

FREETOWN - LAKEVILLE

SCHOOLWALK

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Artistic Development Through Architecture in Freetown Lakeville Schools

By: John Alves, Art Teacher, Freetown-Lakeville Middle School

*“Children from infancy through childhood are instinctive practitioners of artistic behavior who change over time....”
“Michael Day”*



K – 12 art students in Freetown and Lakeville Public Schools took part in a district wide architectural study and ultimately designed their own fantasy building. Participating Art teachers and Schools: Ann Tavares, Assowompset Elementary School, Abbi Macaferri, Freetown Elementary School, Suzanne Hubschwerlin, Freetown Lakeville Middle School, John Alves, Freetown Lakeville Middle School and Ed Dobrowsky, Apponequet Regional High School.

These lessons lead students in a discussion about the basics of house design including the influence of site, materials, function, form and style. Students explore these concepts by first identifying characteristics of various styles of architecture. Students then looked at Greek, Asian, Gothic and other style buildings throughout time and took interesting

aspects of each to form his or her fantasy building. Students used various mediums such as watercolor pencil, oil pastels, colored pencil to add color and texture to their drawings.



Top Left: Ed Dobrowsky, Abbi Maccaferri, John Alves.
Bottom Left, Sue Hubschwerlin, Anne Tavares

In Our District



As June 30th rapidly approached, I was flooded with as many emotions as our high school seniors: excited by the prospect of exploring new worlds, yet already nostalgic for the structure and security that my work of more than thirty years provided. It has been an honor to serve as an educator. This is surely one of the most important careers anyone could undertake in our society...and one of the most challenging. I hope many of our seniors are thinking about becoming teachers, as we will need them to take the place of a large cohort preparing to retire soon.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents and those who serve as parents, for the support they provide to our students. We know that you are your children's first and best teachers, and it has been a pleasure serving as your partner in this endeavor. My sincere gratitude goes to all the staff of the Freetown – Lakeville public schools: no one could ask for a more dedicated, generous group of adults to serve as models for what we want our students to become. And finally I would like to express my gratitude to our School Committee members, who serve so selflessly, striving to give our students every educational advantage possible, for the confidence they demonstrated in offering me the position of superintendent of schools.

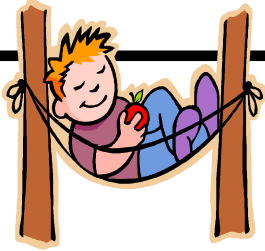
Best wishes to all in the Freetown and Lakeville communities. May you always emulate the passion of our Founding Fathers, who undertook arduous sacrifices in order to have the freedom to raise their families as they felt best. The hallmark of America has been its willingness to endure any hardship, to provide a better opportunity to the next generation. May you always continue this tradition, which is the foundation upon which our country's strength depends.

Sincerely,
William P. Conners, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Superintendent William P. Conners is retiring after a career of almost 34 years in public education. The schools of Freetown-Lakeville are very appreciative of his two years of service. These years have been marked by the successful completion of a number of building projects, extensive contract negotiations and the advancement of the district's use of technology. In addition to these accomplishments, one of the achievements Dr. Conners will be best remembered for was in improving communication across the district through his open and inclusive style of leadership. We wish Dr. Conners health and happiness in his retirement!

ASSAWOMPSET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

<http://www.freelake.mec.edu/>



A Message from the Principal

By: Laurie Hunter, Principal

The end of the school year had us looking both behind and ahead. The scents of spring filled the air as the students gain energy and enthusiasm, both from the longer hours of daylight and, I expect, the vision of the coming summer vacation. In many ways this is true too of the staff, after having given their all for the past ten months. At the end of the year, we always close our last staff meeting with Shel Silverstein's *The Giving Tree* because as educators we feel much like the tree stump at the end of the book. Our students have flourished because of what we've given to them and yet our resources are drained. The summer proves to be a time of renewal for everyone.

The PTO deserves a special thanks for the Staff Appreciation Week at the beginning of May. For an entire week, the staff was treated to breakfast and lunch as well as fabulous gift baskets donated by members of the parent community. The PTO is such a foundation in all that we do. Clearly, the programming at Assawompset would be dramatically affected if we did not have their incredible support.

This year we have focused on examining and assessing our curriculum. Bullying and respect have come to the forefront as we support children in how to treat one another. We have adjusted to our K-3 configuration; all while making decisions as to how to stay connected with the fourth grade. Our fundraising efforts will allow us two pianos to replace our deteriorating ones, including the generous donation of a baby grand piano from Mrs. Carol McGrath. Our Assawompset students are supported in so many ways through the community, parents and staff.

Best wishes for a safe and happy summer!

Arbor Day at Freetown Elementary Tree Dedicated to Mr. Noack



The giant oak tree in front of Freetown Elementary School is coming down, according to Freetown Tree Warden Gary Loranger. Having stood in its spot for some 130-150 years, the old tree is no longer healthy and must be removed as a safety precaution. But, as Mr. Loranger told the first graders at their annual **Arbor Day** celebration recently, when a tree is removed it should be replaced.

