



**The ClaytonArts Academy is an integrated core, project-based program designed to challenge students academically and artistically.**

Coordinator: Jeff Hagerstrand, (925) 682-7474 x3128 fax (925) 825-7859  
1101 Alberta Way, Concord, CA 94521 email [jhagerstrand@mdusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:jhagerstrand@mdusd.k12.ca.us)

## ClaytonArts Academy Newsletter Fall 2009/2010

### **Fresh Perspective** by *Carlie Frevele*

The ClaytonArts Academy has been fun because of the people in my classes. I met my four best friends in the Academy and that alone makes me happy that I got accepted into the Academy.

The teachers are funny and have great teaching methods. Ms. Lee puts everything she teaches in a way that each class can relate to. The news at the beginning of each class gets the class talking and really interested in the current events going on in the world. Mr. Wills is intimidating but that's what makes him a great teacher. I've already learned so much from him this year, and I wish he could be my teacher for three more years. I know everyone will miss him.

Overall the ClaytonArts Academy has been a great experience for me and I am excited for the next three years.

### **Art Update** by *Mackenzie Pell*

The art kids have a lot of freedom and work with many different art materials. Students are working with clay, graphite, watercolor, pastels and even duct tape (Joel Brown makes awesome duct tape murals!). The Art I kids

work on basics, such as shading. Some of the art students made fingers and various other body parts (tongues and toes!) out of clay and painted them for Halloween.

Four of our CAA students are working on an awesome ceramics mural in A-5. Danielle Velasquez, Elena Nielsen, Isa King, and Genieve Mercado are painting the mural which includes pictures of a fire-breathing dragon, clay pots, a purple column, and a blue sky with clouds. (The mural also has the word "Ceramics" painted on it, of course.) Also, the art students are working on designing a new logo for the CV Engineering Academy. The art class was involved with the CAA all-academy project. We designed new versions of currency for each group. Some people designed new dollars and coins, etc.

### **Troupe** by *Lindsey Young*

What a crazy semester! With the All-Academy project, musical auditions, and crazy weather, I'd say we pulled it off with beautiful finesse. The auditions were wonderful, but let's not be catty, people. It is what it is. We all gave our best and that's all we can do. I just can't wait to see the dance again! I don't know about anyone else, but the one acts we worked on in class turned out very

nicely! All of the directors did a great job with . . . directing. Congrats on surviving H-E-double-hockey-sticks week, now onward my friends, to H-E-double-hockey-sticks months.

**Lower Core** by Addison Flannery

In World History, we learned about explorers from the 1500s and 1600s. We were put into groups and given an explorer. In those groups, we had to make up a song about their life and their explorations. Then, we learned about the rise and fall of the empires; Russia, Germany, Spain, etc.

In English, we finished reading the play *Romeo and Juliet* out loud in class. Mr. Wills gives us vocabulary tests, and we had a test on Shakespeare.

**Upper Core** by Anne Scudero

So far, it's been a whirlwind in the upper core classes!

Over the summer, the juniors and seniors read the novel In the Time of the Butterflies by Julia Alvarez and watched the films "The Truman Show" and "Good Night and Good Luck." This began our syllabus for this year's English class: dystopian literature. We then read 1984 by George Orwell, Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury, and Brave New World by Aldous Huxley. While reading the books, students are given reading quizzes once a week or so to make sure they are keeping up with the reading. After each book is finished, an analytical essay is written about a theme from the book. Along with the book essays, we also wrote personal statements, which follow

the prompts of the UC system. Seniors are able to use them to apply to college, and juniors should keep them to polish up for next year. In addition to reading, we watched "The Corporation," a documentary explaining why the world is as terrible as it is, but also explaining what we can do to stop, or at least slow down, the madness that is the corporate world. To help our understanding of the issues, Mr. Hagerstrand strongly encourages us to look up the facts that are being presented to us, and to not just take everything for granted.

In Economics, we are all very excited to be working with our new teacher, Ms. DeAngelis. We have welcomed her into the ClaytonArts Academy family and hope she enjoys us as much as we enjoy her. We are working our way through the chapters in our textbook. Every class is started with a journal write that goes in our notebooks. The subject of these journals range from the previous lesson to our feeling about school or the world. We take notes each day, and are assigned various worksheets as homework to help with our understanding of the reading and notes. We also do vocabulary visuals for each chapter. Each student makes a small poster for a vocabulary word. The poster contains the word, a definition, a sentence using the word in context, and a picture to explain it. The student then presents and explains their word to the class.

All the upper core students are looking forward to another great year in the ClaytonArts Academy!

**Photo/Video** by Kody Stapleton

In Video Production the whole class collectively worked together and completed a video interpretation of the credits scene for the movie "Battle For Milkquarious" to send off for a contest to "Got Milk?" Our next project is to create a music video individually or in groups for any song of our choice. The music video will be due by Finals.

Photo I is currently finishing up the semester by picking two of their favorite pictures which they have taken during the semester to turn in. Each student in the class was paired in partners and assigned a One Act from the Winter One Acts; a set of original short plays directed by students at Clayton Valley. They then have to create a poster, head shots and live action photos of the One Act.

Advanced Photo is currently working on an emotion inspired photo essay. Each student picked an emotion from a list and then needed to find a piece of writing that personified the word. Students could either create an original piece of writing or find a preexisting one. Then they all make fifteen photographs of the word that coincide with the piece of writing they created or found.

**Senior Moment** by Cory Callahan

This is my take on the ClaytonArts Academy and I am going to be completely honest. The Academy is not all about the arts and how creative you can be, although that is a very important part of it. For me it is about personal growth and expanding my thought process. I used to try to be as creative as I

could as often as I could, but I have realized that being as thoughtful as I can is just as important. In some way I am like any other teenager; inexperienced, naïve, and maybe even a little arrogant. What sets me apart from other teenagers is the fact that I am intellectually stimulated on a regular basis. And that is thanks to the ClaytonArts Academy.

Because of the colorful curriculum we follow in the Academy, I find myself learning new concepts from new perspectives constantly. Unlike most teenagers I can say that the information I absorb in school, in the Academy, is important to me and actually has an impact on my day to day thought process. Actually, the Academy probably has the biggest impact on me intellectually than anything else in my life. I am starting to think for myself, and I am pretty sure that has been the goal of my Academy teachers, as well as the purpose of the academy all along.

**One Berkeley Raindrop**

by Julianne Herrera

It's too late now  
I hate the taste of your words  
Ripping, feeling my self-worth  
My sanity is spiraling away  
Electric blood vibrating through  
my veins  
After white apple rivers and  
cascades  
Have rushed through my body  
Don't say that you're sorry  
Save your apologies.