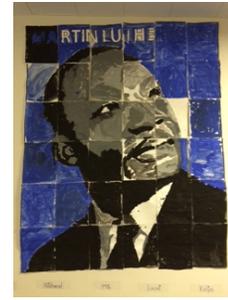


“Life’s most persistent and urgent question ‘What are you doing for others?’”-- Martin Luther King Jr.



Interview With a Rooftop Art Parent

The Rooftop Art Program has been a tradition for over 30 years. Our program brings the visual arts to the classroom and provides learning opportunities in multiple arts disciplines (music, dance, performing, media and literary arts), offered through credentialed school district arts providers, teaching artists, and cultural organizations. At the core of our Art Program are our dedicated Art Parent volunteers, who bring their enthusiasm and passion to the classrooms. We have interviewed newcomer and veteran art parents what their experience has been. We’d like to introduce you to a Kinder parent who is continuing the Rooftop Art Program tradition, her name is Eryn Kurin and her son Cole is in Ms. Kim’s class.

“I have been an Art Parent since last fall (2013) when my oldest son started kindergarten at Rooftop. There was a sign up sheet at back to school night with various opportunities to volunteer in the classroom. I saw the words “Art Parent” and thought, “That’s ME!” Luckily, my fellow Room 3 Art Parent, Sally Burgess, saw the opportunity and thought the same thing, because I think it’s an enormous task to take on single-handedly. When I first started, I was definitely a little overwhelmed. There is no audience quite like a bunch of 5 and 6 year olds, who will tell you exactly what they like... and what they don’t. They are easily the world’s smallest yet most opinionated art critics. That said, I quickly discovered what an amazing, incredible opportunity it was on a number of levels.”

.....Interview with Eryn continued on the next page



PHOTOS: Upper: Rooftop’s Kinders honor the legacy of Dr. King with a class mosaic. Lower: Art Parent Martine Paquin assists Mr. Mayhew’s 2nd grade with their wall piece.

ROOFTOP ART CALENDAR UPCOMING EVENTS

March 10- K-8 Field Trip to the DeYoung Museum for “Modern Nature: Georgia O’ Keefe and Lake George”

March 15-Rooftop Auction and Children’s Art Show

March 15-23 SFUSD Youth Arts Festival-Asian Art Museum

Spring Semester Artist Residencies & Events

Taiko Drumming Residency with SOTA World Music Program (6th-8th grade)
SFArtsEd Dance Residency with Esme Kundanis Grow (K-4th grade)
StageWrite Drama & Literacy (5th grade)
Pacific Singers & Actors Workshop (6th grade)

Interview With a Rooftop Art Parent

"The most fulfilling aspect of being an Art Parent? There are few things I love more than when I drop my son off at school and his classmates turn to me and eagerly ask, "Miss Eryn - are we having art today? Is today an art day?" It pleases me to no end to know that I get to be one of the people introducing art to students at Rooftop - and that they LOVE it! Seeing the proud and pleased looks on the kids' faces after they've completed their art projects truly warms my heart."

"Being an Art Parent has impacted me on so many levels. Not only has it encouraged me to explore my own love of art even more, learning new things and helping children discover new artists and mediums, but it has allowed me to be involved in the classroom in such a significant way. The kids have gotten to know me, and - more importantly - I've gotten to know them. I know at least a little bit about each and every child in my son's classroom. I know who can forge ahead on their own and who needs a little more support. I've learned how to encourage the curious and help the cautious. It has really been an unbelievable experience."

"To other parents and caregivers interested in becoming Art Parents, I say, DO IT! It will give you a window into your child's world and Rooftop that you really can't get any other way. Art is so valued at Rooftop and by our students there, and you can be the person who helps drive art appreciation in our community. Are you new to the school? That was me! Don't feel like you know what you're doing? Neither did I! Amy and Cheryl provide a priceless resource for you - helping you figure out everything from how to present your project in the classroom to deciding what projects are appropriate yet achievable for the grade and kids you're working with. Is it a lot of work? Well, yes, it can be if you want to put the time in. But is it worth it? ABSOLUTELY! "

Theatre Arts with Mr. G.

This year, Rooftop welcomed a new credentialed arts specialist instructor, David Greenbaum, or as the kids call him, "Mr. G." Every Tuesday, kindergarten through fourth grade students gather in the MPR for singing, improvisational exploration and drama games. The children sing, frolic, move, make believe, and express themselves. This past fall, under the direction of Mr. G, Ms. Woo's fourth graders performed at Rooftop's Slice of Life celebration at the Tenderloin National Forest. Additional performances are planned for the SFUSD Youth Arts Festival in March as well as culminating performances at school toward the end of the year.

A specialist in musical theatre, Mr. G. comes to Rooftop from the Visual and Performing Arts Department of SFUSD. A strong believer in the power of performing arts learning to improve overall academic achievement, he strives to create a space where students feel safe to explore and experience performing

arts while building a positive community. Mr. G. shared that his ultimate goal in teaching performing arts is to help every student discover their voice and feel comfortable and confident in using it.



Photos courtesy of Young Wong