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Artapalooza planned at Wright Elementary School



At the potter's wheel is Jerri Lai, a ceramic artist who did a demonstration at last year's event. Provided photo

MALTA - Artapalooza is a week-long celebration of art, artists and the power of art at Wright Elementary.

Christine Edlund, art teacher at Wright Elementary, said, "the purpose of Artapalooza is to give students the opportunity to see the breadth of artistic ideas and styles and reflect on what art means to them."

Each class will be given the opportunity to work with a local artist.

This year's artists specialize in portraiture with charcoal, printing, graphic design/commercial art and art education.

Artists will bring their own art to class to explain what inspires them to create their art and how the art is actually created.

Students will then share a hands-on activity with the artist to better understand the artist's thought processes and techniques.

"The kids love learning from 'real-life' artists," said Edlund, explaining that this experience inspires them to try to create their own art.

In addition to visits from artists, Artapalooza hosts an all-school art show in which each student presents a piece.

Edlund said, "The pieces are organized into genre galleries that include abstract art, landscape and portrait. The galleries expose the students to the wide variety of artistic techniques and what it takes to create each type."

"It's cool to see all the different types of art that kids have created. It makes me want to try new techniques and styles," said third-grader Rory Gallagher.

The final component of Artapalooza is the silent auction of group art pieces that have been created by each class.

A heated bidding battle ensues throughout the week, with only the top bidders taking home the unique art pieces at the end of the celebration.

Note cards with replicas of the group art pieces also will be available for purchase. Proceeds from the auction will help to purchase supplies and equipment for the Wright Elementary art department, sponsor artist visits and benefit PTO projects.

The public is invited to attend the Artapalooza Art Show from 5-8 p.m. Thursday at Wright Elementary.

All artwork will be displayed for viewing; some is available for purchase.

Refreshments will be served.

Call Wright Elementary at (815) 825-2061 for more information.

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