

Creation week at Trinity

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From Greek mythology to ancient Egyptian artifacts to realistic models of a koala bear or killer whale, seventh- and eighth-graders from Trinity School at Greenlawn showed their creativity in a week of work outside the classroom.

Instead of returning to class like many students, Trinity students spent last week working on a project at home so teachers could have parent conferences, said teacher Linda Porto. The creative hands-on work and research "stimulates students' imagination for learning," Porto said.

Accomplishments of the seventh-graders, who concentrated on ancient history, and the eighth-graders, who concentrated on science -- about 60 total -- were on display Saturday at a project fair at the school.

Eighth-grader Molly Kane created an authentic giraffe using a ketchup bottle for the body, candlesticks for legs, a tube of construction paper, a long sock, papier-mache, pipe cleaners and paint.

"It was fun to try something different and have a lot of time to devote to one project for a change," Molly said. A giraffe has a 22-pound heart and has special blood vessels so when it bends down to get a drink a sudden rush of blood doesn't kill it, she explained.

Tessa Cramer, a seventh-grader, used a double-decker spice rack as a revolving stage to illustrate a Greek myth. A variety of materials, including clay and dried flowers, created colorful, intricate scenes of what gods and goddesses were doing in each of the four seasons as well in the underworld of Hades.

Other ancient history items created by seventh-graders included an Egyptian burial mask of plaster and gold leaf by Tattyanna Kimble and a handmade, painted Greek vase by Alexis James.

Tess Pingle soaked strips of brown paper in water then wove and dried them to illustrate how Egyptians used the papyrus plant to make a paper-like sheet.

Seeing her cousin's pictures of Koala bears in Australia led eighth-grader Maria Ruciti to make one. She formed the head and body out of wire, stuffed with newspaper and covered with duct tape. She added toilet paper roll arms and legs, dyed strips of gray fur to cover the bear and made eyes, a nose and claws of clay. The bear's eucalyptus tree was made from papier-mache, sticks and fake leaves.

"I got a real sense of accomplishment," said Maria. "I didn't think it was going to work out and it did. I think it's so cute."

Insulation and spray paint formed the basis of the 1910 Washington state avalanche Mary Mattimore created. She wanted to learn something she had not studied in school and chose the country's largest earthquake in terms of fatalities because it happened near Seattle, where her family once lived.

"It's more exciting and you get to look up everything and learn a lot more," Mary said, comparing the project to class work.

The alternative learning experience "is wonderful," added Head of School Kerry Koller, also the father of five former students. "The students get engaged and that's when education happens."

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Abstract (Document Summary)

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