

# Our Students' expanding the definition of Home in the Community

Miss Elizabeth's advanced art classes have visited the Road Home, a shelter for women and children. The Road Home provides shelter and other services to women and children and helps them develop plans to find homes in the community. Our student artists have been working with artist Louise Fishman (mom of Greta Geary, grade 5) to glazed tiles that will Home's back yard. mural is Home, have each created a home to add to have included everything from homes in specific landscapes (a beach house animal homes (a more metaphorical bear). It's been for the students to meaning of home, and contribute home in our community.



to hear Senior Center's harmonica band. The students like it so much that Judson arranged for them to join in the band. So every Friday these boys go for an hour to play cowboy tunes on the harmonica with the seniors. The boys have formed a real connection with each other, with the music, and with their new senior citizen band mates. "It's grown into an experience we couldn't have dreamed of," Judson says. "The boys notice when some of the old guys are gone and they're concerned about them." The boys in the band included Xander Rosell, Brennan Geigos, Bryce Pulver, Steve Floor, Daniel Ainsworth, John Williams, and Cedar Coleman. Be listening for their cowboy harmonica tunes at the Gala.

Making these kinds of connections with the community that we call home is central to our schools philosophy of taking a leadership role in the community and applying what we're learning to the needs around us.



Other students have been visiting the senior citizens at the Liberty Senior Center, up the street from our school. Some of these were a group of 8th grade boys whom Judson took

## 2008 Gala Brings Learning Home!

Why do people leave a place they have known as home?

Do they leave by choice or against their will?

What do they carry with them? Remember? Restore?

What are the challenges that face them, and how do they move on to create a new place called home?

These are the questions that are at the heart of our 2008 Gala.

Our 5th and 6th graders have been immersed in ancient civilizations. They have explored the lives and civilizations of Egypt, Mesopotamia, and ancient China. They have sailed with Odysseus and

marched with the Anasazi.

At the same time, the 7th and 8th graders have been steeped in American history. From the creation of colonies up through the conquering of prairies and rocky mountains, the students have stepped into the shoes of the people who came to this "promised land" pursuing dreams of freedom and opportunity; and equally, they have sailed the African slave ships and walked the trail of tears mourning homes that were lost forever.

More than any other year, this production is a genuine student-created piece. Early in the year, we asked our humanities classes to write poetry, diary entries, scenes, letters, etc. from an his-

torical vantage point. We selected the work that evoked a powerful image or message. The advanced arts classes have then developed these selections into dramatic scenes. Students are now creating/ selecting the music, choreographing the dances and producing the sets. April will be consumed with Gala activity! I have been amazed at the perceptive quality of our students' work and the power in their creative interpretation.

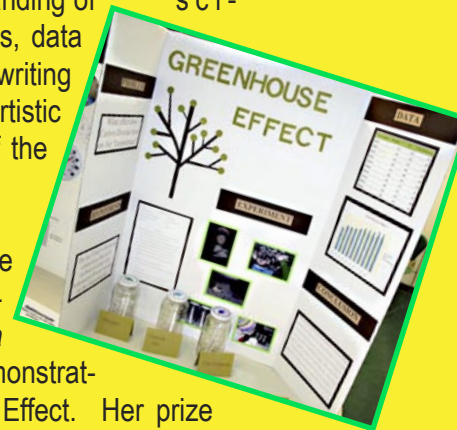
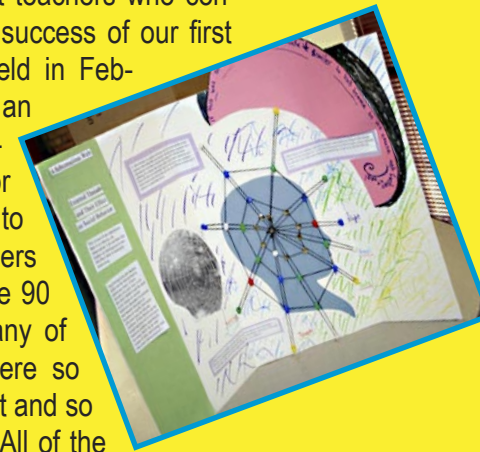
I think you will agree with me that this year's gala will ask all of us provocative questions –questions that have touched mankind for millennia.

# Science & MATH & Chess Competitions

Congratulations to all of our students who have done so well in chess, math and science competitions recently! It's a real testament

## SLAA Science Fair

Many thanks to the students, parents, and great teachers who contributed to the success of our first science fair, held in February. It was an especially difficult task for the 11 judges to choose winners from among the 90 entries—so many of the projects were so well thought out and so well executed. All of the experiments integrated the students' understanding of scientific principles, data collection and writing to make an artistic presentation of the idea.



In the end, the 8th grade winner was **Lya Yang**, who demonstrated the Strupe Effect. Her prize was a field trip to Sanchez Laboratory at the University of Utah (where parent Jim Jenkin studies planaria regeneration).

