

Eye on Art | Sam Dalkilic

Don't wait to start art education

When should art education begin?

Children begin studying music as young as 2 or 3. Soccer, T-ball, swimming, ballet and gymnastics are crowded with 4 and 5 year olds. Lil' Rascals, a St. John day care facility, offers a "Rembrandt" class to pre-school children during the summer. I believe art education should begin at a young age and continue throughout one's life.

I read about the Mozart effect for the developing child when I was pregnant. I listened to so much Mozart that I almost felt like Kirk Muspratt, director and conductor of the Northwest Indiana Symphony. I thought if it worked on music, why not art? My husband, Roman, was a little concerned when I started holding pictures of famous art on my stomach while listening to Mozart. I assured him this was normal for pregnant women.

Fast-forward my life five years to Watson Elementary School and the "Art in Action" program for kindergarten. Kim Yelich, one of the kindergarten teachers, said the PTO initiated the program as it saw a need to educate the children in art.

Currently, Sandy Giazzon, PTO vice president, works closely with two "art moms" Therese Sawicki and Reena Doan. An art resource room and cabinet are available to the volunteers teaching art.

It's a wonderful program for youngsters. Principal Mike Buckner states, "I think anytime children can be exposed

to new information, they will "soak it in" and learn something. They are like little sponges."

The distance from Watson Elementary in St. John to Lowell Senior High School is 15 miles. In terms of supporting art education, they are side-by-side.

In 2005 a remarkable art program started when the Student Council approached Tom Sufana, Art Department chairman at Lowell High School. Council members wanted to donate money to purchase art for the newly renovated building. Working together, it was decided to create a legitimate fine art collection with a multicultural and multi-ethnic focus.

Both the present and past principals Jim Koger and Barbara Huber played a key role in getting this idea transformed into action. In addition, the Tri-Creek Education

Foundation established a donor-directed fund for purchasing artwork and providing support to performing and fine arts.

Cheryl Rosvear, the current president, encourages Lowell residents and any interested contributor to visit www.t-cef.org and www.t-cef.org/rembrandt.htm for details of matching donations and a foundation scholarship fund.

Sufana said, "It's spectacular for many reasons. We are one of the few high schools in the state that has an art collection. Of the schools that do, we will probably have the

largest and most diverse collection. It was student driven, and the community has become involved by providing donations of money, artwork, and in-kind services, all positive. The collection enhances the new school."

Mark your calendar to



attend the dedication of the building at 2 p.m. Nov. 20.

Contact Sufana at (219) 696-7733, ext. 3149 (voice mail) for additional information.

I'm looking forward to the art of Halloween. Was Edvard Munch's "The Scream" done on the eve of Halloween?

Francisco José de Goya and Hieronymus Bosch are not frightful painters, but they have some delightfully frightful paintings. Look online or in an art book. Please let me know if you classify other artists in this category?

Contact Sam at The Steeple Gallery at (219) 365-1014 or at samowner@sbcglobal.net.



Make a Halloween craft in Cedar Lake

The Cedar Lake Parks Department will help children get ready for Halloween by sponsoring a craft event from 10 a.m. to noon Oct. 22 at the

Community Center, 7408 Constitution Ave.

Participants will choose from a variety of craft projects and will be able to make two decorations.

The program is open to children in grades K-12.

Cost is \$3. Class size is limited to 24.

To register or for more information, call 374-4444.

Darrell Josleyn was sworn in as the newest Crown Point probationary police officer on Sept. 29. He has been a telecommunications officer with the department since 1996.

Kris Brittingham was born Sept. 29, 1965, and her friends wouldn't let her forget it. They were eating lunch at Buddy & Pals to celebrate the day.

Lake County Surveyor George Van Til has been appointed to be a member of the Watershed Management Advisory Committee of the National Association of Counties. These are the people who watch over our water. Van

Kitty Conley's

Scratching Post

Til is a great choice.

Dr. Bruce Smith has brought both the beauty and the beast to the eyes of the beholder for 30 years in Crown Point. Thanks, Dr. Smith for helping so many to see the world around us better.

Congratulations go to Mayor Dan Klein and Crown Point for making the front cover of the *Indiana Preservationist* magazine. What a delight to see buildings on the Square, bulldogs and all.

It is nice to have old friends. It was even nicer of Lowell's new Director of Development Wilbur Cox to issue a conditional occupancy permit so Tech Credit Union could occupy their new building.

It is strange that his old friend and the developer Bill Putz had been told by the Plan Commission, in front of Cox, that the drainage pond was to be completed before any occupancy permits would be issued.

The pond has not as yet been started. By issuing the occupancy permit, Cox took a big stick away from the town to get the pond built before winter.

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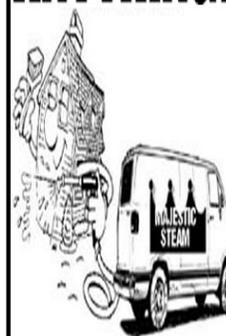
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