

ART TO ART

PGCPS Visual Arts Newsletter

Two PGCPS Art Exhibits Held

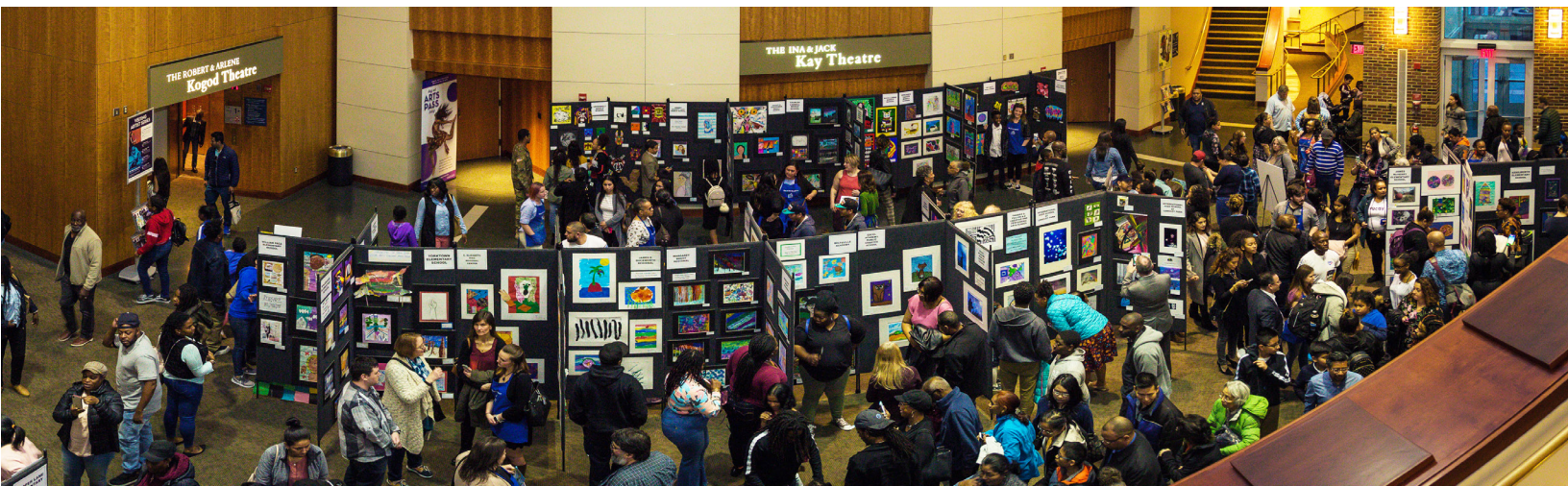
By Lisa Stuart Whitehead

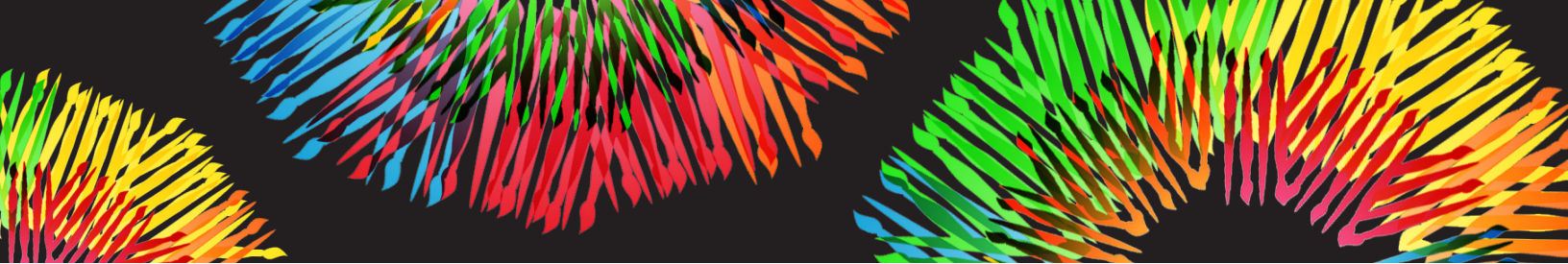
Northern County Visual Art Exhibit

This exhibit was held for a second year in a row at The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center and we are very grateful for the partnership we have with The Clarice, the University of Maryland, and the Prince George's County Arts and Humanities Council whom all help to sponsor and support this event. Over 120 Northern area schools are represented in this exhibit from Early Childhood to Grade 12. More than 800 works of art were on display.



