



News & Views from the Students and Staff of Lyon @ Blow

LYON @ BLOW NEWS

Community Education Full Service Schools



Issue No. 2

Winter 2009

Community Education Full Service School (CEFSS.) Principal Iskali, second from left. Far right, Mr. Pierre Blaine, The Lyon @ Blow Community Collaborative Specialist who conducted a professional development session for staff. (see story on page 2)



FREDBIRD LEADS LIGERS

On Thursday, November 19, 2009, Fredbird, the St. Louis Baseball Cardinals' colorful mascot, led the Lyon @ Blow Ligers in an assembly against smoking and tobacco products. Cardinals' Pitcher Kyle McClellan was a very special guest who spoke to all the students at the school-wide assembly. The Anti-Smoking Rally was part of the National Smoke Out Day and was sponsored at Lyon Blow by the Cardinals, Barnes Jewish Hospital and the Siteman Cancer Center. Call it coincidence, but the event occurred

Award Winners. Fredbird stands in with award winners. Wendy Reyes, Kevin Mitchell (Shadari McKinley won the award but was absent so Kevin read her essay), and Jarrion Williams. These students wrote award winning essays against the dangers of tobacco. Baseball's Kyle McClellan (far right) presented awards to the students.

on the very same day as the Parade to the new YMCA Recreation Center. Lyon @ Blow partners with the "Y" in many of its after school programs and the day proved a perfect "coming together."

See related stories and photos beginning on page 3.



Pierre Blaine addresses the Lyon @ Blow staff.



Mr. Haas, 6th Grade Science, takes notes.

LYON @ BLOW A FULL –SERVICE SCHOOL

Community Education Full Service School (CEFSS) Lyon @ Blow Teachers and Staff gathered for a meeting in the Professional Development Room on Monday, November 16, 2009 as the guest of Mr. Pierre Blaine, Lyon @ Blow Community Collaborative Specialist. Mr. Blaine conducted a two hour workshop which included information on the goals of the District's CEFSS and small group sessions where Lyon @ Blow staff brainstormed ways to improve student achievement, increase parental involvement and enhance services.

Full Service Schools are part of a national initiative supported by Arne Duncan, The U.S. Secretary of Education, who recently visited St. Louis. At the Monday night meeting, staff learned more about Lyon @ Blow's collaboration with the YMCA, Patches, and other local organizations. From the Carondelet/Slate Center to the extensive afterschool programming, Mr. Blaine described the many programs and activities already underway in the build-

ing. He encouraged all staff to attend one of the School's CEFSS Advisory Council Meetings. Early on in the Monday afternoon session, he outlined the six primary goals of the CEFSS:

1. To support student academic achievement.
2. To integrate classroom and community learning experiences.
3. To provide life-long learning.
4. To engage parents and community members in identifying needs, setting priorities and solving problems.
5. To coordinate and sponsor private and public sector activities that meet community identified needs.
6. To stabilize neighborhoods.

To those staff who seldom stay beyond the close of the regular school day, the meeting was an eye-opening experience, to realize that so much important work is taking place each and every afternoon and evening. Thanks to Mr. Blaine for his presentation. The staff is looking forward to finding more ways it can work together to help realize the CEFSS Goals.

CEFSS Student Ambassadors Named

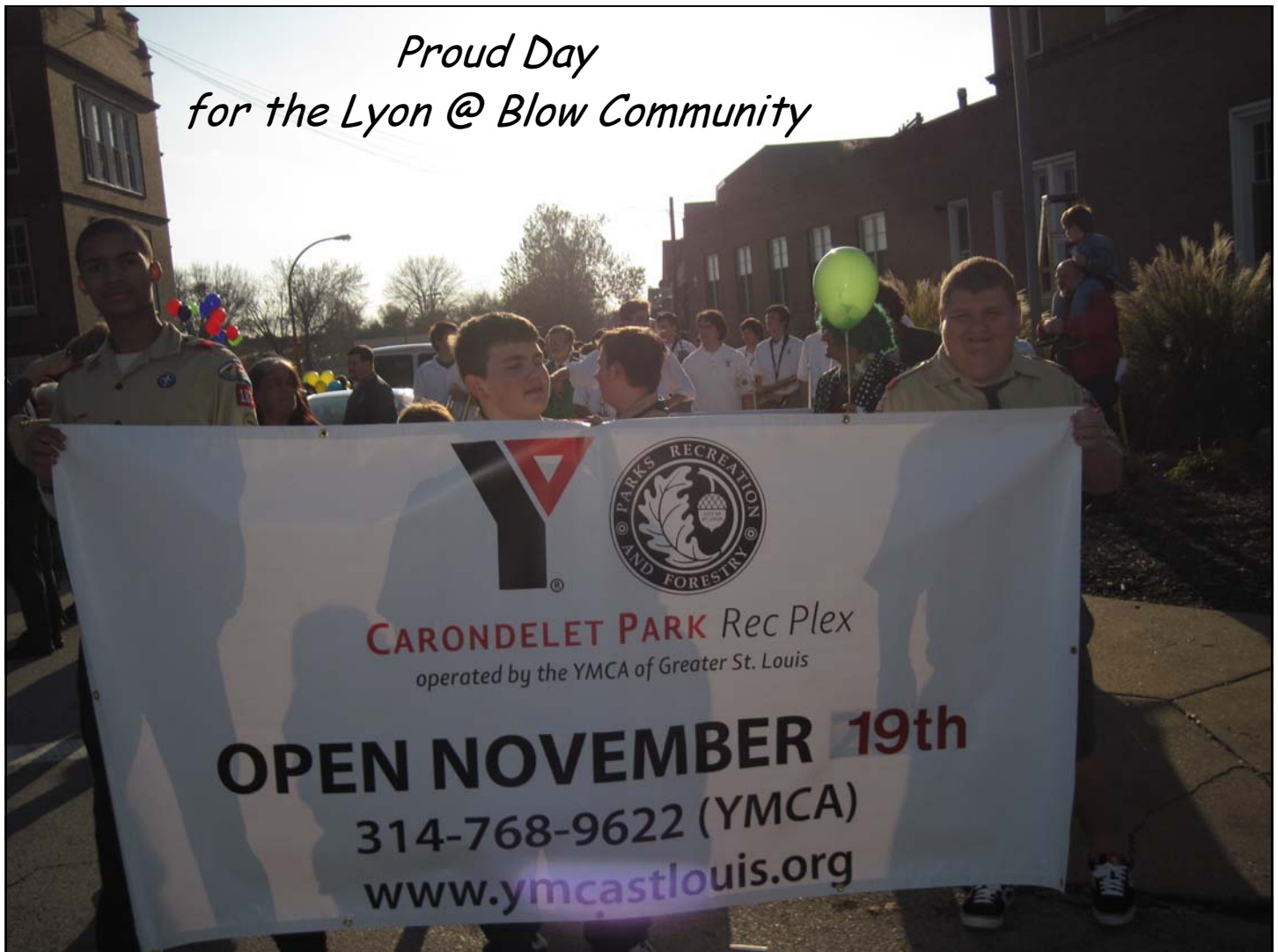
The District would like to congratulate the 2009-2010 Community Education Full Service Schools' Student Ambassadors.

[Learn More](#)



CEFSS Student Ambassadors from around the District.

