

AVES Elementary Visual Arts Sessions

Anderson Valley Elementary School

2015-2016



The *AVES Elementary Visual Art Sessions* provided support for visual arts sessions in the K-6th grade classes at Anderson Valley Elementary School (AVES), bringing local artist Chris Bing into the classes during October 2015 through May 2016 this year. Additionally, this year's award again provides support for a culminating community exhibit of art created in sessions with Mr. Bing which will take place in May at Lauren's restaurant in Boonville. As noted in the 2014-2015 report, Mr. Bing, one of three art teachers bringing the arts to the AVES school community, took over projects started by former AVES art teacher Rebecca Johnson adding a focus on ceramics and paper

mâché to Ms. Johnson's activities of drawing, painting and murals. This program was started by AVES and the Anderson Valley community through funds raised in the community over twenty years ago.

Mr. Bing worked with the K-6th grade classes carrying out ceramics projects in three to four fifty to sixty minute sessions per class, engaging all 286 K-6th grade students in making the following: candle holders in kindergarten and 1st grade; bobble head balance figures in 2nd grade; skulls and paper mâché birds as part of the study of bird anatomy 3rd grade; ceramic bears and cast plaster maps as part of the study of California in 4th grade; carved whale teeth as part of the Age of Sail study in 5th grade; and paper mâché salmon and also cuneiform tablets as part of world cultures study in 6th grade. The ceramics sessions offered the K-6th grade students the opportunity to engage in a progression of skills and possible finishings through working with clay.



Additionally, Mr. Bing worked with the students on a progression of drawing, ink and watercolor skills in a variety of activities supporting the curriculum. The May culminating exhibit of student work will provide a chance for the school to share the art created in the sessions with Mr. Bing with families and community members, allowing students a chance to be the featured artists on exhibit in a venue that exhibits work by professional artists from throughout Mendocino County and beyond.

As AVES Principal Lura Vieira noted, "The funding from AVArts allows us to choose new activities each year to enhance our arts offerings through inclusion of the Common Core Standards in math, language arts and science."