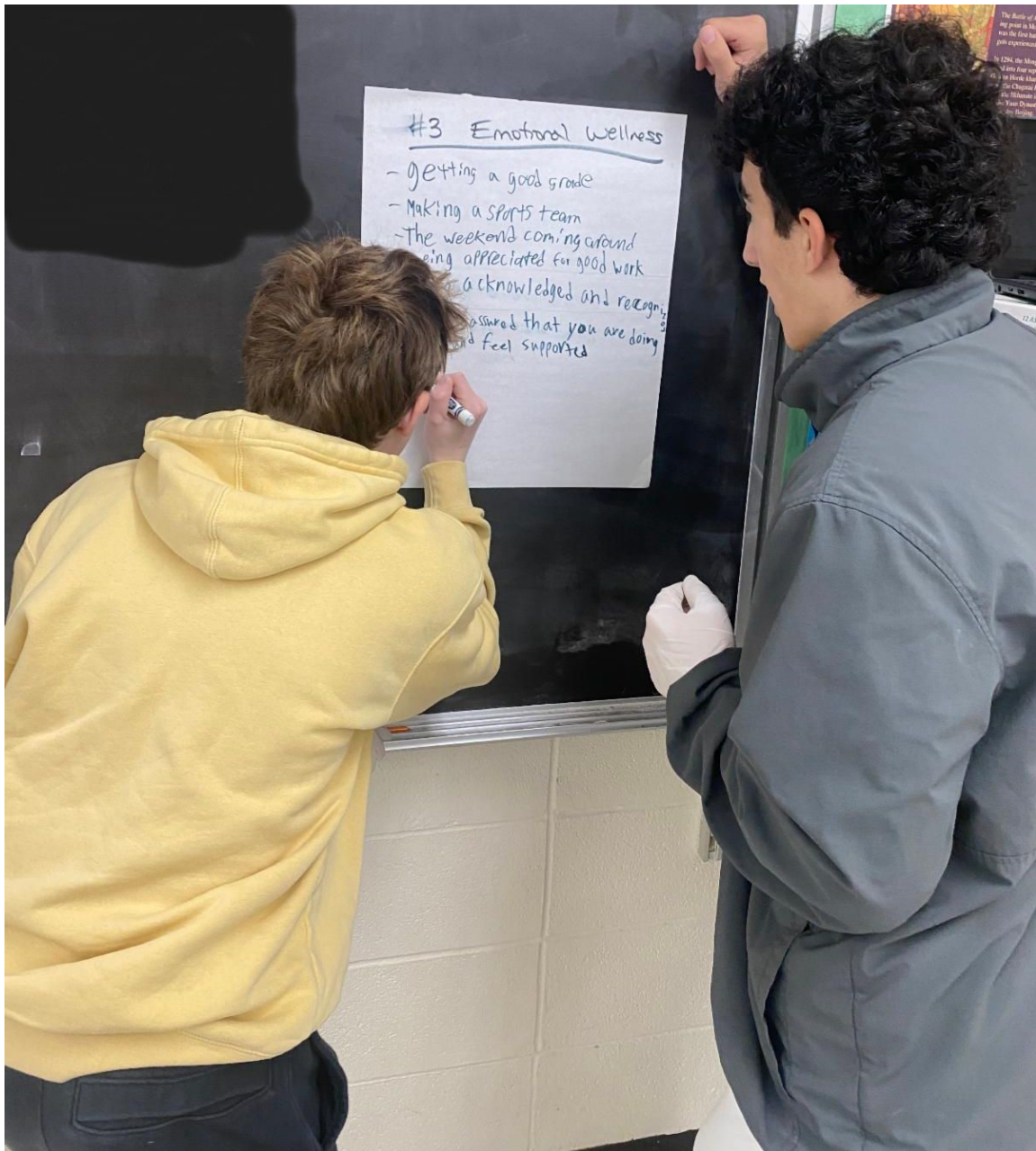




Tusker Nation

SOMERS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS
FOR SCSD FAMILIES

Tusker 101 - a Path to Success



Students reflect on what brings them emotional wellness in a Tusker 101 class.