*Proud Day
for the Lyon @ Blow Community*



LIGERS MARCH TO NEW REC PLEX IN BIG PARADE

November 19, 2009 will go down in history as one of the most exciting days in Ligers' Lyon @ Blow history. Following the appearance of Kyle McClellan at the Anti-Tobacco Rally in the Lyon @ Blow Auditorium, like the Pied piper, Fredbird led the after school students out to a huge parade assembling outdoors. The YMCA, which partners with Lyon @ Blow as a Community Education Center Full-Service School, was moving several blocks away. The entire community had gathered with marching bands, students from other area school, local politicians and other civic leaders to march from the old facilities to the new. A Boy Scout Troop was on hand to help decommission the old YMCA building in a ceremony marked by the playing of the Star Spangled Banner and the lowering of the American Flag.

It was a poignant moment, but everything at the parade was not so serious. At one point a woman driving one of the lead cars in the parade asked Fredbird to pose for a picture behind the wheel of her car. The big feathered ham was happy to oblige, and there were plenty of photographers, cameramen from Channel 5 and others on hand. Moments later after Fredbird had left and the woman was back in her car and ready to start the parade she cried out, "On, no! My keys. My car keys are gone." She was really scared for a minute, but it wasn't long before Fredbird came back up the street, dangling the missing keys from his wing. You'll see a picture of our Principal Ms. Iskali with Fredbird at the parade. It's just as well our next picture didn't turn out, because that one had her head inside Fredbird's mouth! What a prankster. And what a great day. If you recall, it had been raining for days in St. Louis, but miraculously the rain stopped, the clouds parted and the warm sun shone down, just as the parade began. Way to go, Ligers!



Above: Fredbird on stage with student contest winners and Kyle McClellan of the St. Louis Cardinals. Right: Fredbird clowns with Cardinals' pitcher Kyle McClellan who spoke to the students about his decision not to use tobacco.



Fredbird holds up the award-winning student artwork.



Following the assembly, Fredbird signed autographs and helped kick off the parade outside where members of the community gathered to celebrate the move of the local YMCA to its brand new campus several blocks away. Lyon @ Blow students who take part in the after-school program took part in the parade.



Fredbird jokes with our principal, Ms. Iskali at the parade.



Join the parade! Ms. Cage (center) smiles from her spot in the parade. Lyon @ Blow Assistant Principal, Mr. Green waves at the camera. Ms. Ward, Lyon @ Blow Read 180 Teacher (to the left of Ms. Green) works in the after-school program and waits patiently for the parade to begin.



Ms. Whitfield's 2nd Grade Class (and Ms. Whitfield) show their spirit at the pre-parade with Cardinal hats they made. They wore them to the Anti-Tobacco Assembly featuring Fredbird and Cardinals' baseball star, Kyle McClellan.



Lyon @ Blow students wave from the school yard as their classmates in the after-school program start out on the parade leading from the old YMCA building across from the school to the new, state-of-the-art facility only blocks away bordering Carondelet Park.



A member of the local Boy Scout troop lowers the Flag from its place beside the old YMCA building while the entire crowd stands at attention and listens silently to the band play the Star Spangled Banner. Even Fredbird's antics came to a halt as the crowd observed the solemn moment. With the National Anthem complete and the flag lowered the crowd cheered.

We asked for the reactions of some of the students who attended the events of November 19th. First off is an article by Wendy Reyes, a student from Ms. Rains' 7th Grade homeroom. Wendy took top honors at the school assembly where she read her first place, award winning essay.

TOBACCO FREE ASSEMBLY

By Wendy Reyes, Ms. Rains, 7th Grade

Yesterday the tobacco free assembly was really fun and very exciting too. We had a lot of fun with everyone and mostly with Fredbird. Everyone was happy and excited about the assembly. Kyle McClellan was there too at the assembly. Some people even won prizes!!!

I was one of the winners at the assembly. I won some money to go to the South County Mall. I was very excited to hear that I had won the Tobacco Free Essay. I was very nervous at first to read my essay in front of the whole school. I didn't want to read it, but after a while I chose to read it and was very proud of myself. Other students also read their essays. There were some winners for the drawing contest too. My friends kept cheering me on and it helped. Everyone was happy. Fredbird was also there and he was hilarious; everybody loved him.

I was even more excited after I had read the essay. I couldn't wait to tell my parents about it. Everything was very fun at the tobacco free assembly. I was so happy to be part of it.

The following announcement recently ran on the home page of The St. Louis Public Schools' Internet.

This year, students at Lyon @ Blow k-8 Community Education Full Service School participated in the "Keep Kids Tobacco Free Program," an essay and art contest sponsored by Siteman Cancer Center.

As a result, six students were recognized for their artwork and essays which featured anti-smoking messages during a school-wide assembly which featured Cardinals' pitcher, Kyle McClellan, and Fredbird. Please congratulate:

- Wendy Reyes- essay winner
- Jarrion Williams- essay winner
- Shadari McKinley- essay winner
- Jade Hill- art design winner
- Aureliano Guerrero- art design winner
- Jose Magana- art design winner

TOBACCO FREE

By Eric Burt, Mr. Ginter's 8th Grade Homeroom

Tobacco free, that's what I am. I do not use tobacco and you shouldn't either. We had a tobacco free program and we were talking about why we should be tobacco free. We received a t-shirt that told the people we were tobacco free. We had a St. Louis Cardinal player Kyle McClellan come to our school and tell us why he is tobacco free. He gave us a lot of good reasons to be tobacco free because then you are able to do more things in life. The bird, Fredbird came also to bring excitement. We listened to people that go to our school tell us why they are tobacco free and why people should not use tobacco. They gave us some really good reasons. There was a contest to see who had the best essay. After that they took pictures with the winners. Then there was a contest to see who had the best poster for being drug free. They also took pictures with those winners too. After that they had us stand up and recite a cheer about being tobacco free. We recited it about three times to make sure we really were tobacco free. Next, we got ready to walk out of the gym and we shook hands with Fredbird. Lastly, we went back upstairs to talk about what a fun assembly it was. It was a really fun assembly to me. I enjoyed it really a lot.

TOBACCO FREE ASSEMBLY

By Amesha Payne, Ms Rains' 7th Grade Class

On November 19, 2009 at Lyon @ Blow we had an assembly at about 1:45 p.m. When all of the classes got down to the gym we got started. First up was Ms. Budde and Ms. Haringa who were announcing what was going to happen. Then baseball player Kyle McClellan came up on stage and answered questions from some of the students. While he was talking, Fredbird was dancing and doing funny things; it really got me laughing.

During the assembly Ms. Haringa and Ms. Budde came up and announced the winners of the essay contest and best drawing design. Next up were the 2nd and 3rd place winners for the essay contest. It was 1 boy and 1 girl who won 2nd and 3rd place if I'm not mistaken. Soon after, a girl named Wendy came up on stage and was handed 100 dollars and other things. The other winners got the same thing — well close to the same thing. I really enjoyed myself a lot. But the bad part is that I didn't get to say bye to my favorite baseball player. I was really surprised how it all turned out. I also forgot to mention that the Siteman Cancer Center gave us cool shirts that we can also wear as uniform shirts.

LIGERS ARE TABACOO FREE

By Dapharaoh Ross, Ms Rains' 7th Grade

The assembly was a blast, one of the most entertaining times since I have been here. One of the best parts was when Fredbird and Kyle McClellan came out. The whole place was running wild. The excitement started to build when Fredbird started to dance. The bird did all kinds of dance moves. Then the crowd started to cool down trying to show that we are the best school. Then Kyle told us his life story. He let us come up to him and ask questions. I asked who was the most competitive team he went against this season. He said the Chicago Cubs. Then, after that we had a contest and they announced the winners. The winners were Jarrion, Wendy and a couple others. After that we all clapped and they started to dismiss the classes. Later we shook Fredbird's hand. We went to our classes and watched the parade. We signed our shirts and went to get our stuff and got on the bus. I talked about it with my friends all the ride home.



