



Live your Life. Live your Life. Live your Life.
- Maurice Sendak, 1928-2012



Happy 40th Birthday, Rooftop School!

Rooftop's all-school 40th Birthday celebration was a day to remember! Mr. Weis & Ms. Contreras' 6th grade students marked the special occasion by throwing a party for 700 people and performing their original opera, "On the Rooftop." We were honored to have three of



the original seven founding teachers, Ernie Baumgarten, Gus Kearney and Bob Beckstrom, as well as two of their first students, Sherrie and Jeannine Young at the celebration. The guests shared stories of Rooftop's early days and when asked if they could sum up the spirit of our school in one word, they all agreed that "Rooftop is Family." The celebration ended with the entire community singing, "Open the Door," a song that has been sung at Rooftop morning circle for 40 years!



Rooftop Spirit Shines at the 13th Annual International Festival

On April 25th, Rooftop's International Festival celebrated the vibrant diversity of our community and the talents and creativity of our students. The show began with special guest performers the FREEZE, an improvisational on-the-spot hip hop act, along with Rooftop Alumni Adam Traore, who is now a professional performer. Following our headliners, the day featured dozens of beautiful performances of creative and bold student acts, as well as some from our talented teachers as well. Our Mayeda students served as student MC's, stage hands, tech and sound crew, photographers, and ushers for the younger students, all working together in a show of Rooftop Spirit!



And the food . . . oh, the food! Thank you to our families for providing an abundant feast of foods from around the world! Our Rooftop table was set and the kids loved sampling the wide variety of tastes from the many cultures that make up our community. Thank you to everyone who helped fill the day with joy, understanding, creativity and celebration.



Photos on this page by Bernadette Gabrielli. "Wild Thing" art created by Rooftop student as part of Fall 2009's study of Maurice Sendak.

SF Opera ARIA Network Culminating Event Performances

The 6th Grade's performance of "On the Rooftop" was the culminating event of the class' participation in the SF Opera ARIA Network and was one of four mini-operas being presented at Rooftop in May. Wednesday, May 9th was the world-premiere of operas created by the students of Mrs. Toupin and Ms. Cruz' classes. On Wednesday May 16th, Ms. Vaughn and Ms. Smith's class present, "Mama Don't Allow," their opera in two acts based on the book by Thatcher Hurd.



"Chelonia's Story" was written, composed, produced and performed by Mrs. Toupin's 3rd grade. Based on the book "Chelonia : Return of the Sea Turtle" by Dawn Navarro, Robert E. Snodgrass, & Wallace J Nichols and the Blue Marbles Project, the opera tells the story of a sea turtle hatchling, the two children who rescue her, and Marine biologist Dr. Wallace J. Nichols, who helps her return to the sea. The production culminates year-long learning about libretto writing, music composition and performing, and integrates with their classroom curricular studies. The students were treated to a surprise audience member, as Dr. J was in attendance and passed out Blue Marbles to the performers in gratitude for their efforts to protect sea turtles. Through their hard work in recycling plastic baggies and juice pouches, the students raised enough money to sponsor a sea turtle nest in El Salvador, through "Save the Wave."

In Ms. Cruz' kindergarten opera, "The Land of No Expression," the children remixed and reinvented nursery rhymes and crafted a story that explores emotions and self-expression. The "fractured fairy tales" featured familiar characters with a twist, as the children explored the backstory as to why the little dog might



"laugh to see such a sight" and the not-so-nice side of Little Miss Muffet. The children discovered that there's nothing like a villain to add some spice to a story! The students explored improvisational theater activities facilitated by Ms. Cruz and parent Jenny Rosen and libretto and music composition with Teaching Artist Lua Hadar and Composer Candace Forest of the SF Opera. The performance was dedicated to Maurice Sendak, who recognized and respected the complex emotional lives of children.



Miki Fujiwara and Rooftop's Clay Program

During her second semester as Rooftop's Clay Coordinator, Miki Fujiwara continued working in our elementary classrooms, bringing thoughtful and inspiring ceramics projects to our students. Miki has developed a clay curriculum that focuses on sequential learning through visual arts curriculum standards, with the goal of our young artists creating increasingly complex and personal works. Working with our classroom teachers, Miki led ceramic projects, ranging from basic to advanced, that integrate with the core academic curriculum as well as taking inspirations from nature, history, world cultures and artists' works.

Miki also facilitated Cyndy Sugawara's work with our 8th grade students to create hand-built "legacy" tiles to represent each student and to be installed in the Mayeda Amphitheater.



Pictured above: Miki worked with Ms. Louis' 2nd Grade to create Picasso plates. Inspired by Cubist self-portraits the students created earlier this year, the plates were made by using clay slabs and slump molds.