All freshmen at Somers High School are enrolled in Tusker 101, a new class this year aimed at imparting lessons that apply not only to school but also to succeeding in life.

“The day is always so chaotic, so to come into Tusker 101 feels so much better because you can talk about questions you have,” said Alivia Digiaco. “It’s a good check-in for the freshmen.”

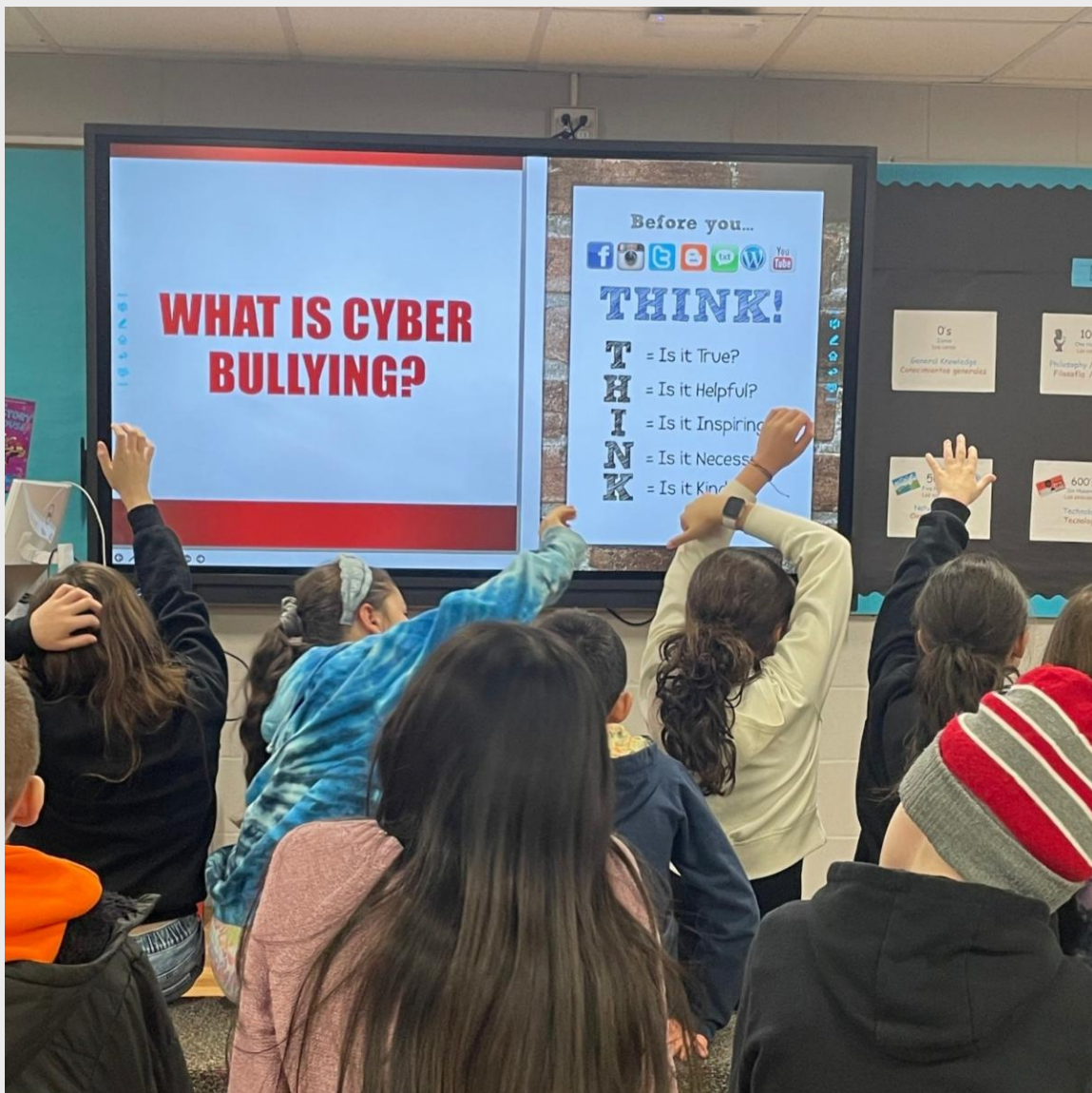
Students started the year by reflecting on different qualities about themselves in terms of both strengths and challenge areas. After exploring those further, students then learned about the resources available within the school that would help them meet the needs they see in themselves, like the nurse, library, the Academic Support Center (ASC), and the school store.