RED RIBBON WEEK AND A DRUG-FREE LYON @ BLOW

This October the students and staff of Lyon @ Blow celebrated a Drug Free School by wearing red ribbons and wild clothes. One day, backwards clothes, the next, hat day and there was tacky clothes day and team colors day. It was a lot of fun but had a serious message as Mr. Bush, the Counselor at Lyon @ Blow explained at the Red Ribbon Assembly held before the entire school on October 21, 2009. The week celebrates the memory of a boy who grew up fighting drug dealers and the international drug trade. He died in the struggle, but his memory lives on during Red Ribbon Week. Red Ribbon Week is now observed in school districts throughout the nation.

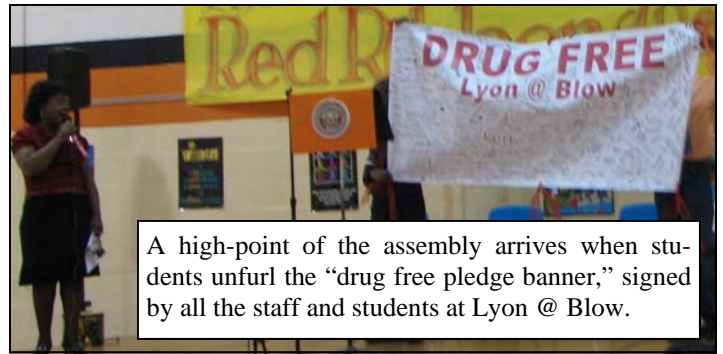
Mrs. Williams, our 1st Grade teacher organized the assembly. The youngest students wore colorful hats and marched around the auditorium in formation as they “stamped out” drug use. All the grades contributed with readings, dances and other performances aimed at raising awareness. Many parents were in attendance at the assembly. A high point of the event was the unveiling of the drug free pledge banner, signed by everyone in the school, promising to remain, now and always, drug free!



Kindergarten students patiently await their turn to perform. Ms. Iskali complimented all the students on their behavior.



Mrs. Williams' First Graders take the stage.



A high-point of the assembly arrives when students unfurl the "drug free pledge banner," signed by all the staff and students at Lyon @ Blow.



Mrs. Williams' First Grade students lined up and took turns coming to the microphone to deliver their parts.



Older students read original essays against drug use.



Mr. Reintsein's Fourth Graders stand and deliver!



Youngsters prepare for the march around the auditorium.



Mr. Clark leads the entire school in a rousing song on the guitar to highlight a moving celebration of Red Ribbon Week.



Lunch Time Physics Lesson. On October 16, 2009, the District Wide Professional Development Day, Lyon @ Blow staff took part of their lunch break (and their empty lunch boxes) to create a tower. The goal was to remove a box from the structure without letting it topple. Assistant Principal Green managed to get this last box out of the structure for this shot. No one believed he could do it. Less than a second after this picture was taken, the tower collapsed. Who says teachers and administrators can't have fun?

TEACHERS STUDY DATA

The staff of Lyon @ Blow spent the morning of the District Wide PD Day on October 16, 2009 studying student test scores and brain-storming strategies to help their students achieve at higher academic levels.

At lunch they had fun eating together and competing in the "tower challenge."

After lunch Mrs. Trapp, Lyon @ Blow Teaching and Learning Facilitator, provided a professional development session on the use of re-teaching strategies. Teachers worked together and shared methods for identifying students who need additional help. Mrs. Trapp shared new forms for listing students who require "re-teaching" and identifying other ways to teach the material.



Teachers divided into groups to study results and develop ideas to help students reach higher achievement levels. At this table from left to right are Ms. Harringa, Ms. Bryant and Ms. Budde.

LYON @ BLOW STAFF ARE LIFE-LONG LEARNERS



From all over the region, teachers and administrators gather to listen to Dr. Robert Marzano at a two-day conference.

Ms. Housewright, Ms. McCord, and Ms. Lockett pose for a picture during a break on day two of the conference.



Lyon @ Blow Vanguard Team with Marzano and Pickering. Ms. McCord, 3rd and 4th Grade teacher; Mr. Phoenix, Computer Literacy Teacher; Dr. Marzano; Dr. Marzano's associate and co-facilitator, Dr. Debra Pickering; Ms. Trapp, Teaching Learning Facilitator; Ms. Lockett, 7th and 8th Grade Communication Arts Teacher and Ms. Housewright, Special Education Teacher.

Dr. Robert Marzano is one of the biggest nationally recognized names in educational research and evidence based reform and school improvement. Last year, SLPS purchased his Classroom Instruction That Works bestselling book for every teacher in the district. It was last spring that Ms. Tracy McCloud, Lyon @ Blow's 3rd and 4th Grade Teacher learned that Dr. Marzano was going to be leading a two-day workshop in St. Louis the following year. She asked Ms. Iskali whether she could go with a team to take part in the conference. Ms. Iskali said yes. So it was that six months later a team of teachers from Lyon @ Blow was able to attend the valuable conference held on November 4th and 5th, 2009 at the Convention Center in St. Charles.

GOOD CHARACTER ASSEMBLY — COMPASSION



It's All About Compassion. Mr. Clark, the Lyon @ Blow Music Teacher, delivers personal observations on the topic of "Compassion," the subject of the day's Character Assembly.



Ms. Harringa and Ms. Budde hold up the bowl of names. These are the names of students who displayed acts of good character the preceding month, as reported by teachers and staff throughout the building. Those names were put into the blue bowl and many were drawn, each child receiving a prize. The idea of Shout-Outs, Caught-Ya's and the Student of the Month Awards was developed by Ms. Harringa and Ms. Budde and the Lyon @ Blow staff. The idea of celebrating good behavior works well with the Character Education Assemblies each month.



Student of the Month. Candace Austin was a representative from the middle school who received the "Student of the Month Award" for October 2009. Teachers and staff nominate students each month, and those with the most nominations win the award for that month.



James Summers holds up his awards as the recipient of the Student of the Month Award for the early grades. James is a Second Grade student in Ms. Whitfield's Second Grade Class.

Ms. Norris, 6th Grade Communication Arts Teacher
and Teacher of the Month for October



Assistant Principal Green bestows the award of "Teacher of the Month" to Ms. Norris at the "Compassion" Character Assembly for October.



Nikolas Ransom was not able to attend school on the day of the Character Awards Assembly, but we caught up with him a few days later at the parent teacher conferences on October 23rd. Nikolas is a good student from Mr. Reinstein's Fourth Grade Class and represents those students between grades three and five. Way to go Nikolas! Student of the Month!



SHOUT OUT!

Not seen the "Shout Out Wall?" It's on the right-hand wall on the way to the gym and the cafeteria. You'll find the 'Shout Outs' posted there each month. So far we've been through Compassion and Perseverance. Can you name the other three pillars of good character? Your teachers will be looking for evidence of all five qualities of good character each and every day in the weeks and months to follow.



Following the assembly, on November 24, 2009, College Football Star Adrian Clayborn talked to students in Ms. Harringa's class. Thanks to Ms. Harringa for contacting Mr. Clayborn and arranging his visit to Lyon @ Blow to speak at the assembly.

ASSEMBLY MARKED BY AWARDS, GUEST SPEAKER

On Tuesday, November 24, 2009 the school gathered for the Character Education Assembly. Perseverance was the theme and Ms. Harringa arranged to have College Football star Adrian Clayborn talk to students about perseverance.

