

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 11, 2013

Youth Art Extravaganza “Dreams on Canvas” by the Boys & Girls Clubs

Encinitas, Calif. – On March 14, 2013 from 5 to 7pm, The Stardust Arts Students of the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito, Griset Branch will be hosting an open reception to showcase their artwork “Dreams on Canvas” at the Youth Arts Exhibit in the Encinitas City Hall at 505 S. Vulcan Avenue, Encinitas. A percentage of the proceeds will be donated to the Griset Branch, art program.

First through 8th grade art students will flood the walls of the Encinitas City Hall to show off their advanced artistic talents filled with color, creativity and exceptional artwork. Displayed in an array of styles and themes, the art is influenced by their concepts, dreams and surroundings, and will surprise the public.

Never before has a youth art program been selected by the Arts Commission and its colleagues to represent the arts in this venue. The pride of the students, under the instruction of Cheryl Ehlers of The Stardust Arts, will prove to be an unusually exciting exhibit for all. The students are involved in the Stardust Angels Program, sponsored in part by the City of Encinitas and the Mizel Family Foundation Community grant program.

“Art is the core of communication and expression”, states Ehlers. “It spans time and reaches out to everyone in one way or another, and we need to support the importance of art in our youth’s lives and nurture the creative mind. After all, they are the creators of the future”.

Eighteen students have been working for many months on artworks created, drawn and painted in acrylics on 24X36 canvases. The pieces will make a person ponder as they step into the world of young minds of these artists who are filled with imagination and wonder. They have learned to utilize and incorporate new techniques and ideas. Youth also developed skills that allow for creative processing and spatial organization, stretching their abilities to reach farther, believe in themselves, and becoming confident in their skills.

The pride of the young artists beam light through any clouds of doubt, as they express their needs to be creative. *Art Extravaganza* will bring to the forefront the magnitude and value of art, and express the value of art in schools or anywhere there is a lack of visual art opportunities. The Stardust Arts strives to develop confidence and positive attitudes. Creativity is what art is all about; channeling over 8,100 students in the past four years have proved an amazing accomplishment. Cheryl is a past grant award winner of the prestigious Kenneth A. Picerne Foundation, Artists Outreach Program 2009, and two time grantee of the City of Encinitas and Mizel Family Foundation Community grant, with an emphasis on enriching the lives of youth that are underserved in the local community.

Cheryl defines art as "experiences, dreams, feelings and passion," and she has dedicated her life to ensuring that aspiring artists have the opportunity to learn, create and grow. An accomplished artist herself, she is involved with many art organizations, including Teri Inc., which serves those with autism or other developmental disabilities, the Artsonia Kids Art Museum, all of which enrich the community and allow her to share her love of art with others. Cheryl's efforts have received recognition for the California State Assembly and the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, for her service to the youth in local communities in San Diego and is joint-ventured non-profit, with the Dr. Wilderness Show, an environmental educator for youth, bringing children to the forefront and communicating the values and respect of one's self. As an avid community arts advocate, she find the rewards are vast, and her model is "believe that anything is possible, if you simply try!"

The exhibit will remain open from March 5th until April 15th and open to the public Monday through Fri 7:30am - 5:30pm.

For more information you may contact the Arts Administrator, Jim Gilliam, at 760-633-2746 or Cheryl Ehlers, The Stardust Arts at 760-519-1551. Visit The Stardust Arts at www.thestardustarts.com.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito

BGCSDTO is dedicated to providing positive activities to promote education, self esteem, health and character in young people. BGCSDTO offers quality programs through after school, summer camp, aquatics, athletics and middle school sports in addition to sponsoring one Montessori school, the Youth Arts Academy and the Center for a Healthy Lifestyle that is located at the Solana Beach branch. GREAT FUTURES START HERE. For more information on the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito please visit PositivePlaceSD.org

Photos: Left to right – Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito, Griset Branch members: Veronica Ness, grade 8, (m) Angel Courtney) grade 6, (r) Nana Veda, grade 8.