Anthony Brown, Devorah Major, and Third Graders Create Poetry and Jazz



Students in Mr. Mattson's and Ms. Kastner's Third Grade enjoyed a unique opportunity to collaborate with former San Francisco Poet Laureate Devorah Major and Intercultural Music and Education Specialist, Dr. Anthony Brown. During three classroom sessions, students explored poetry writing and the ways their words can resonate and create new meanings when performed with live jazz. The curriculum is a pilot program created by Dr. Brown called "Jazz Languages Residency Program" which is soon to be adopted by the Smithsonian as part of their Jazz Education Program. Performing live for their peers and parents on May 2nd, students recited their poetry with live jazz accompaniment provided by musicians from the Asian American Orchestra.

Rooftop's Eighth Grade Experiences "A Raisin in the Sun" Performance

May 9th, Rooftop's 8th Grade class traveled to the Buriel Clay Theatre at the African American Arts and Culture Complex to see the African American Shakespeare Company's performance of Lorraine Hansberry's "A Raisin in the Sun." After studying the play in their language arts class, the field trip was a wonderful opportunity for the students to see the work brought to life by award-winning director L. Peter Callender. "I am thrilled to direct this seminal American drama for African-American Shakespeare Company," said Callender. "It is a fiercely moving portrait of people whose hopes and dreams are constantly deferred. It is not just an African-American play, but an American play; it is a play that still resonates and speaks to all of us."

This is our third year partnering with the African American Shakespeare Company, which was founded by Rooftop Alumni Sherri Young!

Mayeda Student Government Raises PE Funds at Mayeda Media Night



May 4th - The Mayeda Gym rocked with student bands and student films, working together to provide the entertainment for a

student-led fundraiser for Rooftop's PE program. Attendees enjoyed three different bands from Rooftop's After School Program with Blue Bear School of Music. Our 8th grade band, Quiet Time, played their farewell Rooftop performance. Flaming Horizons, comprised of 5th and 6th graders rocked the house, and the crowd enjoyed the debut of The Icy Chills! comprised of 3rd and 4th graders. The evening featured screenings of Mayeda student films created as part of the North Star Project expressing concerns for our environment. The event was organized by the Mayeda Student Government and raised nearly \$200 for PE equipment!



After School Chorus Performance



Rooftop's last PTA Meeting was enlivened with the Spring performance by Rooftop's After School Chorus.

Led by Victor Cervantes, the chorus consists to two large groups, 1st through 3rd, and 4th through 6th graders. The younger group performed youthful classics like Rockin' Robin and My Blue Heaven (a tribute to our school's participation in the Blue Marbles Project). The older kids performed contemporary pop hits like Set Fire to the Rain and Stereo Hearts, complete with rapping soloists. The evening performance was dedicated to Ann Henry, Rooftop parent, grandparent, former teacher, founder of our Sensory Motor program, and all-around ambassador of Rooftop Spirit. The chorus also performed for the K-5 students at Friday Morning sing-along on May 11th.

2012 Young at Art at the deYoung Museum SFUSD's Celebration of Student Creativity

Currently at the deYoung Museum is SFUSD's 2012 Young at Art, an 8-day celebration of student creativity in visual, literary, media and performing arts. The exhibit will be on display through Sunday May 20. Free admission, daily hours from 9:30 to 5:30, with a Gala event Friday May 18 from 5-8 pm.



The creativity of all of Rooftop's students is proudly represented by 150 of our students, grades K through 8, in works both as individuals and group projects. Congratulations to the following artists whose artwork was accepted in this juried art show!

Burnett Campus Individual Entries:

Picasso-Inspired Portraits

Connor Caba, 2nd Grade
Paulina Novitchenko, 4th Grade

Golden Gate Bridge Art

Emmanuel Ching, 3rd Grade
Hana Razik, 4th Grade

Found-Object Printmaking

Vivian Blantz, Kindergarten

Burnett Campus Special Projects:

Picasso Self-Portrait Sculpture

Rooftop Kindergarten

Seed Packet Label Designs

Ms. Margot's 2nd Grade

Flag of Freedom Collage

Mrs. Toupin's 3rd Grade
& Ms. Laurie's Kinder

African Masks

Mr. Prizmich's SDC

Ceramic Bird Study

Mr. Rogers' 4th Grade

California Indian Ceremonial Garb

Ms. Woo's 4th Grade



Mayeda Campus, Special Projects:

Words, Colors, Feelings - Learning from Gordon Parks - 6th Grade:

Ethan Quan, Tatiana Torrence, Ben Fields

Seed Folk Community Fence - 6th Grade:

Diego Lopez, Imogen Budetti, Queenie Li, Lucy Montgomery, Rose Wade

Day of the Dead Altars - 7th / 8th Grade:

Aliya Chambless, Sofia Mack, Aida Irving, Jacob Moskowitz, Cy David

Endangered Species Prints, 8th Grade:

Hailey Parker, Isabel Alves de Lima, Averal Kandala, Aida Irving, Sudha Reynolds, Rodrigo Huazano, Makayla Wynia, Alejandra Mendez-Ruiz, Anna Zimmern

Seed Folk Community Fence - 6th Grade:

Diego Lopez, Imogen Budetti, Queenie Li, Lucy Montgomery, Rose Wade

Endangered Mural - 7th Grade:

Learning from Richard Yarde: African Americans Who Make a Difference - 8th Grade:

Audrey Deutsch, Alejandra Mendez-Ruiz, Jacob Moskowitz

Photo Cubism - 8th Grade:

Cy David, Daniel Scholz, Khalil Ibrahim, Makayla Wynia



Mayeda Campus Individual Entries:

Noreen Shaikh (8th) - Identity
Omar Aleman (7th) - Dragon
Aida Irving (8th) - Little Rock 9
Cy David (8th) - Thelon. Monk
Aliya Chambless (7th) Cubism

Media Arts Entries Green & Blues PSAs:

Alejandra Mendez-Ruiz (8th)
Olivia Edmunds (8th)
Sarah Merry (7th)



Rooftop's Fifth Grade & StageWrite Present an Original Play, "Jabuti the Tortoise"



As the culminating event of an artist's residency with StageWrite, Rooftop's 5th Graders hosted an evening performance of their original play, "Jabuti the Tortoise." Spring-boarding from an Amazon Rainforest folktale about a trickster tortoise, the students crafted the tale into a comedic newscast about the events, and



a rowdy Dr. Phil-style talk show with the rainforest animal characters. Teaching artist Laura Lowry brought StageWrite's theater education program to the classroom, with theatre games, improvisation, and playwriting. The students had incredible fun collaborating to create and perform their play, while strengthening their literacy skills and reinforcing their 5th grade language arts learning.

Students Honor the GG Bridge

Congratulations to Ms. Kastner's Third Grade, who created wonderful tributes in poetry and collage to honor the 75th Birthday of the Golden Gate Bridge. The students' writing and artwork are on display in the Children's Wing at the San Francisco's Library Main Branch in the Civic Center. The display will be up for just a short time more, so if you're in the Civic Center area, be sure to stop in a see their thoughtful expressions of our city's favorite landmark.



Student artwork from this project was also selected to be shared at two different events around the city. Emmanuel Ching's bridge art was selected as one of the individual entries for Young at Art at the deYoung Museum, and Nathan Evans and Raquel Macmillan's works were selected by their peers to represent the class in the San Francisco Museum and Historical Society's Golden Gate Bridge student art competition. Congratulations to Nathan on his work being selected as a finalist, and to all students who created beautiful expressions on San Francisco's history.

Even More Rooftop Arts Events in May!

As this newsletter goes to print in mid-May, our cavalcade of arts learning events continues! On Monday, May 14th, Burnett students enjoyed a special assembly performance of Marcus Shelby and some of his "cats." Our students heard a fantastic live performance from world-class jazz musicians as the culmination of Marcus' "Green & Blues" residency, which used music from the Cool Jazz movement of the 1960s to illustrate concepts of ecology and sustainability.

On the morning of Wednesday, May 16th, Ms. Smith and Ms. Vaughn's class hosted the performance of their opera, "Mama Don't Allow," the culminating event of their experience with the SF Opera Program.

4th Grade Hosts Poetry Night

Throughout the spring semester, Rooftop's 4th grade classes harnessed the power of words to express their ideas and feelings with poetry. The students have also created hand-bound poetry books as a keepsake of their literary learning.

To celebrate their poetic prowess, the class is hosting a Poetry Night where students will recite their written works for their families, this Thursday, May 17 at 6:30 pm in the Mayeda Gym.

The Raven's Quill - Spring Edition



The inaugural year of Rooftop's student literary magazine, The Raven's Quill, was very successful, with editions published in the Fall and Winter, and the Spring Edition to be released the last week of school. Congratulations to all student who participated! Watch the Bulletin for more details.

