

# Rural Revitalization Initiative Newsletter

## Des Moines Municipal Schools...Winter 2012



*Koler Seaton 6th Grade*

### Art and Music and Drama...Oh My!

*This article was submitted by Kelly Jones, high school English teacher at Des Moines Schools. She also teaches various Art and Music classes. Kelly would like to thank everyone for their support in keeping the arts in our schools!*

First of all, our elementary staff has been working diligently to incorporate art into the classrooms on a daily basis. They keep our hallways and classrooms looking fantastic and do a great job teaching students about the elements of art.

My supplemental art classes started the year exploring Fauvism. Matisse is a famous artist who used this technique. He used cut-out construction paper shapes to "paint" his paintings. The students really did a great job using his style.

Some 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade students painted landscapes and structures, experimenting with different colors, shades and textures of acrylic paint to create realistic looking works of art. We talked about different brushstrokes and shading to create a 3-dimensional effect. We also discussed the works of Bob Ross and Thomas Kinkade.



*Dakota Martinez—11th Grade*

The elementary students put on two great music programs this year. They sang a compilation of patriotic selections for Veterans Day in November, for which some high school students even played piano pieces, which was a special treat. This program was followed by a really fabulous Christmas program in December, for which our students really worked hard. The Des Moines Schools were also lucky enough to have some of our own artistic parents donate their time and talent in order to create the extraordinary sets and costumes for the Christmas program as well!



*JJ Floyd & Patrick Marquez  
6th Grade*

In this new semester of 2012, we've started off our art classes with drawing glass containers. Glass objects are some of the most difficult of all still-life objects to draw, so we rose to the challenge, and in we dove. We'll spend some time working on mastery of shading and use of light with pencil drawings, and later we will try our hands at painting still-life objects.

High school English classes explored "short stories", both in their composition, as well as how we could make our stories into movies. This resulted in our first annual "Des Moines Film Festival," where students wrote short stories and picked one story per grade level to turn into a movie. Students experienced the technology of film and sound editing, as well as make-up and costume design.

We will have many other artistic opportunities going on as the year passes, but the big events we have coming up are the Junior musical in April, and the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Art Show in May. The Juniors decided to perform a version of *The Wizard of Oz* for their annual play. We are already working on the sets, designing costumes, and memorizing lines and music whenever we have the time. Please see me if you are interested in helping us make *The Wizard of Oz* come to life.

*I hope to see you around! ...Ms. Jones*

### Thank You...

**Baca Valley Telephone**  
for your continued support  
in printing and distributing  
this newsletter.

**Folsom Garden Club** for  
your generous donation!

## The Junior Class Presents...The Wizard of Oz!

Coming in April (watch for details)

### Des Moines School Based Health and Wellness Center

is currently providing behavioral health and chiropractic services.  
Call 278-2619 to schedule an appointment.



# Folsom Man Discovery Site Exhibit

Sunday, February 5, 2012

East Hall of History State Capitol Building

12:00 noon press conference

**One Day Only...please help spread the word!**

(The exhibit will return to the Folsom Museum after this event.)

## MAP Assessment Testing – January 16-27

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP assessments) will be January 16-27<sup>th</sup>. Des Moines Municipal Schools conducts these assessments three-times per year (fall, winter, and spring) to track student progress throughout the year, to guide instruction, and to determine students' gaps in knowledge and skills appropriate to their grade level, as compared to national norms. These assessments also help predict whether individual students are on track to meet proficiency on the New Mexico Standards-Based Assessment (NMSBA) that will be conducted March 20-29.

Please make a note of the January test dates and help your child(ren) come to school prepared to do their best. These scores are extremely important indicators of your child's progress and academic needs as we strive to provide individualized instruction.

Please consider the following during the weeks of January 16 – 27:

- See that your child(ren) gets 8-10 hours of sleep each night during the two-week span;
- Make sure that your child is getting a nourishing breakfast, either at school or home;
- Avoid family stressors and/or negative conversations that might increase student stress;
- Keep a healthy attitude toward testing. Ensure your child that the assessments will provide answers as to what they already know as they also help teachers plan for addressing knowledge and skills that may be lacking.
- Encourage your child to do their very best on each part of every test. Their scores matter!

## Workgroup Update...

Here's a quick look at current projects...

### Economic Development Workgroup

- Economic Development continues to work on issues related to septic tank regulations.

### Beautification Workgroup

- Did a great job decorating for the holidays! They are currently selling community calendars as a fund raiser for the workgroup.

### Education Workgroup

- Starting to plan for the annual Kids' Academy that will be held in July.

**We are looking for community members who would like to see our community grow and prosper!**

If you are interested in serving on a workgroup, or have ideas on how to improve our community, please email [revitalize@bacavalley.com](mailto:revitalize@bacavalley.com) or call the school... 278-2611.

**A Special Thanks to all our Volunteers!**