saws and all kinds of noises coming out of room 110 as the mural came into being.

Michelle, Jack, and their awesome group of students have created a beautiful mural for all to enjoy. Please stop by JFK and see the wonderful new feature to our lobby. UMass Student Teacher, Nicole Zadykowicz, assisted with this event. Next, a coordinating bench! (reprinted from the Northampton Public Schools website and edited for UMass.

“Molding Young Minds”

BFA Juniors and Seniors who are concentrating in Art Education have prepared an exhibition of a sampling of art work and lesson plans that they will use when they teach.

Please join us at the Artist’s Reception

Tuesday, September 24, 2019
5 – 7 pm

The show will be on display from September 24 through October 1, 2019 in the Lee Edwards Gallery and first floor area.

with

Michelle Arsenault, Tessa Chambers, Hannah Exum, Chuck Frost, Lydia Giangregorio, Isabel Henn, Jessica Jiao, Betsy Mitchell, Alecia Nunes, Elizabeth Polvere, Angela Salazar
OUT AND ABOUT

Details from the Four Seasons bottle cap mural at JFK, Northampton.

Grade 6 batik at JFK, Northampton. Nicole Zadykowicz, Student Teacher, and Michelle Mallory, Supervising Practitioner.

Above and below, student plaster work at McMahon Elementary School, Holyoke. Melissa Lawson, Supervising Practitioner, and Ryan Jobb, Student Teacher.

Glazing at JFK! Nicole Zadykowicz uses her considerable skills in ceramics to build lessons for 8th graders.

Combining coil and slab techniques, 8th graders at JFK, Northampton, focused on creating monsters. The piece, above, is complete, drying, and soon to be fired.

In case you have not heard, I am retiring this semester, after 47 years teaching at UMass and in the Holyoke Public Schools. Thank you, everyone, for giving me such a wonderful opportunity to teach and plan and create. Dr. Jana Silver will be taking my place, and you can count on her to be wonderful! Warmly, Lora