“When I saw the ASC, I didn’t know you could get help with every subject. Now I’ve been going there to get help with math during lunch,” Alivia said. “My last math test boosted my average by four points.”

The class focuses on the ten International Baccalaureate learner profile attributes, one per month, and puts them into practical use by expanding on them. Exploring these attributes, which include communication skills, risk-taking, and reflection, students learn how to better apply these skills to both their academic studies and their lives outside of school. They also learn the different ways the faculty supports students in the building.

“I’m so grateful for Tusker 101,” said Alivia. “I’m happy I got to say this because, in the beginning, I was nervous to come into this school. This class has helped me so much, life-skills-wise, and in general.”

THINK Before Your Click



Digital citizenship, cyberbullying, and online safety are hot topics in fourth-grade library

classes at Somers Intermediate School. Students are discussing different strategies to employ if something online doesn't seem safe, such as stopping what they're doing, stepping away from the device, and finding a trusted adult. The kids also learned about how they can protect themselves to prevent anything unsafe from happening while online.

□ Seen Around Somers □



Juniors and seniors in Advanced Drawing at Somers High School have been hard at work on a variety of projects this semester, starting with a large graphite drawing based on still life pictures they took of various objects from different angles.

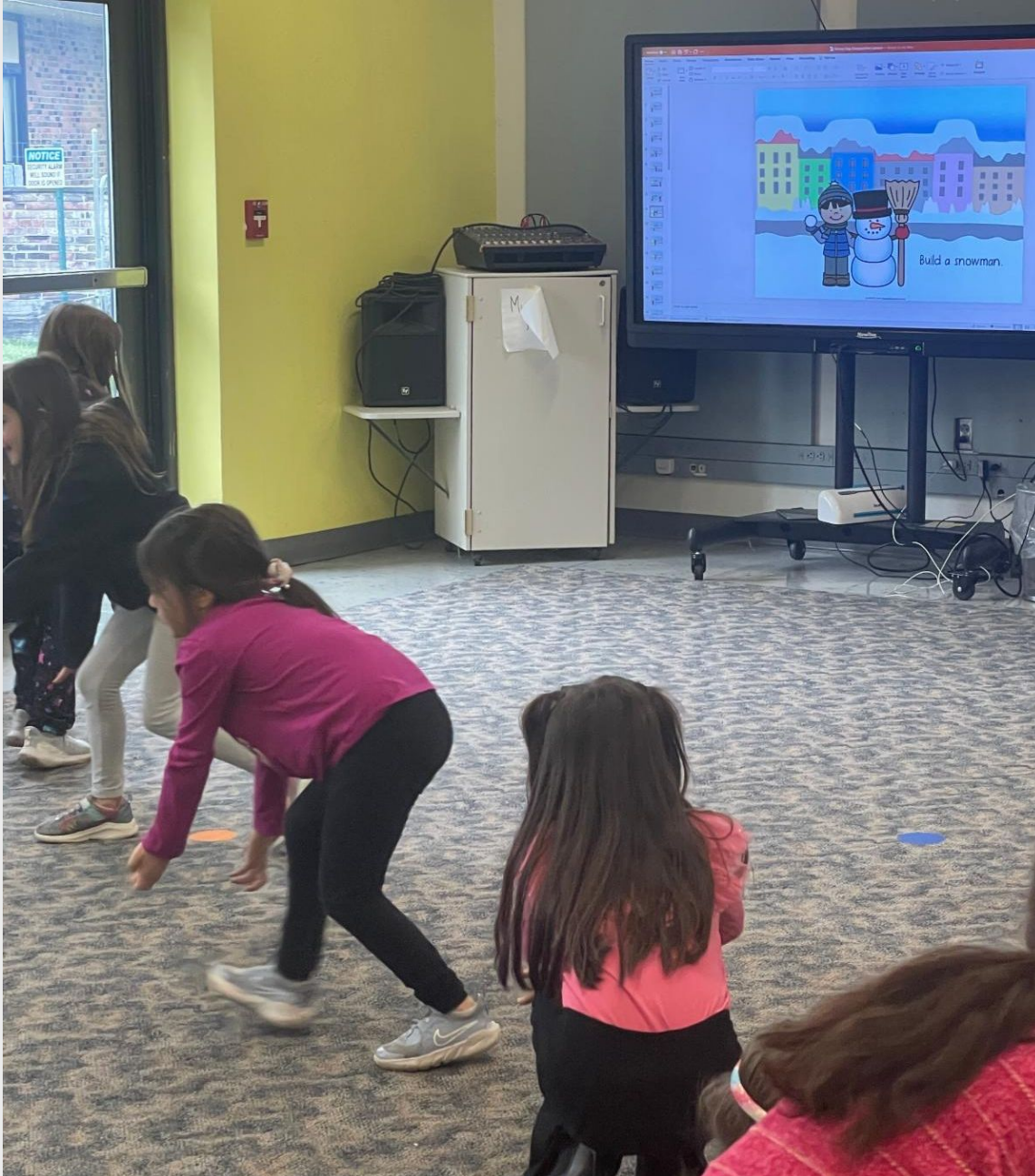


Second-grade students at Primrose were engrossed by a virtual science program presented by BOCES. They learned about erosion, including what it is, the causes and effects, and steps that can be taken to prevent it.



Sixth-graders did in an activity in their advisory period that focused on the International Baccalaureate learner profile attribute "Balanced" by playing Jenga. The game is a metaphor for self-control - teaching students to stop and think, breathe, and then carefully move forward.