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Two PGCPS Art Exhibits

Additionally, an article was written about the show in the Hyattsville Newspaper

<http://hyattsvillelife.com/officials-wowed-by-students-creativity-at-pgcps-art-exhibit/>

Southern County Visual Art Exhibit

This exhibit was held for a second year in a row at Harmony Hall Arts Center and we are very grateful for the partnership we have with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the Prince George’s Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Prince George’s County Arts and Humanities Council whom all help to sponsor and support this event. Over 80 Southern area schools are represented in this exhibit from Early Childhood to Grade 12. More than 500 works of art were on display.



Suitland Students Participate in Maryland State Rethinks Recycling Contest

By Heekyu Hong

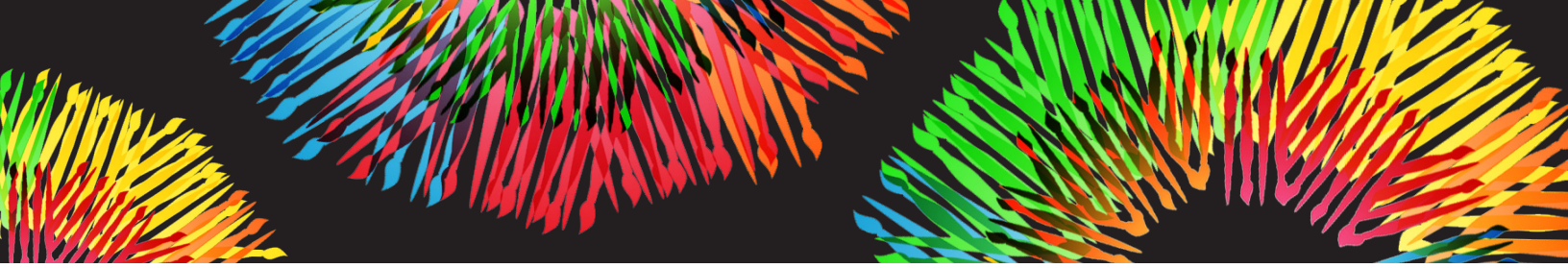
This year Chloe Dodson and Ravyn Dears participated in the 2018 Maryland State Rethinks Recycling contest in Baltimore, MD at the MDE center November 30, 2018. Ravyn Dears won second place for “peoples choice” and received a \$100 amazon gift card and 2 aquarium tickets. Both students received \$50 in gift cards for participation.



Ravyn Dears



Chloe Dodson

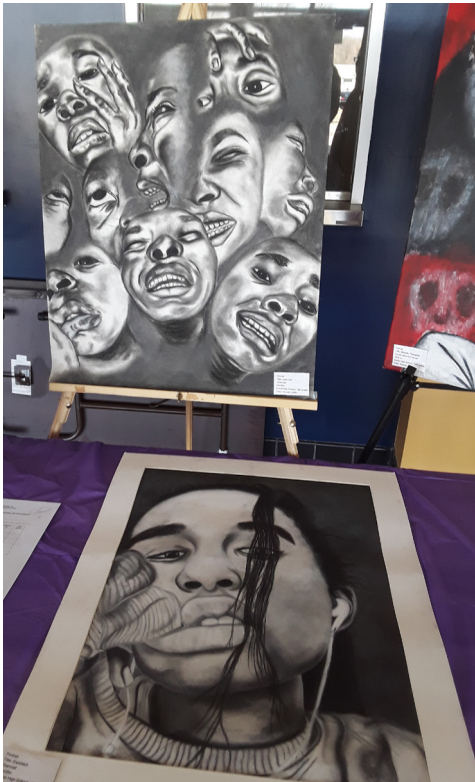


DuVal Seniors Place 1st and 2nd in Talent Hunt By James Shindle

DuVal Seniors, Rabiatu Ladan and Jonita Acquah placed 1st and 2nd place respectively in the Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc's (Fort Meade, Maryland) Talent Hunt 2019 program. The event took place, Saturday, March 16th, at Flowers HS. The event was for the entire DC/MD/VA area. Rabiatu Ladan's work will go to a 2nd round in Delaware later this Spring.



