

Cloverdale girl wins Congressional Art Competition

Rep. Jared Huffman last week announced that Jaslyn Ortiz of Cloverdale High School is the winner of the 2018 Congressional Art Competition.

Jaslyn's winning artwork will be exhibited in the U.S. Capitol Building for one year, along with artwork from each congressional district in the country. As the winner of the competition, she will receive two round-trip tickets to Washington, D.C., to attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony and reception for the new display in June. All participants receive a certificate of recognition.

The Mendocino County winner was Ruth Rodriguez of Ukiah High School for her work "Thick Ashes, Soft Sun."

"The talents of these young artists never cease to impress me, and I am glad to once again see a broad range of creative pieces from up and down California's North Coast," said Huffman.

Each spring, the Congressional Institute sponsors a nationwide high school visual art competition to recognize



Jaslyn Ortiz of Cloverdale High School took first place in the Congressional Art Competition for California's 2nd District with her work, "I Love You, California." Photo courtesy of Rep. Jared Huffman.

and encourage artistic talent in the nation and in each congressional district. Since the com-

petition began in 1982, more than 650,000 high school students have participated nationwide.



Students in the fourth through eighth grade group were able to dissect small squid and talk about sustainable seafood that are best to eat in the Farallones ocean science program at Fort Ross School. SJ Black photo.

Crab costumes, squid ink and science, oh my! Farallones program visits Mendonoma schools

By S.J. Black news@mendonoma.com

From crab costumes to squid dissections, the students at Fort Ross Elementary School Monday had a lot to learn about sea life and coastal protection.

As part of a program to educate students from elementary school to adults, the Greater Farallones Association came to the Mendonoma coast this week to deliver presentations about ocean science.

Students at Fort Ross Elementary were split into two groups: tran-

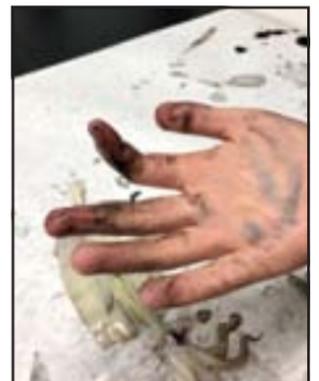
sitional kindergarten to third grade learned about crab anatomy and seashore etiquette, while fourth to seventh graders learned about sustainable seafood and squid.

Maddox, a transitional kindergarten student, was able to don item after item of "crab anatomy." While his exoskeleton, pinchers and head were attached, Ri-

etta Hohman explained to students each part of the crab. Hohman, an educator who has worked for the Greater Farallones

Association after school programs for about seven years, said the programs are to educate

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One student shows off a lens she plucked from the eye of the squid during a dissection. SJ Black photo.

Thank You

A huge thank you for Rosemary Campiformio, Eric Black, and everyone at St. Orres for another great *A Spring Evening at St. Orres*. Rosemary and her staff graciously donated delicious hors d'oeuvres and the use of St. Orres with all proceeds of the evening going to support RCMS's Shamli Hospice program.

Shamli Hospice is serviced by our dedicated staff and community volunteers. This important service relies on the generosity of people like Rosemary, our donors, and community.

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Firefighter Chad Warner.



Firefighters from South Coast Fire, Redwood Coast Fire and CalFire responded to a blaze at the old Mill Flats on Iversen Road. Strong afternoon winds had reunited a burn pile. A neighbor called 911 when smoke enveloped a house and property. Firefighters quickly put out the fire which had spread under surrounding trees. David Torres photo.



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all kinds of students on both the Sanctuary and general ocean science.

Currently the Association is trying to spread its program throughout every elementary school in the San Francisco Bay Area. In the last seven years, Hohman said she's seen the program grow from about 1,500 students taught to almost 5,000.

As she instructs the younger TK through third graders about the physical makeup of a crab, the students perch on their knees and shoot their hands up into the air, desperate to answer the questions she poses.

She holds up a photo of a microscopic crab in its infancy. "What's this called again?" she asks.

The students struggle to remember, cautiously starting with, "Zoa..." The teacher points to the board, showing the notes she's written as Hohman was speaking. "Zoea!" they answer confidently, and gasp in excitement when they learn later in the lesson they'll be seeing live crabs.