Reading and Movement Make Music



Students scoop imaginary snow, mimicking the actions of the main character in the book, "The Snowy Day."

Winter-themed music, movement, and books combined to create an interactive learning environment during a recent Primrose music class. As first-graders arrived for their music class, they were greeted in the hallway by a song from their teacher. Then, one by one, they marched into class and found their spots, all to the beat of the song.

Students took turns answering questions about their day, each other, and even the weather, then played an interactive game, all with their singing voices engaged. Students listened while their teacher read "The Snowy Day" by Ezra Jack Keats and accompanied the book with sound effects.

"She played the xylophone," said Lucy Edmiston.

After the story, the room was transformed into a winter wonderland with imaginary "snow" covering every surface. The students moved around the room following the actions described in the book. They took steps, crawled, made snowballs, had a snowball fight, and even built a snowman.

"We listened to music, and we did whatever movement it said to do. My favorite part was pretending to have a snowball fight," James Sullivan said. Lucy added, "My favorite was making snow angels."

“I liked brainstorming about what kind of activities I like and how I could make those into geographic landmarks,” Alice Orzechowski said. “I made pizza mountains because they were the right shape and pizza is one of my favorite things.”

Not only did students learn about geography, but the mapping activity also allowed them to reflect on themselves and find other students with similar interests.

“I think this project is about getting to know each other, but in the form of a map,” said Ava Miritello. “It’s also learning how to read a map and how to make one.”