Work by Rabiatu Ladan

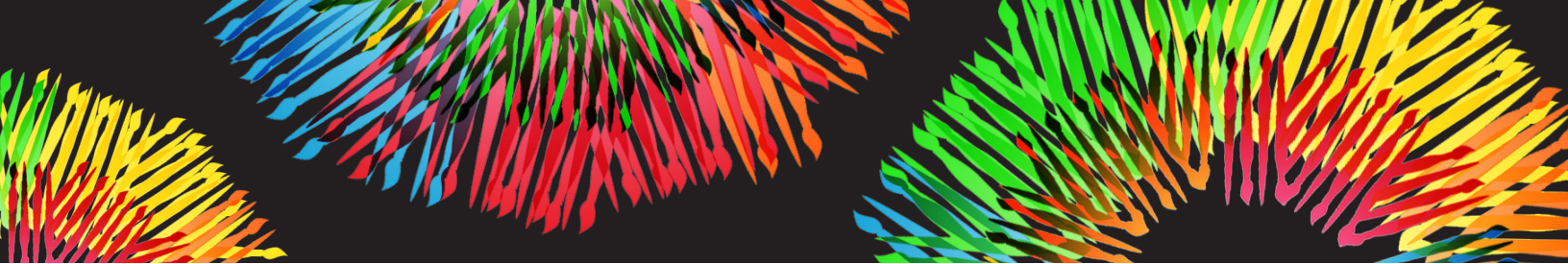


All three award winners from left to right; Jonita Acquah, Rabiatu Ladan, and a Montgomery County student.



Work by Jonita Acquah





New Art Teacher Exposes Students to More than “Just Art”

By Nezhiah Osayi (Student writer, Parkdale High School)

For most students, Art 1 is a class that is expected to be a breeze-through that students expect to pass by just drawing stick figures. However, with Mr. Tremaine Wilkes, a new art teacher at Parkdale, students aren't just going through the motions but are learning real-world skills that wouldn't normally be found in an art class.

“My method [with teaching] is guided self-exploration,” said Mr. Tre, as Mr. Wilkes likes to be called by his students. “I encourage my kids to think and understand the process of thinking and how to make the right choice versus the wrong choice.”

Although teaching is a passion of his now, Mr. Tre didn't always have this career in mind.

He was born in Mocksville, NC and was raised in Thomasville, NC until he was 15 and moved to Maryland for his tenth grade year in high school. Here, he attended DeMatha for one semester and ended up graduating from Charles H. Flowers.

After graduating high school, Mr. Tre attended Texas Southern University for a while before joining the military. That's where he was introduced to computer graphics, where his skills were so advanced that his superiors feared that the high standards that he'd set wouldn't be met by his replacement.



Tremaine Wilkes helps students work on their graphic design project.

“I literally had chief tell me ‘We're gonna switch you to the video department because what you're doing here in graphics is a little too good,’” said Mr. Tre.

After his stint in the military, Mr. Tre returned to college where he had taken part in college football. Despite being a talented athlete since youth, Mr. Tre didn't find same gratification in football that he did in his art.

“The thing with playing sports was to be able to have that name to then open up my own art studio,” said Mr. Tre. “It was always an aid to be able to open up an art studio and teach kids art.”