The world's smallest crab is called the pea crab, they learn, which is the size of a pinky fingernail. The largest crab is the Japanese spider crab, which measures 15 feet in length and is only found on the coast of Japan, they are told.

A few rooms over, the fourth through seventh graders are squealing and raucously talking over each other as small, forearm-sized squid are placed in front of them for dissection.

"I'm not grossed out by it," said one student. "It's squishy."



Maddox Wood, a transitional kindergarten student, was put into a crab costume so students could learn crab anatomy in the Farallones ocean science program, which visited Fort Ross School Monday, May 14. SJ Black photo.

Educator Peter Winch guides the older students through the dissection. "Don't cut up everything at once," he warns. Working ahead could mean one of the students cut off something vital he wants to show them, he said, and all heed the warning.

The students start by counting tentacles. There should be ten, but some call out excitedly that they have less, maybe eight or nine, wondering if they have a special squid. "Some might have fallen off [during transport,]" Winch said.

They work their way through the squid, giggling and cringing in turn. They find the three hearts, check for the sex biology, and most students' favorite part, the ink sac.

It looks like a small silver fish, and the students are encouraged to pluck it out with their fingers and rub it onto the paper lining the desks.

One student takes hers out with a pair of scissors and uses her index finger to rub it out.

The paper turns a solid black and spreads out to the size of a mini donut.

Winch explains the ink sac isn't just used to hide a squid from enemies. "I've got some new information," he said. The squid will actually release a small amount of ink, flutter away, and release another small amount. The ink blot takes the shape of a small squid, he tells the students, which will actually fool enemies into going after the ink blob instead of the actual squid.

Before long, most of the squids are decimated under the curious eyes and scissors of the students. The remains are gathered and thrown out in the compost, where the ravens will eat them.

One student takes the plastic-like part of the squid, called the pen, home. Last year, seventh and sixth graders Julio Chavez and Liam Entriken said they learned about sharks and plankton with the same program. They liked the dissection, they said, and Entriken said

learning about the ink sac was his favorite part.

Part of the program is to further the mission of the Association, and to talk about the importance of the Greater Farallones Sanctuary. It's a vast section of the Pacific totaling more than 3,295 square miles, and is one of about six or seven places on the planet that experiences "cold water upwelling," said Winch.

The upwelling brings nutrients to the surface, which are followed by an endless amount of species all connected through the food chain. "Animals from all over the world come to eat here," he said. Plankton arrive to be eaten by krill, which bring Black Albatrosses from across the ocean and Gray Humpback whales to feed.

Teaching students about ocean life and all related subjects, "engenders a passion for it," said Winch.

Hohman said Mendonoma is about as far north as they go, but would love to come up here more. With all that she's learned about ocean biology, "I like to share that information with students," she said.

For more information about the Association's school programs, visit www.farallones.org.

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to say to them, 'You owe us.'"

The Board acknowledged that the implementation of the program was rocky from the start and unsuccessful at first. Shimon said NTN had the expertise to guide the schools to using its program but didn't lead them.

"They were the experts and we were the customers," he said. "We just didn't get our investment."

The contract includes two onsite Echo training sessions, one for school year 2018 to 2019 and one for school year 2019 to 2020. It will also have onsite school coaching: four days in 2018-19 and two days 2019-20. The onsite coaching totals to about four and a half days of NTN support, as it includes the one day of onsite coaching, a one-day follow up, one and half days of planning and one day of travel.

All trustees seemed to agree Echo is a valuable program. "As a parent, Echo is very useful," said Trustee Cindy Cione, who said her son at the high school uses it to regularly check his homework and class as-

signments. Parents are also allowed access to the network.

Trustee Leslie Bates then called for a kind of compromise: to adopt a lower \$20,000 contract that would allow them access to the Echo network and only that. The idea was to build a team with the new principal on their own and then lead the team to NTN, once the new principal Martin "Marty" Wilkes gets his feet on the ground, she said.

"I'm not willing to walk away from this huge investment," Bates said. "I have a feeling that NTN is kind of like Verizon. If you signed up for the lowest possible plan right now and at the beginning of January the principal says 'We're ready ...' and you call NTN and say we would like to give you more money, I somehow don't think they would turn us down."

She summarized: "Sign up for the basics ... then [upgrade] when everybody is ready."

However, current Point Arena High School Principal Blake Vandebunte said the onsite training days would be worth the investment. "Having someone come

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