The assembly was also the occasion to celebrate some outstanding student behavior observed over the past month. There were plenty of prizes and the students of the month were announced. Demaria Clay took the November Honors for the youngest grades. Amanda Dalton (who was absent from school that day) took The Student of the Month Award for the Students 5 through 6, and 8th Grader, Miya Peal from Mr. Ginter's homeroom, was named Student of the Month for Grades 6 through 8.

Perseverance was the key to Adrian Clayborn's success and he talked about the adversity he had to overcome in order to realize his goals. Ms. Norris, who won last month's Teacher of the Month award talked about Lyon @ Blow's own football team and how they pulled together to practice despite the odds. The team was honored as individual members were called to the stage.

There were cheers and applause from students and staff alike when Mr. Clark was named the Teacher of the Month. He was commended for his tireless help in staging all the assemblies, his work organizing the school Talent Show held last November 6th, his work in the classroom, reaching all the students in the building, his unflinching team spirit and support of the school. (Did you know he designed the school's Logo?)

The assembly ended with a question and answer session with Mr. Clayborn. Later, Ms. Iskali complimented the students on the excellent behavior they displayed throughout the event.



SPOTLIGHT ON ADRIAN CLAYBORN

Reported by Ms. Harringa, 1st and 2nd Grade

Adrian Clayborn grew up in Webster Groves, and attended high school there. A highly recruited football star, he chose to attend the University of Iowa in Iowa City. After recording 50 tackles and 8 tackles for loss his sophomore season in 2008, Adrian has developed into one of the top defensive linemen in the Big Ten and nationally. Twice already this season, he has earned Big Ten Player of the Week, once for a blocked punt returned for a touchdown, and once for his performance against Michigan State where he had 4 tackles, two sacks, and three tackles for loss. Over the course of this season, he has amassed 56 tackles, 16.5 tackles for loss, and 8.5 sacks.

In addition, Adrian serves on the team's Leadership group, one of four juniors named to the council. He is considered one of the leaders on the defense, inspiring the team during pregame warm-ups, and often helping make adjustments during halftime.

Adrian is a great example of perseverance for his work on and off the gridiron. He was born with a condition known as Erb's Palsy. This often causes numbness or paralysis in the shoulder region and extending into the arm. Originally told that he wouldn't be able to play football, he continued to work through these challenges and has emerged into the player he is today.



Ms. Budde presents Mr. Mark Clark, Lyon @ Blow Music Teacher, with the Teacher of the Month Award.



Mr. Ginter's compelling story of a courageous mother and daughter separated on 9-11 in New York City perfectly illustrated the concept of perseverance.



Dorrian Russell and the Lyon @ Blow Football Players, who play under the name "Titans," are called up on stage and celebrated for their perseverance.



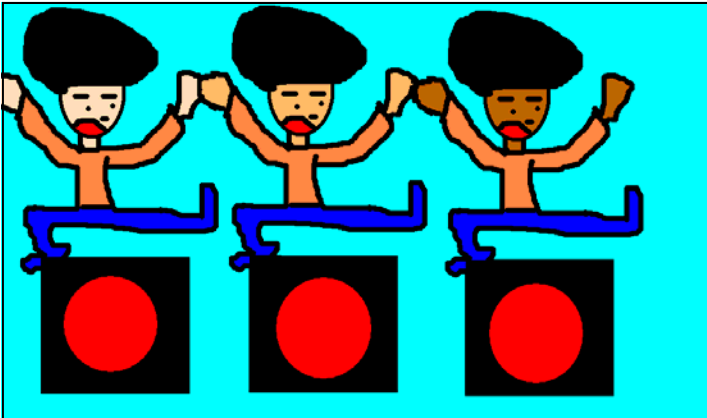
Demaria Clay and Amanda Dalton, two of the three Students of the Month for November. Miya Peal's picture is on page 21.



Students honored for outstanding behavior in November, line the stage at the Character Assembly.

COMPUTER GRAPHICS

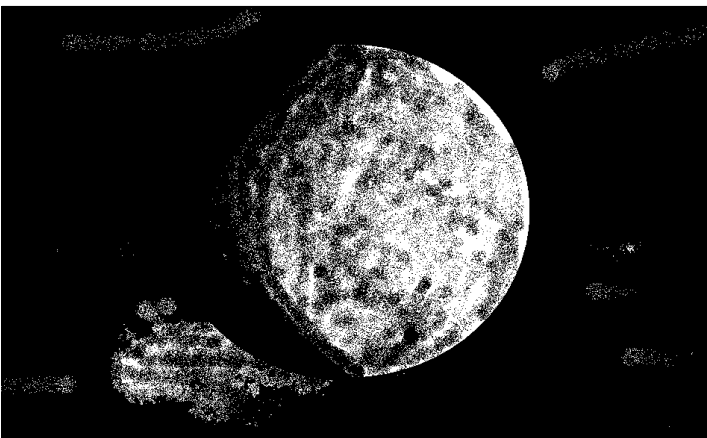
7th Grade Student of the Month for October, Candace Austin, from Mrs. Hayes' room, showcases some of her computer art.



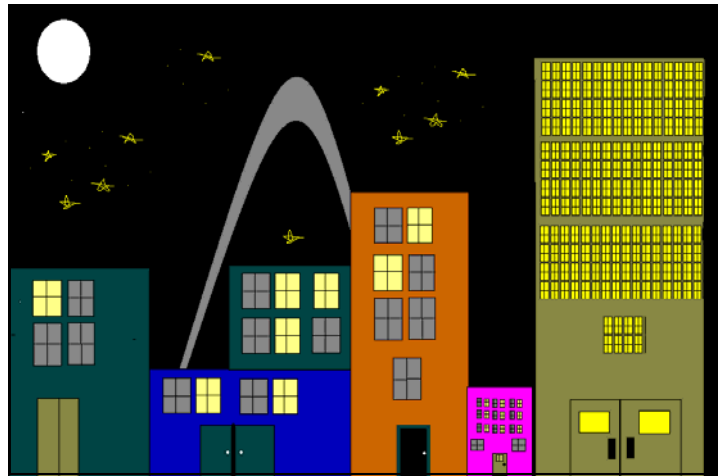
Students needed to demonstrate mastery of the "Selection Tool" by moving the red circles inside the black squares. As usual, Candace went one step further! Way to go, Candace!



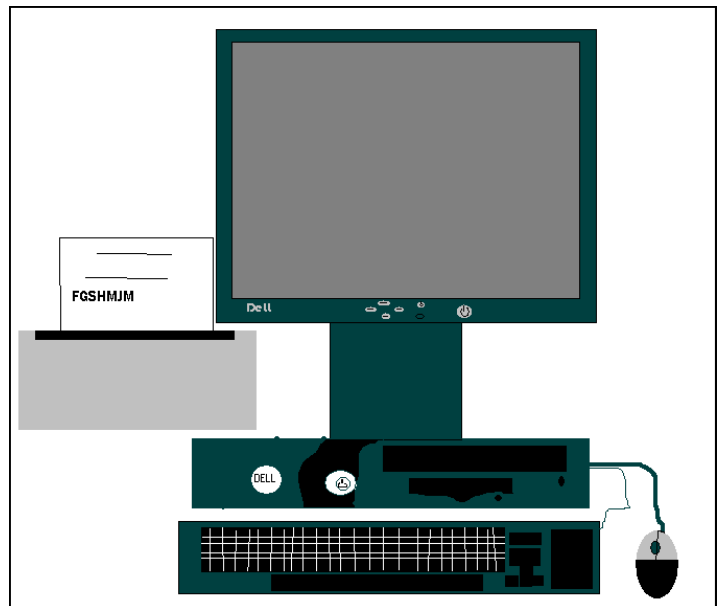
Students were asked to illustrate a holiday story in this piece.



