

From the principal's desk...

This was a week of celebration at Douglass! Our fourth and fifth grade students put on a show on Wednesday night for their families as we celebrated the 7th annual Art's Alive. Diane Deyo, our sensational art teacher, displayed some of the finest student art work I've ever seen.

As I was walking through the hallways, I was stopped over and over again by parents telling me how amazing the displays were – and I couldn't agree more! So on your behalf, I want to thank Mrs. Deyo for bringing our local artist Harriet Peck Taylor to Douglass to teach batik painting. The results speak for themselves – make sure to walk down the hallways to see for yourselves!

After all that hard work, was Mrs. Deyo done? No! The day after Art's Alive, I walked into the art room, and Mrs. Deyo is back at it, working with 4th graders on their masks for their Shakespeare performances coming up in May. We are so lucky to have such a dedicated art teacher.

The musical talent showcased by Teresa Himel and the 4th and 5th grade choir was equally amazing. I was so impressed by the way Mrs. Himel wove children's poetry, music, and choreography together to create a lasting memory for families.

Special thanks to Diane Deyo, Teresa Himel, Linda Taht, Lynn Twietmeyer and Dawne Mangus for their leadership in preparing our kids for a memorable performance. Thanks also to our PTO for supporting this exciting evening celebrating the arts at Douglass!

Wednesday night's celebration of the Arts is a reminder to me that the high academic performance of our school is exceptional, and our focus on the arts is a part of education that we need to keep high on our priorities. In this era of tight budgets, and as a musician myself, I hope that we will all continue to support our children's endeavors academically and artistically in the public schools.

Also this week, students and teachers celebrated the 40th anniversary of the first Earth Day. We are a Green Star School, committed to reducing waste in classrooms and the lunchroom. This week, we focused on the lunchroom to see how much trash we collected – we weighed the trash receptacles and graphed the results. This continues to be an educational opportunity for our kids as they learn what items can be recycled or composted rather than simply discarded in the trash can.

Also, each student in the school made an Earth Day pledge. As you walk through the entry of the school, you will see students' promises hung, as well as outside classrooms. Some of our kids have promised to use rechargeable batteries in their toys; to plant a tree at their house; to recycle all paper they use; to take quicker showers; and to teach their younger brothers and sisters about ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle at home and at school.

I'd like to thank Holly Colangelo, our teacher leader for our Green Star School, as well as Jennifer Dingman for her work this week in putting these events together. As I will tell the

students this afternoon, each of these pledges they are making will make a difference in the way we use our scarce resources.

This is an amazing school! I'm proud to be the principal at such a talented and caring place. Thanks for all you do to make Douglass one of the best schools in the country.

Your principal,

Jon Wolfer