A Message from Art Parent Coordinator, Amy Balsbaugh

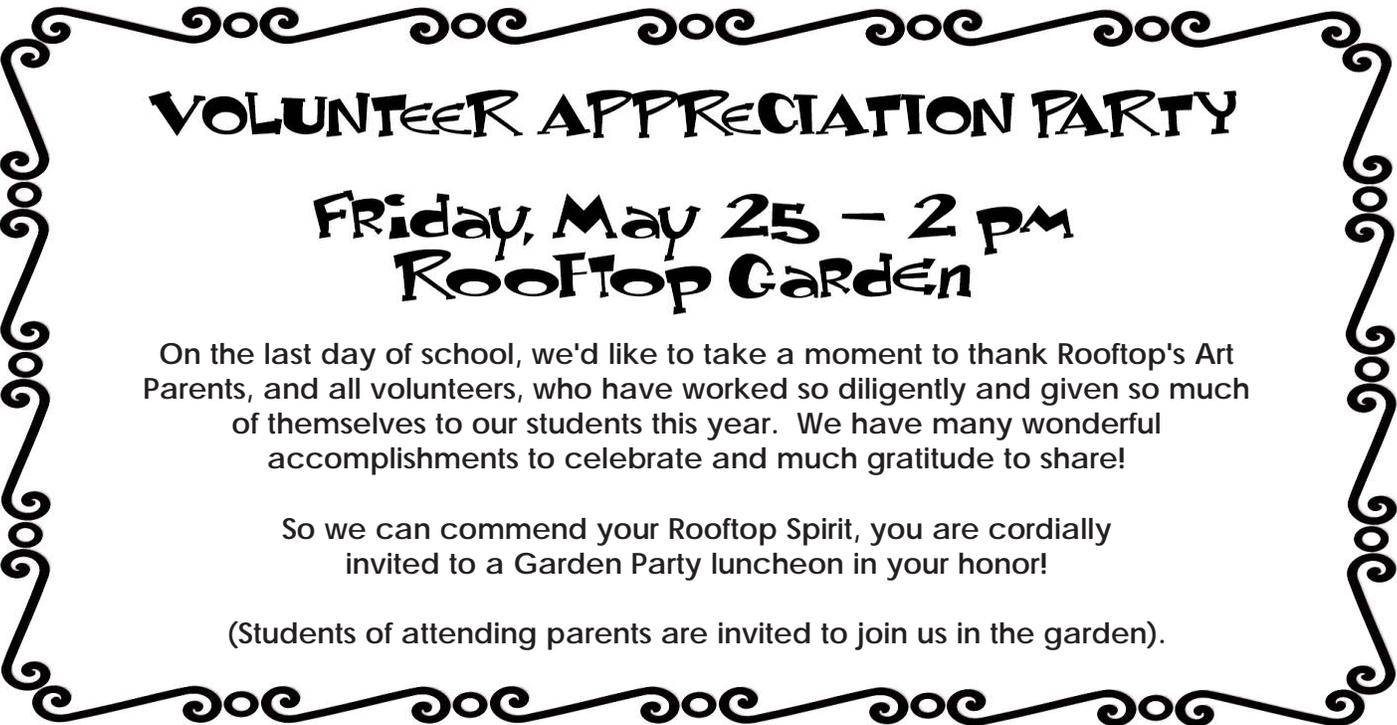
I always know the year is coming to a close when the time comes to create a banner for the International Festival at Yard Art. A few weeks ago, I was working with the kids and I asked what they thought about a theme for our banner. Prompting them with "Rooftop Is..." a clever little one piped in, "Rooftop is Family!" So we began drawing images of our families on a large roll of paper, added the lettering, and created a banner that hung behind the Festival Stage. Remarkably, seven days later at Rooftop's 40th Birthday Party, without seeing the banner from the week before, Rooftop's founding teachers replied to that exact question with the same answer! It's an incredible testament to the power of our community that after four decades, we are still family.

And like any family, we have our joys, our successes, our challenges and our tears. This year, our community faced some difficulties, but I am so grateful that through it all, the Art was always there, challenging the kids to try harder, to engage more, to learn from their failures and to revel in their successes. Our teachers, teaching artists and parents worked together to create meaningful arts experiences despite budget, space and time constraints. Together, we modeled for our students what it means to engage as a member of a caring community.

It was an incredible year full of so many wonderful art moments - and in this past month alone, there was so much that it took *six pages* of a newsletter to share it all! Many of the events in this newsletter are what we call a "culminating event," or opportunities for students to share with their peers and families the product of an investigation, extended study, or artist's residency. It should be noted, however, that while we adults love seeing the final product, whether it be a performance or a painting, we must recognize that the true learning is found in the process of making art.

One of my greatest joys in my work at Rooftop is the privilege of seeing children's development coming from the experience of creating. Every day, I witness students' collaboration, empathy, communication, and critical thinking. These are the skills that come from the *making* of art, and when we remember to focus on *process over product*, the internal rewards of learning are revealed . . . a student's sense of discovery, joy, self-pride and recognition of their own hard work.

With gratitude for all those who honor children's creativity and work tirelessly to help it flourish, Amy



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY

FRIDAY, MAY 25 - 2 PM
ROOFTOP GARDEN

On the last day of school, we'd like to take a moment to thank Rooftop's Art Parents, and all volunteers, who have worked so diligently and given so much of themselves to our students this year. We have many wonderful accomplishments to celebrate and much gratitude to share!

So we can commend your Rooftop Spirit, you are cordially invited to a Garden Party luncheon in your honor!

(Students of attending parents are invited to join us in the garden).