"Moon" from an assignment using light and shadow. Students learned to use airbrush in this computer graphics assignment.



Students demonstrated their skill with the curve tool to create the St. Louis Arch, and their ability to copy and paste objects (see skyscraper windows) in this assignment: "City Scene."



Students learned about computer hardware and to distinguish between input and output devices. As part of an assignment, Candace created this drawing of a personal computer.



Un-named portrait by Candace.

MR. CLARK IN MOTION

Mr. Mark Clark, Lyon @ Blow Music Teacher, the recipient of the Lyon @ Blow Teacher of the Month Award, keeps mighty busy. Not long ago he was there with Lyon @ Blow Students who sang at Logan College in Creve Coeur, MO for The Scottish Music Festival on October 9, 2009 at 7:00 PM. There were six other school districts that participated in this event.



After the Concert. Lyon @ Blow students Keith Wilson, Tyler Cavins and Dameka Walker with Mr. Clark and Caroline Pugh.



Left to right are Program Coordinator Diane McCollough; Dameka; Brian McNeil, a Scottish folk singer, songwriter and musician; Tyler, Keith and Mr. Clark.

SEVENTH GRADE

LYON BLOW NEWS STORY

By Amesha Payne, Ms. Rains, 7th Grade

I am writing about a couple of my favorite singers/bands. These singers and bands fall into these music categories. The first singer is Kari Jobe and she's a gospel singer. One of my favorite bands is Sugarland and their band is country. My second and third favorite singers are Miley Cyrus and Monica. Miley Cyrus is a pop singer and Monica is an R/B singer. Last, but not least, another one of my favorite bands is Paramore and they are a rock band. I know you're wondering why does she like these certain singers and bands? I simply have since I've been a little child. I have not been into certain types of music except country, r/b, and a little rock.

When I tell people I like to especially listen to Country they ask "why?" I kind of understand why they say that because most African American people don't listen to country. Most of the time I listen to Gospel because I've been raised listening to it. As I mentioned before, a lady named Kari Jobe has been a big part of my life because when I listen to her music I'm tuned in and I can't get distracted. When I think about it I'm so glad that I've at least met these people and that I've heard something they love.

LYON BLOW NEWS

By Darius Ewing, Computer Literacy K-8

This morning I woke up, put on my clothes, brushed my teeth, got my book bag and jacket and went out the door to my bus stop to wait for my bus to go to school. At the end of day I went home to my homework. Then I went to the store to get myself a soda and chips and some candy. Next, I went to my grandparent's house to play the PSP and the Xbox 360. I went outside to play basketball and football. Then, the next morning I woke up, put on my clothes and went to the bus to wait for the bus. The bus came and it took me to school. I did my school work. At the end of the day I went home to do my homework. I went to my uncle's house to watch Lil' Cousin until he got back from the store. Uncle paid me \$25. I went to get my brothers from school and I helped with their homework. Finally, I fixed them something to eat and went to sleep.

THANKSGIVING

By Geno Sampa, Grade 7

On Thanksgiving we go get a big fat turkey and cook. Mom and my grandmother put the secret ingredient in the turkey. They still didn't tell me what the ingredient was. I was so mad, but we had a great turkey, and now I know what the ingredient was, but I'm not telling you.

We played games and then the day was over and then I was brushing my teeth. I went to get some clothes. I took a shower, and I went to my cousin's football game. My cousin won their first game. Then we went to my house and played the Xbox 360 Live.

We were on the Internet. We got a big fat slice of chicken, and then we had a dance. You should have seen me do the moon walk. I know you think I should be at school, but it's a Saturday. I went to bet my dad that I can hit a 360 flip. You know he won that bet, because I almost broke my neck. Hey, that's my life!

LYON BLOW NEWS STORY

By Jarrion Williams, Computer Literacy, K-8

This morning I woke up and told my mom at five in the morning before she had to go to work to sign my afterschool program so I could stay after school because they were going to start the new YMCA and we got to walk there. I got up and had to let her sign it, so she signed and left. I stayed up and I started hearing noises so I turned on the TV.

I went to sleep and I thought somebody was calling my name but I said, "Forget it!" I went to sleep and when I woke up I saw it was light outside, and I knew I was late so I went in my room to put on my clothes and I saw on my clock it said 8:40. When I left it was 8:50.

When I got outside I started running to school and after two blocks I got tired and just started walking fast and by the time I got to school and got to my locker I saw the Counselor, Mr. Bush. He said was I sure I didn't want to read my essay at the assembly? I said, "Yeah," but I talked to the principal and I decided to read it at the assembly and she said I was one of the winners in the Don't Smoke Contest and only three could win. I was very glad to win and to read in front of the school.

LYON BLOW NEWS REPORT

By Khayla Pruitt, Grade 7, Room 206

Last year around Christmas time, it was December 20, 2008 and I was writing my Christmas list. I wrote on my Christmas list: a doll house, lots of shoes, lots of clothes, a dog, and some money. My dad said OK. So, then my mom said OK too.

Then Christmas came and there were a lot of presents under the tree and I was amazed that I got everything I asked for. I went to my mom's house and she got me the doll house I asked for. Then I went to my auntie's house and got more presents. I got more shoes and more clothes. Then my brother came over and brought me some board games and we played them as soon as I unwrapped them. I also beat him in Monopoly. It was funny; he got mad because his little sister beat him. Then we made some cookies and cake. It was good! Then we went to school and I had all new stuff.

I went home and shared my first day back at school it was great. My brother went home and told us about his first day back to school too.

THANKSGIVING EVERY YEAR

By Meggan Riley, Ms. Rains' 7th Grade

My newspaper story is about Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is about family and friends coming together to enjoy laughter and more. We all play games, eat, make jokes and have fun. Some of the food my mom makes is amazing. But that doesn't matter; all that really matters is that someone loves me and cares for me. It's fun to see my family all together in one room. It's OK to have fun once a year right? It's OK to be joking on a thankful day. What I eat is tamales: YUMM.

I think it's great to have loved ones in one house hold. There's always love in a family. No matter where a family is it only matters that they're together.

LYON BLOW NEWS REPORT

By Naujae Daniels, Ms. Rains', 7th grade

The news story that is in your hand is about Naujae giving thanks. Many friends and family come together and have the fun of their lives. My mom and I try to make games so that people can have fun. I am

thankful for the entire thing many people did for me. My mom did a lot of the things she did for me.

Most important is having someone who cares about me and having a roof over my head. I'm so happy to have someone who really care about me and that's my mom. My mom and my family all go into our living room and share lots of things that we are thankful for. So many family and friends come over to also have a great time with their family and friends. It is so much fun when so many loved ones come over to visit and have fun without fighting and no one getting mad at anybody.

There are so many people who are thankful for so many things and I know that I am one of them. That is what Naujae is thankful for: to have her friends to come together.

TAYLOR LAUTNER: THE TEEN BOY WHO MAKES GIRLS MELT

By Amina Dalton, Ms. Rains' Homeroom, 7th grade

Taylor Lautner is the hottest teen star in the world. He is even more popular then Miley Cyrus. Lots of teen girls go crazy over him. He is hip, in, and hot. Read on about this fascinating teen pop star.