For the students, designing autobiographical maps became an interactive, engaging, and interesting way to learn about the different features of a map and how to use them, including how to tell directions, use a key for reading the map, and locate various elements.

Talia said, “Learning the concept by just labeling a regular map wouldn’t have been interesting.”

Alice added, “Learning this way was memorable. I can think back on this project if I ever have to make a map again.”

“This was a creative way to learn about maps,” Matthew Paute said. “Each map is so unique.”

Warming Hearts with Cozy Blankets



These caring, engaged global citizens made blankets for children who are experiencing difficult times.

Students in fourth grade at Somers Intermediate School recently hand-made twelve blankets for Project Linus, an organization that supports children who are suffering.

Parent volunteers cut and prepared the blankets to start the project, then they were brought to school to be finished by the students. "My mom made some of the blankets and then brought them for us so we could tie fringes," Kate Thomas said.

Project Linus provides blankets for children from birth to eighteen who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need. For these fourth-graders, learning about this organization and the children it serves demonstrated the importance of caring for their neighbors and being engaged, global citizens.

"The blankets give kids in need comfort during a bad time in their life and help them feel more comfortable," said Ellie Tzado.

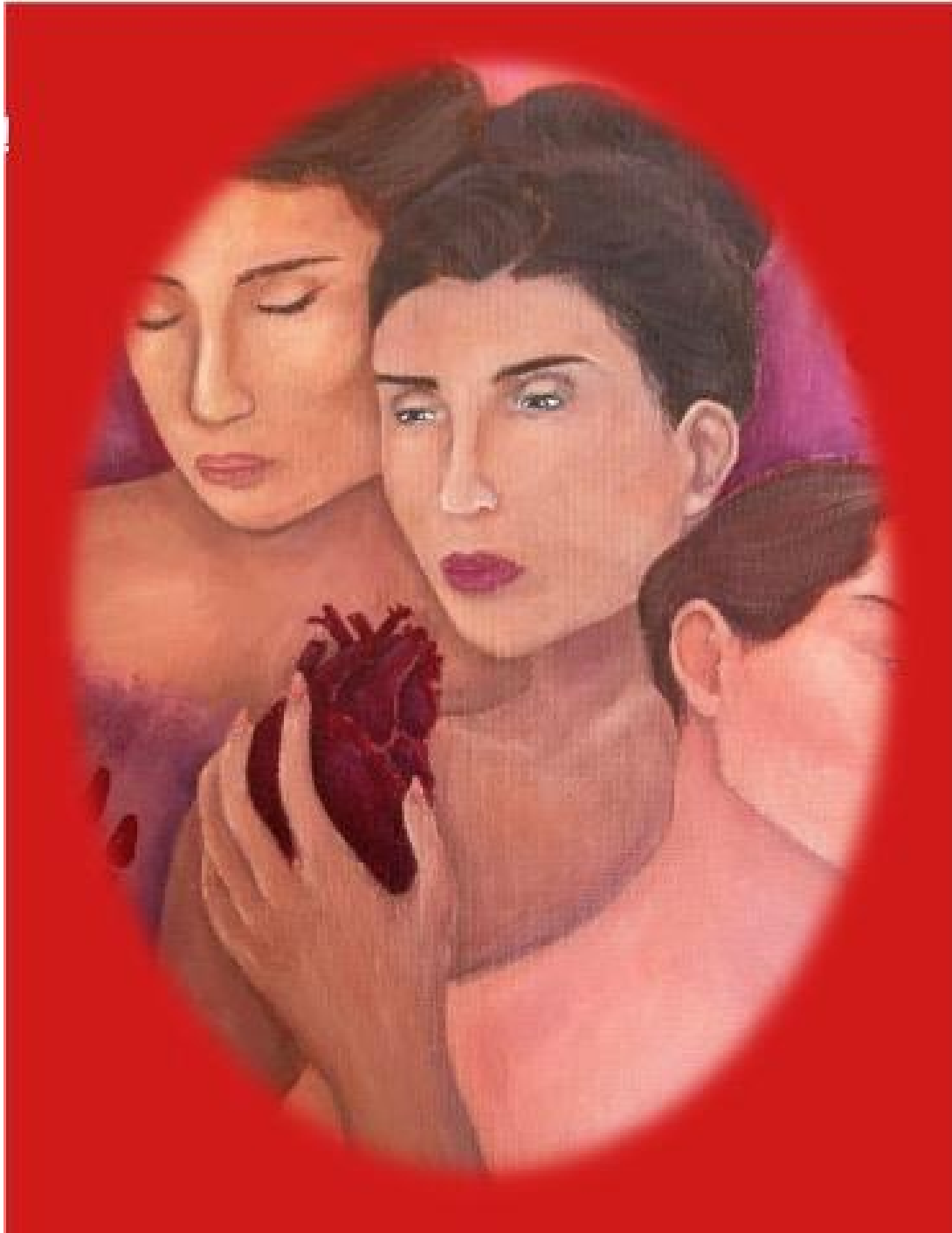
Students worked in groups of three or four, tying strips of material to the edges of the blankets to create a fringe. Each group made two blankets. The project helped the students learn valuable lessons about working in groups, listening to each other's ideas, and problem-solving.

