



Gov. Bent Students



American Soldiers on Active Duty

Teachers often inspire great ideas in their students. But sometimes, it works the other way around.

Annette Rush, the itinerant art teacher at Gov. Bent Elementary School this year, had her inspirational moment while her students were working on an art lesson titled “Happy Valen-Dine’s Day.” The lesson focused on creating oil pastel drawings inspired by American pop artist Jim Dine, most famous for his numerous paintings of hearts.



The lesson was originally intended for upper grades, but Rush was so happy with the students’ work she decided the whole school should have the chance to create the bright, bold drawings. And that was when the inspiration occurred: why not make these beautiful drawings into cards and send them to American soldiers fighting overseas? The idea also created a natural literacy extension by having the children write letters to enclose with their cards.



The idea was presented to the Blue Star Mothers of America, Rio Grande Valley Chapter, an organization of mothers whose sons and daughters either have served or are currently serving in the military. The group agreed to send

the cards and letters out in June, with the hope that they will arrive for the most patriotic of holidays, July 4th. The cards and letters are to be sent to soldiers who do not receive mail from their families on a regular basis so they, too, will have something from home to open.

The entire school, 550 students in grades K-5, participated in making the cards and writing the letters. That means 550 soldiers will be receiving these mini-masterpieces, and thinking of the children who created them.

Ironically, Gov. Bent Elementary is known as “The School with Heart” as illustrated by the statement on their website: “We care, we share, and we will be there.” Perhaps the biggest irony of all is that one of the children whose artwork and sentiments will be shared is named after the country the card recipients are serving: America.



Annual Art Exhibits continued from page 1



Hundreds of family members and friends came to the opening of the APS Art is Elementary exhibit, all anxious to support the proud artists.

Over 500 parents, families and students gathered for the opening on Friday, April 13th - a lucky day to be an elementary art student. Students and parents were treated to punch and cookies served by the APS elementary art teachers as they strolled through the gallery admiring the work.

Several elementary music teachers provided entertainment during the opening event. Barbara Rivers and Elizabeth Hogan played a variety of beautiful violin duets followed by Blake Himm and Doug Bellen, using percussion and electric bass sounds to guide the youngest members of the crowd through art projects based on the music. The children used chalk, blow pens, blotter pens and other materials to move to the beat provided by the two musicians. Many masterpieces were created during the course of the evening.

Congratulations to *all* of the students whose work was chosen to hang in these two wonderful shows. Their hard work and creativity was evident in each and every work of art.



The Early Music Ensemble from Albuquerque HS performed music from the Renaissance and Baroque periods on Sunday, April 5th, the last day of the Metro Exhibit. The ensemble, now in its third year, uses replicas of period instruments to create music from those eras. The musical pieces are quite challenging, according to Sheinberg (who is pictured with the group, third from the left) demanding a great deal of dedication and creativity on the part of the students.