15 year old, Catherine Otay, says, "Taylor Lautner is the finest teen movie star ever." Most teen girls in the U.S.A love Taylor Lautner. His most famous movies now are Twilight and New Moon. He plays Jacob Black, a werewolf, who is in love with Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart). But, Bella is in love with Rob Pattison (Edward Cullen) who is a vampire, but, Rob plays a vegetarian vampire, who only eats animals. But, for some reason, Bella's blood is what he wants.

The reason I like Taylor is that he's a really good actor. He's a good actor to me because; I like his earlier movies. This movie is called Shark-Boy and Lava-Girl. In this movie, Taylor Lautner played Shark-Boy, a boy who loses his father at sea and he is forced to live with the sharks. He eats fish and he eventually grows gills. He is joined with his friend Lava-Girl. She can throw and turn into lava. They save this boy's world by getting him to the land of dreams and he stops Doctor Electricidad. He was Dreamland's electrician and he got ruined when the Dream Journal got into the wrong hands.

Taylor Lautner has an extreme background of acting and singing. He is really cool and will be liked for the rest of his life. When Taylor gets older, he will be very rich. He will be the next Brad Pitt before you know it. I really like him and I hope you do too.

* * *

EIGHTH GRADE

ADRIANNA'S THANKSGIVING

By Adrianna Evans, Grade 8

Hi, my name is Adrianna and I am going to tell you about my last Thanksgiving. Last thanksgiving my family and I went over to my grandma's house. We went over my to grandma's house to help her cook. So, when we got over there all my family and everybody started to cook. We also had to go over there because my grandma's birthday was also on Thanksgiving.

First we went there and my grandma was lying on the couch. My grandma was very sick. She couldn't do anything; that's how sick she was. My mom and I went to the kitchen to help start cooking. My mama put the greens on first. Then, after she put on the greens she put on the pies and cakes. After that we went to my cousin's house to get some meat that we bought for my grandma. We went back to my grandma's house to check on the food because my auntie lives right around the corner. The greens were almost done so I put the cornbread on and then my mom put the sweet potatoes on. After that we played some music and started talking, and dancing. It was a lot of fun on Thanksgiving.

MY CITY MUSEUM TRIP

By Briana Moore, Mr. Ginter's 8th Grade

When I went to school I was so happy because they accepted me to go on the trip to the St. Louis City Museum. When I went in the classroom the teacher said we needed parents or guardians to sign this form and to bring it back tomorrow signed. I said happily, "Okay. Thank you very much." I went through the whole day without talking. I just smiled. When we went to lunch everyone was asking me why I wasn't talking. Then they asked did I get accepted to go on the trip. I said, "Yes, I did and did you?" They all said, "Yes we did." Now I will be on the trip with all my friends. When it was time to go home I made

sure I had the permission slip form. When I got home my mom said, "Briana, dear, did you get it?" She was so happy for me, because for the first time in my life I got to go on a field trip with my school. Then I sat down at the table and did my homework. When I got through I made sure that I put my signed permission slip and my homework in my book bag.

THANKSGIVING DAY

By Derica Waters, 8A

Thanksgiving Day is a special day. Thanksgiving Day can bring all happiness to the family. It started in 1621. Everyone seems to love this holiday. Why do families love this day? The reason is that you can spend time with your family. Some people spend all the time decorating their house just to make everything right. Something that every family likes to do is play games. This is a day you tell everyone what you are thankful for. What are you thankful for? I give thanks for my family, because every one stays together forever. Does everyone have something they're thankful for? My family has a good relationship. They do everything for each other. Do you talk everything over with your family? Well, if you do and you don't fight, you can be thankful for that, not fighting with your family. Some people have all kinds of food. You can have dressing, mac and cheese, and all kinds of foods with drinks. This is how families get together. They play, laugh, and have fun. People can have fun with their families and be thankful in all kinds of ways.

THANKSGIVING STORY

By Eric Burt, 8A

There are a lot of things I do on Thanksgiving. I eat lots of food that makes me real tired and not wanting to do anything. I watch football with my dad, brother, and cousins. We really are into the game about who is going to win and why. My family is so excited to see everyone together so we can celebrate. My family cooks a lot of great food so we can eat really well during these days with the family. I really like when my mother cooks because I can smell the food my mother is preparing for us to eat. When I go over to my cousins' or auntie's house for Thanksgiving I can smell the good food they are cooking when I come through the door. After I eat I watch football and talk with my family. After that long day I go home

and eat even more food. This is the food that my mom had cooked for me, my brother, dad, and herself. The next day I wake up and think about everything that I have done the night before. I then think about the Thanksgiving that will come the next year and every thing we will do then.

FAMILY THANKSGIVING

By Gladis Lopez, Student, 8th Grade

Hello, my name is Gladis Lopez from Lyon @ Blow in 8th Grade. My Thanksgiving is really wonderful; we eat lots of delicious food that my parents make. We eat turkey or sometimes chicken, chicken sandwiches, soda or juice, mashed potatoes, and other good food. We talk or we sometimes have a party with family and friends. Everybody is having a great time. It's a great family dinner or a great party.

Thanksgiving is a beautiful day because you eat with your family and friends. We are having a nice day and lots of food. We are having a discussion and talking about lots of things. Thanksgiving is mostly a tradition that people gather and share other food. Thanksgiving means to me a dinner with our family and being together and having a nice time.

Lots of other people eat other kinds food but they still are with their family and friends. People like Thanksgiving because they get to eat turkey and other foods with the family. Thanksgiving is the best day to eat food and be with your family.

THANKSGIVING

By Donald Summers, 8th Grade, Room 003

For Thanksgiving I am going to my sister's house. We will have turkey stuffing, mashed potatoes and other types of food. After we eat dinner we will have pie. My sister and my mom make all sorts of pies: apple, pumpkin, cherry, and chocolate. We'll watch the football game on TV like we do every year. That's what my family does on Thanksgiving Day.

THIS THANKSGIVING

By Jessica Sutton, Grade 8

This Thanksgiving I get to spend with my family up in Illinois. I can't wait. It will be my first Thanksgiving not at my house, but at my brother's place. I am so excited. It is going to be my mother, my sister, and the rest of the family at my brother's place. It is going to be so much fun. He has a trampoline

and he has a band set up in his garage. It is going to be awesome. I can't wait. I love my whole family and being with them on the holidays is the best thing to come. Also I don't have school next Thursday and Friday. I might get to go see my cousin. I don't know yet, but hopefully. I plan to play the drums while my brother plays the electric guitar. He is in a band and he is really good at playing both drums and electric guitar. I think I am better at playing the drums than anything.

I can't wait for Thanksgiving. It will be so much fun and I am looking forward to it.

LYON BLOW NEWS STORY

By Kevion Mitchell, Grade 8

Last year I was on my way to my aunt's house. I got up and began to go on to the bathroom. I took a bath and got out by 7:30. My mom told me to be ready at 9:00. It takes me a minute to get ready when I am going out. My mom left early to go help with cooking. She told me that she would be back at 9:00. When she left I thought I could go and take a nap until 8:30. When my mom got back it was nine and I was still sleeping. My mom was upset because I wasn't ready to go when she got back. So I had to get ready in a hurry. When I got done I went to my aunt's house and all my family was there. I was very happy to see my cousins, aunts, and uncles.

My mom told me to put up my things. When I came back out I went to go play the game with my big cousins. It's like we have a routine thing that we go play the new Madden Video Football Game of the year. Then, after we get done we eat dinner. We usually have turkey, greens, dressing, cake, and lots of other things. This is what I do for Thanksgiving.

