



NetworkArts

FALL 2009

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Dedicated to expanding childrens' opportunities to express themselves, explore science, art, and the humanities, and create art that permanently transforms their communities.

NetworkArts enters its 16th year creating vanguard educational programs for students, fusing science, arts, and the humanities. Working in Philadelphia and Camden with youth in Public, Archdiocese, and Charter Schools, social service programs, and local government, NetworkArts and its students continue to educate the public through the creation of public art focused on some of the most compelling issues of our time.

We look forward to continuing our mission of using the language of the arts to enable students to explore sophisticated curricula and to leave behind public art for future viewers to enjoy and learn from.

Our website www.networkarts.org will give you an overview of NetworkArts and its educational mosaic programs over the past 16 years.

The Annual Fund plays a large part in enabling this work to reach students and the public throughout the region, and on behalf of our students, we thank you for your support.

June Siegel, Board Chair

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METEAST STUDENTS EXPLORE THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSERVATION/INNOVATION/SUSTAINABILITY

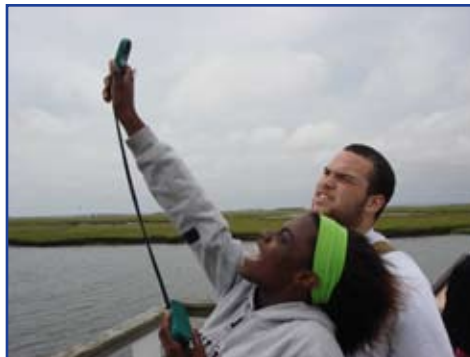
Students from Camden's MetEast High School investigated the meaning of the essential concepts of *Conservation/Innovation/Sustainability* through field trips, discussions, research, and art-making. They visited the offices of the Philadelphia architectural firm of Bohlin Cywinski Jackson to learn about the wide variety of green building projects and the LEED architectural techniques utilized by that firm in sites throughout the country. They spent a day at the Industrial Design Department of The University of the Arts, where they considered the importance of sustainable design – using recycled and recyclable materials, energy efficiency, and biomimicry in creating sustainable designs, among other concepts.

MetEast High School is situated across the street from a large wetland, and the students planted spartina alterniflora grass seeds there to enrich the habitat, visited by

a wide variety of birds during the course of the year. The students also visited the Stone Harbor Wetlands Institute to see spartina grasses in the context of a salt marsh, and learned about their importance as the foundation of the food chain for that habitat.

The mosaic they constructed on the facade of the school is divided into three sections, each addressing one of the three key concepts of the mosaic's theme. Details include text and images referencing ideas for greener cities, green jobs, sustainable forest management, energy efficiency strategies, renewable energy, and wetland preservation, among others.

Made possible by the support of the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation



NETWORKARTS STUDENTS AT POPE JOHN PAUL II SCHOOL EMPHASIZE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

The NetworkArts project with students at Pope John Paul II Elementary School in the Bridesburg section of Philadelphia began with a consideration of *Environmental Stewardship*, and culminated in a student-designed Science Fair to explore in detail some of the concepts they learned during the course of the project. Students created booths focused on the construction of green roofs, FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) lumber and the corporations that participate in selling wood from sustainably-managed forests; energy efficient lighting; and a wide variety of student-made crafts fashioned from reusable materials. The students also invited a representative from GE to make a power point presentation on the status of world freshwater.

The mosaic is situated in the main entrance hallway of the school, and includes symbols, texts, and strategies for environmental stewardship – spanning the gamut from proper recycling of hazardous waste to political action. The installation not only involved all of the classes of the school, but also a *Parents' Night*, made festive both by refreshments and a snow storm outside.

At the mosaic's completion, students spent a Saturday in a NetworkArts-sponsored *Bridesburg Cleanup Day*, and took a culminating field trip to Stone Harbor Wetlands Institute.

NETWORKARTS SUMMER STUDENTS INVITED TO CONTINUE A MAJOR LOBBY TRANSFORMATION AT THE WRIGHT CAMDEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

NetworkArts completed the second year of a three year summer project to transform the lobby of the Camden County Aletha Wright Building, one of two major government buildings in the city of Camden. Working with students in the criminal justice rehabilitation program of Camden's Center for Family Services, NetworkArts continued its mosaic focus on landmark New Jersey heroes. The building is the main venue for residents seeking social services, and the student work has given the lobby a vibrant and colorful presence. During the summer installation process, the students received numerous compliments from the building's employees and visitors.