"My favorite part was talking to my group about how we were going to make the blanket fringes," Davis McCullough said. "The most challenging part was when we had to tie the fringe because it was easy to make a mistake."

Many of the students had contributed to this project in previous years and agreed that they would like to be a part of it again in the future.

"It was really fun and very enjoyable, and I would do it again," said Kate Thomas. Davis McCullough added, "It felt good knowing these blankets were going to people in need."

Community Collaboration with Art Students



This work of art, by senior Alina Aronoff, was used on the promotional flyer for the student showcase on display at The Bailey House, home of Coldwell Banker Realty.

A new collaboration between Somers schools and the community kicked off on Saturday, January 27 at The Bailey House in Somers, home of Coldwell Banker Realty. More than one hundred people attended the opening of the art show, "Highlights of the K-12 Festival of the Arts 2024." The showcase will be on display until the end of March.

"I believe it's important to have art shows as it gives artists a chance to display something that they created and that is important to them," said senior art student Alina Aronoff, whose art graces the promotional poster for the show.

In its inaugural year, the art show was created with the idea of strengthening the school and community connection through art. The show celebrates the artistic achievements of Somers students and shares their inspiring work with the community outside of the schools.

"Art shows also allow the community to come together and recognize the artist and their works," Alina added.

Artwork from each grade was hand-selected by the art teachers in each of the schools. More than fifty students were chosen to be a part of the show, representing a variety of styles, techniques, and mediums.

"I have two pieces in the show," said Alina. "The painting in the poster is called "Grace" and represents women's beauty. I created that piece during my Advanced Painting class. I created a still life called "Under the Sink" in my AP 2-D Art and Design course that I am in right now.

The art in this show will be moved to the high school as part of the annual K-12 Festival of the Arts, which will be held this year on April 25.



Bubble Mania has struck the Primrose PTA. Fan favorite, "Casey Carle's Bubble Mania" kept science entertaining and informative for our youngest Tuskers.

SEPTA has been very busy. Earlier this month, SEPTA hosted Resilience and ADHD with guest speaker, Dr. Mark Bertin.

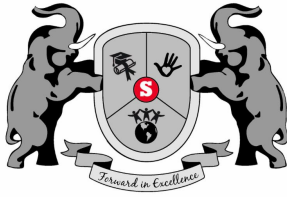
The SIS PTA put on quite a show with a visit from Theater Works for 5th-grade students.

Science and fun are on the agenda at SMS. The SMS PTA is sponsoring a Science Assembly for all students.

The SHS PTSA is busy planning Hang Up & Drive with Jacey and Steve Good.

We hope to see you at our next PTA meeting!

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