



NEWS RELEASE

July 11, 2014

Youth Services Art Exhibition

Students of art instructor Beverly Johnson are currently exhibiting paintings, drawings, weavings, and digital imagery through the end of July in the Youth Services Department at the Santa Maria Public Library. Students participating in the exhibit are Adrianna Kisio, Aislinn Mase, Scarlett Mase, Marissa Olds, Braeden Rappozo, and Lydia Willis, with ages ranging from five to 13. Creativity abounds within the 29 pieces lining the walls leading to the entrance of the Altrusa Theater. Styles range from the realistic pencil drawing *WWII Plane* by Braeden Rappozo, to an expressionistic *Whale Abstract* painting by Scarlett Maze, an imaginative *People with Wings* painting by Marissa Olds, a wonderfully detailed *Sunflower in a Vase* weaving by Lydia Willis, the boldly colorful *California Poppies* painting by Adrianna Kisio, and the painterly *The Great Pumpkin* digital image by Aislinn Mase.

In an effort to encourage local children in their artistic endeavors, Youth Services in 2012, along with assistance from the Friends of the Santa Maria Public Library, applied for and were awarded a grant from Altrusa International Foundation, Santa Maria. This grant allowed art cabinets to be purchased for displaying and showcasing the best artwork students have created, and to share with the entire Santa Maria community. Due to the popularity of the program, the exhibition length is changing from bi-monthly to monthly for the 2014-2015 school year. Twenty-three cabinets are available to showcase artwork with reservations currently being accepted. Teachers and schools interested in participating should directly contact the Youth Services Department.

Well-known artist and art instructor Beverly Johnson is a member of the Town Center Gallery that, in partnership with the Santa Maria Public Library, provides the continuing popular Afternoon Art Time workshops for children in the Altrusa Theater. The next Afternoon Art Time is planned for Thursday, October 9, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. Free tickets for admission to the program will be available one week before the day of the program.

The Library's hours are 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays, and 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays. The Library is closed on Sundays.

Questions may be directed to Deborah L. Hildinger at 925-0994 ext. 320.

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