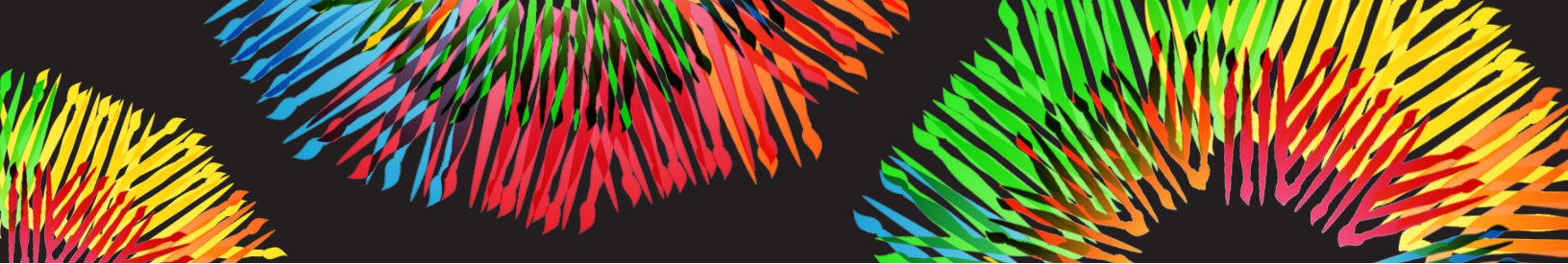
When it came to the idea of being a school teacher, it had not occurred to Mr. Tre until speaking with one of his college professors, Ms. Austin.

“She encouraged me to actually teach,” said Mr. Tre. “She was like ‘You'll make an amazing teacher.’”

Mr. Tre took his professor's advice, came back to the DMV area, substituted for awhile, and then became full fledged teacher at Parkdale. In his first year of teaching, Mr. Tre was assigned to teach Art, but decided to construct a curriculum that challenged the status quo.

A typical Art 1 class with Mr. Tre revolves around him showing his

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class a “thing” [a new artistic technique usually] and how to do it, ways to get better at it, some experimentation with doing the “thing” and then he assigns a project revolving the entitled “thing”. While Mr. Tre will always make it clear what he’s looking for in a project, he also wants students to outsmart him and create something that he never even thought of.

However, giving students the freedom to have an elongated window of time to be creative, inventive and to work in a more hands-off environment has been a noticed challenge for Mr. Tre.

“[I give] them that freedom when they’re not used to having freedom to make choices and decisions because it’s usually like “Hey this is A, this is B, this is C; I need you to do it exactly like A, B, C,” said Mr. Tre. “Where I’m like “Hey this is A-Z and this is how it could work, now you figure out what works for you.”

While the “Whatever works for you” mentality may be a bell for many students to just draw a stick figure, claim it’s the best they’ve got and expect an A+, that type of attitude it doesn’t fly in Mr. Tre’s Art 1. In a class where students create their own logos, brands, business cards that will be created, worn, and shared in the real world, maximum effort is required.

“Mr. Tre is a teacher who wants you to succeed but wants you to work for it because he wants us to know that hard work is what makes us succeed,” said junior Angelina Lopez. “He explains to us how hard life is and how much we need to push through to make it somewhere and most teachers will not let us know that.”

His experience of teaching art to Parkdale students is a continuation of his mission of educating young people about the importance of art, that surpasses the typical drawing or painting they may be accustomed to.

“I would love for the kids to leave out and be able to actually draw but more than that I want them to be able to think because artists are problem solvers,” said Mr. Tre. “Almost everything that we have has been engineered and crafted by an artist of some sort. Houses, clothes, sneakers, cars, instruments, tools... everything is crafted by an artist.”

In his art class, Mr. Tre wants to understand the whole student, not just their academic side. Sometimes he may be your teacher, sometimes your best friend or even sometimes your therapist if you need him to be. His ideas may be challenging and require work that may not be expected to be in an Art 1 class, but his expectations for a student who has completed the course is one that’s

not commonly held for most electives in Parkdale.

“Ideally, my student leaves with confidence, the ability to think critically, and out-think the people around him,” said Mr. Tre. “They leave with an open mindset, with that ability to say ‘How can I think about this differently?’ If you have a closed mindset, you’ll miss a lot of opportunities to make yourself better.”

