

# Archer Glen artist in residence provides creative outlet for students

By **BARBARA SHERMAN**  
Sherwood Gazette

Darla Boljat is an artist in residence in more ways than one: She is teaching hands-on painting classes to all Archer Glen Elementary students in a program that started Nov. 1 and runs until March 1, and as a Sherwood resident, Boljat is a local "artist in residence" with paintings on display in several galleries.

Before the classes at Archer Glen started, Boljat took photos around the area and picked two so that each class of students got a choice of which photo to turn into a painting – a sunrise at the nearby National Tualatin River Wildlife Refuge or an old barn on Murdock Road.

On a day in early January, Boljat was working with a group of fifth-graders who were painting a scene in acrylic that featured the old barn, a fence, a road and trees. Over several one-hour classes, students first painted the sky and background trees, sketched in the barn and fore-



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**FINE ART** — Archer Glen artist in residence Darla Boljat (left) works with fifth-graders who are painting a barn scene based on a photograph Boljat took last fall (foreground).

ground, painted the barn and then did the road, tree trunks and fence.

Boljat even provided a cut-out of the fence, which students could trace on their painting to help get the right perspective.

Students practiced painting first on a sheet of paper before doing the final work on canvas so they actually ended up with two paintings – the paper version to go home and the canvas one to stay temporarily at the school on display.

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**"I am just thrilled about doing this -- helping the kids be creative and doing a project from start to finish."**

◆  
Darla Boljat  
Artist

# Artist: Sherwood Education Foundation provides art funding

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"There are several reasons for doing the paintings step by step over several sessions," Boljat said. "It gives the paintings time to dry, and if the kids make a mistake the next time, it can be wiped off without ruining the earlier work."

"I am teaching the techniques, such as using a large fan brush for the sky and different brushes for the other parts such as the background trees. The kids could do this painting many different ways. I am showing them one way to paint, and when they grow up, they will have this skill. This is something they could do instead of playing video games."

Boljat, who only started painting in 2005, credits the Sherwood Education Foundation

for funding the artist-in-residence programs at local schools.

"I am just thrilled about doing this – helping the kids be creative and doing a project from start to finish," she said. "The kids are enjoying learning the different techniques, and their individuality really comes through in their work. The kids leave totally energized."

"If not for the Sherwood Education Foundation, this program would not exist. This is my first time to do an artist-in-residence program, but I will definitely apply again. I love that the Sherwood Education Foundation supports the arts, and I want people in the community to know that when they donate money to the foundation, it goes to programs like this."

For more information on Boljat, visit [www.dkboljat.com](http://www.dkboljat.com).



**PAINTING IT** — Archer Glen Elementary fifth-grader Olivia Hallock works on her painting of a barn during one of several classes taught by artist in residence Darla Boljat, who is working with all the students in the school over a four-month period.

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