This second year of the project celebrated the legacies of The Leni-Lenape tribe; suffragette Alice Paul; tenor Enrico Caruso (who recorded in Camden); heavyweight boxing champion Jersey Joe Walcott; Campbell Soup's founding chemist John T. Dorrance; Cooper Hospital founder Dr. Richard Cooper; President Grover Cleveland; and salsa singer Celia Cruz. The students took several field trips throughout the summer in the tri-state region, and had a final celebration at the Baltimore waterfront.

Made possible by the generosity of the Campbell Soup Foundation.



CONSTITUTION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WORK WITH NETWORKARTS TO CREATE MOOT COURTROOM LOGO

NetworkArts worked with students and teachers from Constitution High School in Philadelphia to design the official school logo that now appears in tile mosaic on the front of the judicial bench located in its new Sandra Day O'Connor Moot Courtroom.

Through student discussion and sketches, a range of ideas of imagery and text was considered. After a decision on its final elements, the logo was designed, constructed, and installed.

In the Fall of 2008, the courtroom was officially dedicated. Former US Supreme Court Justice O'Connor was seated at the bench, where she heard outstanding Moot Court presentations by the students and offered them her critique.

BOYD SCHOOL STUDENTS EXPLORE THE FAUNA AND FLORA OF SALT MARSHES

Boyd Elementary School is situated in Seaside Heights, New Jersey, and its facade faces a salt marsh. The students spent weeks investigating the characteristics of this habitat – how salt marshes form, why they are important, the plants that are found there and the configurations in which they grow, and the wildlife found there. All of this information and their drawings and sculptures were utilized to create the mosaic in the school's library. They sculpted wildlife from microscopic animals to birds and mammals (though not to-scale). Their text will inform all future students about the habitat in their "backyard." The mosaic's border contains student illustrations of the butterflies of New Jersey, to compliment the Butterfly Garden in the school's courtyard.



STUDENTS AT PRINCE HALL SCHOOL CREATE A RAINFOREST ON THE SCHOOL'S FACADE, BEAUTIFYING THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD

Present and future Prince Hall Elementary School students, as well as passersby, are now able to become experts on rainforest ecology thanks to the work of students this past spring. The vibrant mosaic brings a burst of color to a previously bland facade, welcomes the entering students each day, and provides beauty to the entire neighborhood in the East Oak Lane section of Philadelphia.

The text of the mosaic covers the geography of rainforests, their importance to world climate and biodiversity, and current world status. It features the types of food, medicine, and other products which had their origin in rainforests. The physical characteristics of rainforests are described, as well as the characteristics that distinguish them from other world forests.

The top border of the mosaic contains approximately 50 student sculptures illustrating the vast variety of rainforest wildlife.

The mosaic was dedicated in memory of Justin Jarvis, a young NetworkArts student. Special programs for Prince Hall students will be developed in Justin's name to make the mosaic one aspect of a living memorial.

Made possible by the support of the Hamilton Family Foundation



STUDENTS AT ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CREATE A WORLDWIDE ANALYSIS OF THE CONCEPT GREAT IDEAS THAT CHANGED HISTORY

The student body of St. Thomas Aquinas Elementary School in South Philadelphia can now learn about major trends and achievements in world history as they walk down the hallway of their school. The mosaic they built contains over 100 student sculptures representing landmark achievements with accompanying text, such as Marconi's wireless telegraph, Gandhi's leadership, Shakespeare's literature, and Rosa Parks' courage. Its content was divided into the categories of: *Inventors/Inventions; Medicine; Communication; Science; Religion; Individuals; and Events*. Preparation involved students in research, writing, drawing, and sculpture.

Made possible through the generosity of the Connelly Foundation.



INTERGENERATIONAL PROJECT AT PAUL'S RUN TRANSFORMS A COURTYARD

Seniors at Paul's Run, a Senior Living Facility and Nursing Home in Philadelphia, collaborated with students from George Washington High School to transform an outdoor courtyard into a year-round blossoming mosaic garden wall.

The mosaic features a giant orange/red glass and tile sun that will provide warmth at every season of the year, and numerous sculptural details of plant and animal life that will make exploring and touching the wall of interest to residents and visitors alike.

This project is part of NetworkArts' continuing *Myrna Brind Intergenerational Program*, uniting generations and beautifying elders' home spaces.

Made possible with the help of AmerisourceBergen Corporation





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