Article originally published on the Parkdale High School news website:

<http://phspawprint.com/2019/04/02/new-art-teacher-exposes-students-to-more-than-just-art/>

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Sixth Grader Wins 3rd Place in MLK Poster Contest

By Cassandra Mulheron

Kattya Ruana Lopez, a sixth grader at Beacon Heights Elementary won third place in the Prince George’s County Educators’ Minority Affairs Committee’s MLK Poster Contest. It’s super exciting because she had to compete with other middle schoolers and she’s in an elementary setting. She gets a \$50 prize and her poster will be displayed at their celebration.

Painting Therapy for Staff at Rockledge Elementary, Bowie Maryland

By Lydia Peters

The principal, Mr. Roger Prince, and his staff enjoying a session of Painting Therapy offered by the Art Teacher, Ms. Lydia Peters. It was an exhilarating and exciting experience sharing two hours of fun with comrades at Rockledge! This is how the Road Runners do it! One of the staples that holds us together!



“Art therapy is a mental health profession that uses the creative process of art making to improve and enhance the physical, mental and emotional well-being of individuals of all ages.”

Student Displays Work in First Lady's Gallery in Annapolis

Teacher: Al Spekis

Maryland's First Lady, Yumi Hogan presented the bi-annual exhibition of artwork by Maryland students. A reception was held on March 18 in The House of Delegates Gallery Space in Annapolis.



Carlos Escobar, a 12th grade student at Bladensburg High School, with Maryland's First Lady, Yumi Hogan.



ACE Educator Award Ceremony

By Jennifer Acree

On March 25, 2019 the Greenbelt City Council and the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) honored an educator from each of seven schools that Greenbelt students attend. Jennifer Acree, art teacher at Dora Kennedy French Immersion, was one of the recipients. "Acree has a unique gift of bringing art to life and incorporating technology to display and model the art pieces the students create in class. She effec-

tively introduces new art work that reflects the holidays or celebrations for each month in a way that is fun and also aligns with the curriculum).--Greenbelt News Review, April 4, 2019. Ms. Acree was awarded a certificate of recognition from the Prince George's County Council, and an official citation from the Maryland General Assembly as well. Ms. Acree is in her 30th year of teaching art.

Eleanor Roosevelt High School Arts Festival

The festival will take place at the Roosevelt Center, on Centerway in Greenbelt, on April 27. Students from Eleanor Roosevelt High School will display their artwork in the New Deal Cafe, while musicians and drama students perform inside and outside of the cafe. The art reception will take place that afternoon from 3-5 in the New Deal Cafe. All are welcome.

Youth Art Month Flag Design Winner

By Amanda Espina

The Council for Art Education directs the national Youth Art Month Program, typically in March, advocating for visual arts education for all children, and encouraging funding for quality school visual arts programs. As part of this program, the Maryland Art Education Association holds a yearly flag contest. This year's winner for the state of Maryland was Autumn Winters, a freshman at Suitland High School Center for Visual and Performing Arts. Her winning design was on display at the National Art Education Association conference in Boston, MA for one week, amongst others from around the country. Autumn received a check for \$1,000 and her teacher, Ms. Amanda Espina, received \$1,500 in classroom art supplies, provided by Sargent Art.



Art 1 Survey

We are in the process of gathering feedback to enhance and improve the Art 1 curriculum. We need your help. Your input is valued and will guide our revisions. Please use the link below to complete the survey.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdtaifQMz_qu2LJLJeYAVM-H4Ln-dK_CUDE0R6ccV29y3msEIg/viewform?usp=sf_link

This is YOUR Newsletter

Share your art news with other PGCPs Art Teachers.

- Did your school do a special installation or mural?
- Do you have an exciting collaborative project to share?
- Did you attend an art exhibit on your own or with your students?
- Are you showing your own art anywhere?*
- Are your students showing their art anywhere?*
- Is there an art event that you think others might like to attend?*
- Or any other Art Teacher related stories you would like to share?

Please submit stories in a Google Document using the button below. Include photos in the document if you wish.

Please keep stories to a half page, single spaced, 12pt type. (Exceptions may be made for length if needed).

*Keep the date in mind if your news has a deadline or specific time frame that may have passed by the time we distribute. Email Monique Connealy (monique.king@pgcps.org) to confirm newsletter deadline.

[CLICK HERE TO
UPLOAD STORIES](#)