The winner in the 5th to 7th grade competition was **Karsten Hokanson**. Congratulations!



## MATHCOUNTS COMPETITION

The MathCounts competition is, for our school, evidence of how well our math program is working. MathCounts is a national math enrichment, coaching & competition program that promotes middle school mathematics achievement. Many of the students who participate train outside of school with materials that are specifically targeted to this competition. As Ms. Wadsworth says, "we approach it less as a competition, than as an opportunity to see how our math program prepares students to apply math creatively." Any of our students can participate, and they compete without extra preparation. Ms. Simms believes this openness encourages more girls to participate. Our team included 7th and 8th grade students included **Maura Coursey, Helena Tremblay, Lya Yang, and Seth Zebrack**. They placed 8th in the state of Utah, and **Helena** and **Lya** placed in the top 15 overall. We're proud of them, and of our math teachers.

## Chess

And here's one more success story. Former student Devon Brown (now in 11th grade) and his father Howard Horwitz have been coaching our chess team every Monday. The team includes **Daniel Ainsworth, Holland Bosarge, Bryson Christensen, Olivia Giles, Jafe Sellers, Bryce Pulver, Eliza Shearon, Brennan Gallegos, Anthony Avila, Lloyd Livengood, and Zach Canbdelaria**—and their play has



been improving month by month. Last year they entered the state competition and took first place among schools and second overall. This is an incredible achievement for our team and our coaches, surpassing even their own high expectations. When asked what his secret is, Devon says, "I tell them to look for the loose and hanging pieces."

Looking Ahead:

**April - Northern European Cultures Month**

April 29 and 30 Gala rehearsals at the Rose Wagner Theatre

**May - American Culture Month**

May 1st No classes. Matinee 11:00 Evening 7:00

May 2nd No classes – Gala party & performance 6:30

May 3rd Comcast Day of Caring – Community work day at our school

May 5th – 9th 5th graders attend Teton Science School

May 9th 6th, 7, & 8th grade leadership day

May 12 – 22 Test weeks – Student attendance is critical

May 15 Registration materials for 09 mailed

May 21 Registration for new students in 09

May 23 and 26 No school – Memorial Weekend

May 27 – 29 Spirit Week

May 29 BBQ and Baseball

May 30 End of year reward activities

**June**

June 2 – 5 School is dismissed at 12:40.

June 4 8th grade graduation 1:30 p.m.

June 5 Last Day of School

*Salt Lake Arts Academy*  
844 South 200 East  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111



**SLArts Wins Ernest L Boyer Award for Best Practices!**

*National Award Grants Us \$10,000 for Character Education*

*A word from the principal, Amy Wadsworth*

In 2002, when Dr. Carol Lubomudrov and I began considering educational philosophies and models for a new charter school, we turned to the Basic School – the work of nationally recognized educator, Ernest L Boyer. In Boyer’s vision, he identified 4 essential priorities of a quality school:

- The school as community**
- A curriculum with coherence**
- A climate for learning**
- A commitment to character.**

Our vision of the Salt Lake Arts Academy was built upon these ideas and values that Dr. Boyer articulated. You can imagine how honored I feel that our school has been selected as one of four schools nationally to win the Ernest L Boyer Award for Best Practices for 2008.

Each year the awards committee selects a specific focus. This year it was character education. We submitted our fledgling leadership program and shared with the committee the many examples of community involvement and our vision for a systematic approach to character education. On March 11, two evaluators from the Awards committee spent the morning at our school. They met with students and teachers, watched classes in action and even sat with students during the lunch hour. They saw – as I had hoped – that something very special is going on at our school.

With our \$10,000 award, we will be able to

take our leadership program to a higher level that will include more travel, community projects, and curriculum that connects leadership goals with our families. This funding will ensure that we can support this essential part of our curriculum without it taking away from other resources.

But more than the money, it is the highest honor to be recognized by the organization who was the source of our inspiration to create our wonderful school. We should all be very proud.

I invite you to read one of the most inspirational speeches ever given about education:

[www.messiah.edu/boyer\\_center/basic\\_school/boyer\\_speech.html](http://www.messiah.edu/boyer_center/basic_school/boyer_speech.html)

**World Cultures are Coming Home**

After focusing on the Hispanic culture in October, the Native Americans in November, Middle Eastern cultures in December, and African, Asian, and Mediterranean cultures in the new year, April brings our cultural focus to Northern Europe, where so many Americans have their roots. We enjoyed the foot-stomping music of Celtic Harpistry, led by Cynthia Douglass, Omar and Karim Zamrini’s mother, and tasted the delicious German food of Siegfried’s Deli. May brings us back home, to celebrate our own American culture and identity with softball, hot dogs and hamburgers. Come celebrate with us May 29!