THANKSGIVING DAY

By Kyle Poff, Grade 8

I'll tell why I am thankful this year. I am thankful this year for many reasons. The first thing I am thankful for is to have people there who care about me and protect me. Also, another reason I am thankful is that I am able to play fun sports and have a good education for my family and me. Also, I should be thankful this year because I have a family that can help me with all of my problems. These are some of the reasons why I am thankful on Thanksgiving Day.

LYON BLOW NEWS

By Aubrey Hall, Computer Literacy, K-8

Thanksgiving is a holiday that represents when Pilgrims came to America and when they went trading with the Native Americans. On Thanksgiving you celebrate with turkey and all kinds of other foods. My favorite is the pumpkin pie and some dressing. Some times I go with family and celebrate with them or I'll just stay in the house with my family and celebrate. I guess the Pilgrims came to America in the fall, near winter and then met with the Indians. I don't know. I just know that you make food on Thanksgiving, and celebrate what fall is about, when the leaves turn yellow and orange or when people really need food.

Some charities are held to feed the people who really need the food and they feel better after people share their food with them. My last Thanksgiving feast was at my grandmother's house and I helped cook turkey dressing and potato salad. My first Thanksgiving was confusing because I didn't know what the foods were and my favorite was the macaroni and cheese; all I knew was it was delicious and good.

I know now that I am supposed to share what's mine with the people who really need it. The good thing about it is that it's right by Christmas and the year is almost over.

THANKSGIVING

Danielle J. Rankins, 8A

Whenever you think about Thanksgiving, what do you think of? Some people think turkey, ham, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, and a whole lot of other foods. Other people think of what they will do on that day. In my family it's not about the food that's cooked or the "who made the best dessert and dressing." It's about family, fun, and having a good time with the family. Thanksgiving is a special day that some people celebrate with all their family. But most people can't celebrate this fulfilling day like we can. A tradition in my family on Thanksgiving is to gather around the living room at my Great Grandma's house. From youngest to oldest we say what we're thankful for. Some say they're thankful for food, family, to be able to live to see another day, or something else like that.

On Thanksgiving everybody brings a dish of theirs to cook. My mother makes an apple pie; my grandmother makes her famous peach cobbler. Then, when all the food is done and everybody has their plates there is nothing you hear but the laughs and chewing of the good food.

Well, Thanksgiving to me means that I get to see all my family and my extended cousins who I haven't seen in a while. The food on Thanksgiving is not just called regular food and the spices in the food don't make it as good. It's the fact that the food is made with love and care so that the real cooking comes from the soul and not just from a family recipe. Growing up for me, Thanksgiving is one of the best holidays not just because of the soul food but the family that comes with it. That's what I think Thanksgiving is to me.

THANKSGIVING DAY

By Miya Peal, Mr. Ginter's 8th Grade Class

Thanksgiving started in 1621 with the pilgrims and another Indian tribe. It was just a day in the month of November that they would dance, eat a lot of traditional foods and play games. To them it was just a harvest festival, but to us today it is something we celebrate every year in November. Today, on Thanksgiving many families travel to where most of their families live and eat foods such as turkeys, hams, dressing, sweet potatoes, and many other different foods. Families also tell stories about what happened in that year that they did not see or talk to their families. Many people think that Thanksgiving is just a day that people gather around and eat, but to me Thanksgiving is everything. Without Thanksgiving I don't think I would see most of my family.

This day is when my family bonds and gossips. I know that's kind of funny, but I like it. Also, many families do traditional things around that time which means it's very important to many people. To me Thanksgiving is a holiday in which people fall in love — kind of like Valentine's Day but a little different in many ways. Finally, everyone should think of Thanksgiving in a very special way on the last Thursday of November every year.

* * *



Keyboarding is a breeze for these 8th Graders, Miya Peal, Derica Waters, Danielle Rankins, and Adrianna Evans (pictured below) all students in 8th Grade Computer Literacy from Mr. Ginter's Homeroom. Thanks for their hard work and contributions to their School Newsletter.

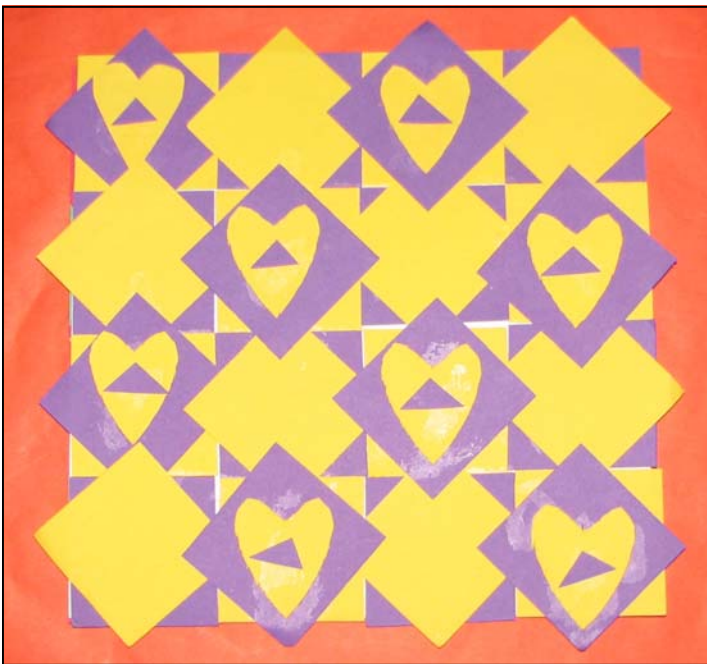
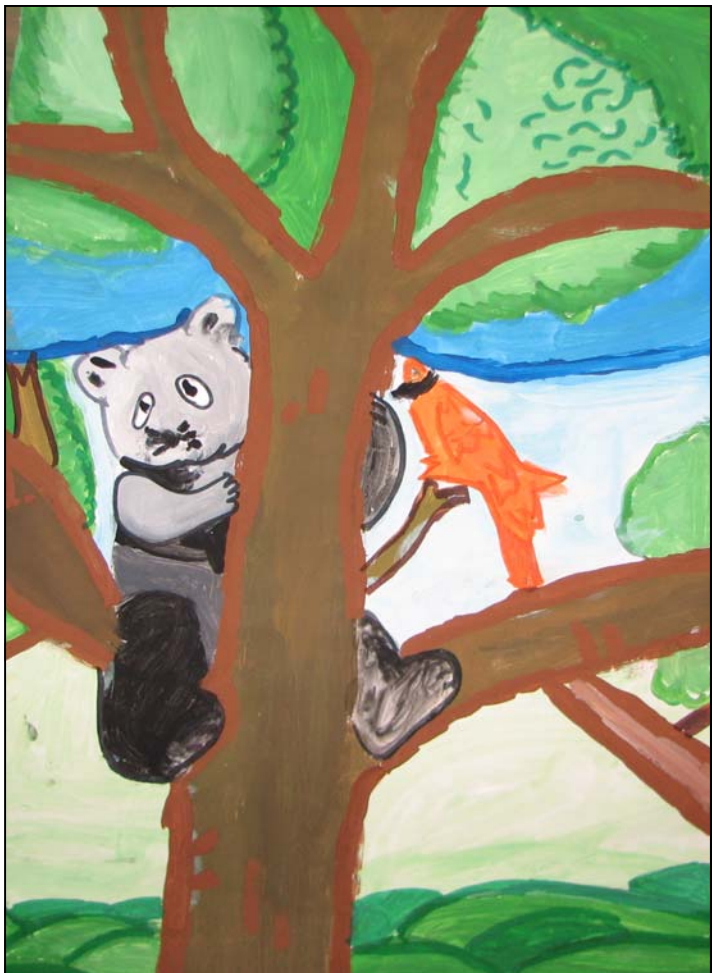
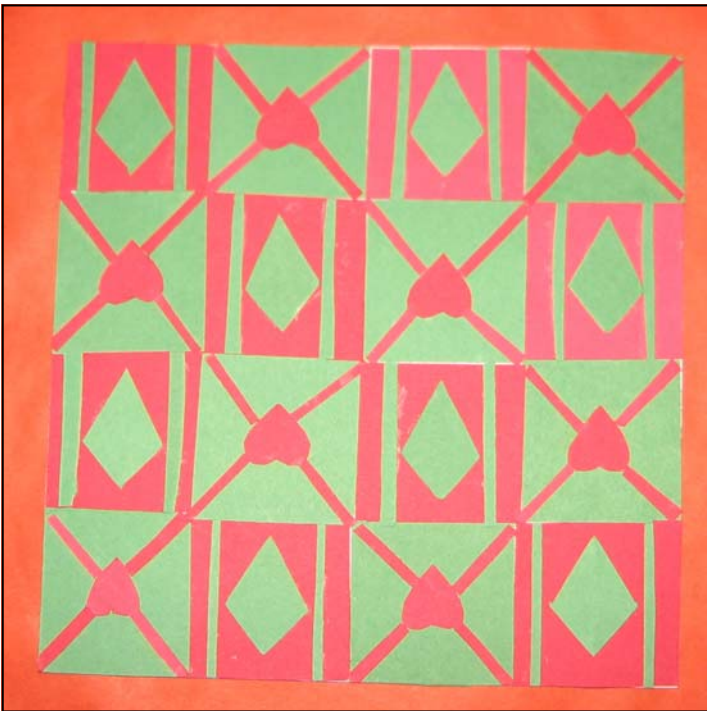


You have just seen a small sample of the hundreds of articles written over the past several months by the young writers of Lyon @ Blow. If you are a student, perhaps you are writing an essay or report for your Communication Arts, Social Studies, or Science Class? You will find that keyboarding skill and efficient use of word processing programs will enhance your ability to produce effective writing. In the future, in high school, college, and the professional world, virtually everything you write will need to be "typed." Keyboarding will make it a breeze. The ability to use a word processor (as opposed to an old-fashioned typewriter) will make writing a lot easier and a lot more fun, too!

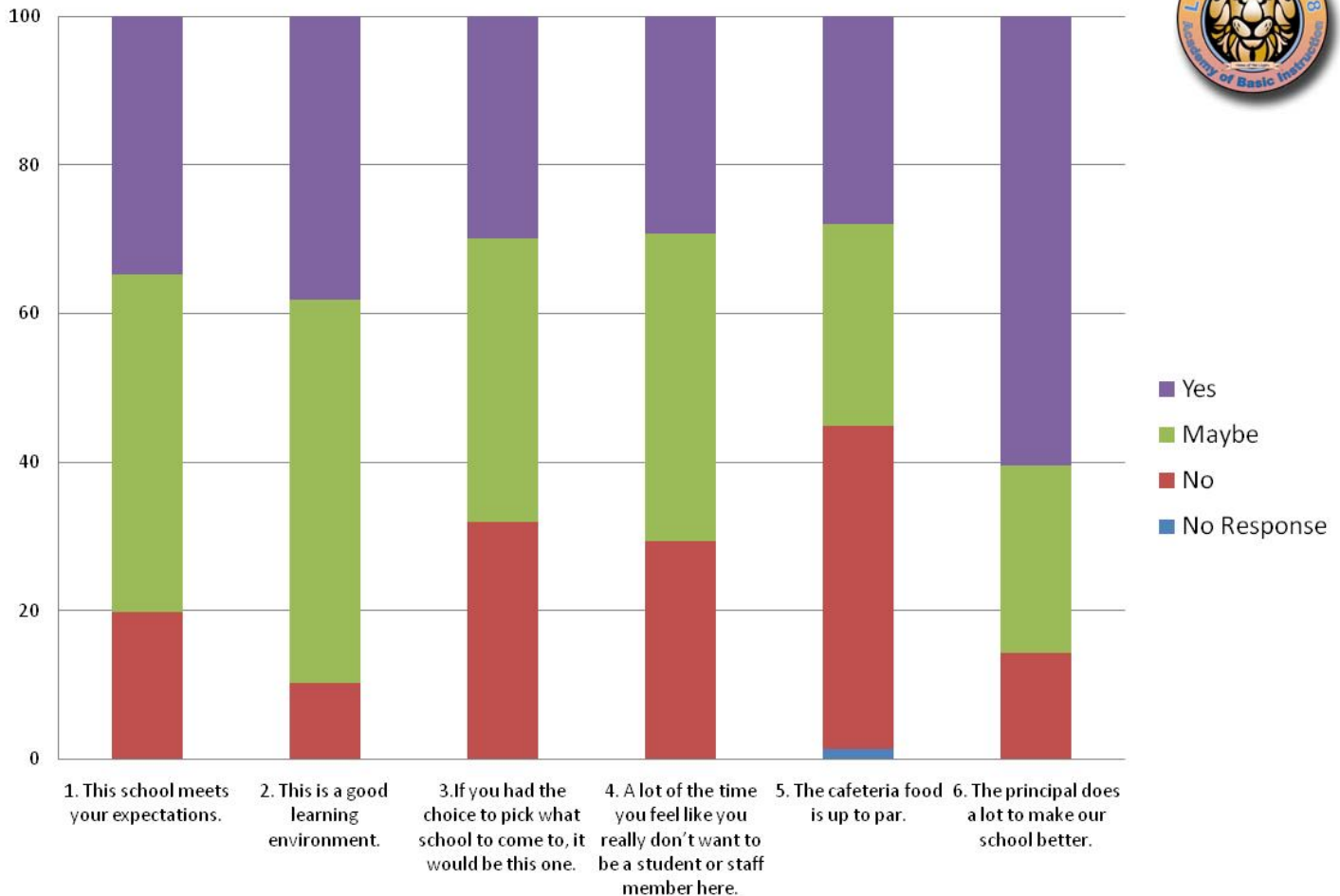
THE ARTIST'S CORNER



From Kindergarten to 8th Grade, you'll see student artwork from Mrs. Deleon's art students all over the building. Mrs. "D" teaches all the children at Lyon @ Blow, seeing over 280 students each week!



School Survey -- 147 Responding



SCHOOL SURVEY

Seventh Grade Students Sarah Lane and Amesha Payne took Mr. Phoenix at his word in their Computer Literacy Class as they completed a Unit on Computer Spreadsheets using Microsoft Excel. He had said that surveys were used all the time in the “real world,” and that many people used spreadsheets to track the results. The class had completed a difficult assignment creating spreadsheets with complex formulas to count and tabulate items, transform those into percentages and display that data in graphic form.

The class had tabulated “make believe” questionnaire responses into their spreadsheets. Sarah and Amesha came up with their own questionnaire and asked Mr. Phoenix whether they could actually survey the school. With the help of Lawanda Hutchinson, the students ran off the surveys and distributed them throughout the building the week before Thanksgiving. When they returned to school Sarah and Amesha entered all the responses into the spreadsheet. What you see above is the result of the survey and the hard work of three ambitious students.



From The Principal's Desk

“2009 was a tremendous year, but I know we will do even better in 2010. I wish a safe and restful winter break for the Lyon @ Blow families, students and staff. Classes resume on January 5, 2010!”



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