Mr. Loranger, Mr. Joe Perry of the State Forest Service, Recreation Committee member Jean Fox, Smokey Bear, and members of the State Forest fire department joined the grade one students as they planted the replacement. Senior citizens from Countryside Adult Day Center in Assonet also attended the event. A beautiful new maple tree now graces the front lawn of Freetown Elementary School. And this is no ordinary maple; it's Mr. Noack's maple.

In dedicating the tree to Mr. Noack, Mrs. Fox congratulated him on 14 years of outstanding service to the children of Freetown Elementary School. She told the students to think of their former principal every time they looked at the tree. It will serve as a reminder of Mr. Noack's many accomplishments. A surprised – and pleased – Mr. Noack thanked everyone for the gesture and promised to check up on his tree periodically.

Mr. Perry noted that the tree will one day become a home and hiding place for squirrels, birds, and bugs, while Mr. Loranger informed the gathering that the leaves will turn a lovely orange-red in the fall. Two more trees will be planted on school grounds during future Arbor Day events.

Freetown Elementary School

<http://www.freelake.mec.edu/>

A Message from the Principal

By: Donald P. Noack, Principal

As the school year comes to a close, it affords us the opportunity to reflect on the many activities and accomplishments that have taken place this past year. Our library has continued to be an integral part of each student's experience here at F.E.S. Mrs. Maria Sylvain, our librarian, continues to encourage our students and staff to maximize their use of library resources. The Scantek-Science Lab continues to be a major success with the students/staff making greater use of the computer assisted program along with the able assistance of our science lab technician – Mrs. Azar. Finally, the computer lab with thirty imacs has been regularly accessed by the entire student body and staff. Mrs. Saad, our Education Technology Specialist, has done an outstanding job in coordinating the appropriate grade level software. Mrs. Correia's winter and spring concerts were again outstanding events along with our annual Art Fair directed by Ms. Abbi Maccaferri. A big thank you is due our support personnel, volunteers, and PTO who make Freetown Elementary a great place for your children. We are also most proud of our signage on Bullock Road – Thank you PTO. The menu affords the school the ability to keep our parents and the general public apprised of upcoming events at F.E.S.

I would also like to remind everyone to access our web page for current updates on events and happenings at Freetown Elementary. <http://www.freelake.mec.edu/FES/>

As has been the practice in prior years, room assignments and bus routes for the 2005-2006 school year will be posted on the foyer door by the second week of August.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire school community for the support and encouragement I have received the past fourteen years. As many of you are aware, this is my last year as I will be retiring at the end of June. Freetown is a wonderful community to work in and traditionally has been very supportive of its elementary school. We would hope that community involvement and support will continue for the new administration. In closing, I have had a wonderful experience both professionally and personally at Freetown Elementary and I will treasure my time spent here.

On behalf of the staff and myself, we would like to wish our school community a healthy and happy summer recess.



Local Soldier visits Fourth Grade Students

By Mrs. Lisa Cloutier, Special Needs Teacher

The students in Mrs. Michael's fourth grade class received a visit from a local soldier returning from Kuwait. Captain Ron Cloutier of the 143 Air Lift Wing talked to the students about his recent experiences in Southwest Asia. Captain Cloutier brought two different types of camouflage uniforms for the students to see, and he explained the differences of each. The students were also provided the opportunity to ask questions. They asked some great questions such as, "What kind of animals did you see out there?" "What was the weather like?" and "How did you get back and forth from Kuwait?" The students were fascinated with his answers, prompting them to ask more questions. Captain Cloutier stressed the importance of thanking soldiers for their efforts and the sacrifices they are making. He also spoke of how hard it is for the soldiers to be away from their families and how they enjoy and appreciate letters and cards. Following Captain Cloutier's visit, the students participated in a "Dear Soldier" program, in which children write letters to soldiers who are serving over seas.

Captain Cloutier also gave to the staff and students of Freetown Elementary School an American flag that had flown over and flown in Baghdad. The flag is hanging, accompanied by a certificate signed by the members of the flight crew, in the main hallway for all to see. This is the second flag that has been given to Freetown Elementary School. In 2003, CW4 Mike Sellars presented Freetown Elementary School with an American flag that had flown over Afghanistan.

G. R. Austin Intermediate School



Austin Intermediate School students have had the good fortune of studying with Mr. Travis Reynolds, a new teacher to our World Language Department. Recently returned from a year of Peace Corps service in Senegal, West Africa, where French is the official language, Mr. Reynolds has brought his experiences in Senegal to all of our 5th graders.

As part of this unit of study, students have been corresponding, in French, with a Senegalese village school , and have been collecting craft and school supplies to send to the children there. Having learned that soccer is the principal recreational activity, our students decided to make and donate soccer shirts to their new African”pen-pals”.

We are very grateful to Mr. Reynolds for giving us all a heightened sense of global awareness and to the parents of our 5th grade students for their generous support of our project.

By: Irene Gross, World Language Teacher

School and Community Partnership

Community businesses and the Freetown-Lakeville Regional School District have created a successful partnership to provide job training experiences for Apponequet students. This cooperative effort allows students to receive direct training and develop employment skills at a variety of work environments. On-site job coaching by school staff combined with the expertise and experience within the community have proven to be a winning combination for everyone. The school district staff and administration would like to express their sincere appreciation to the following local merchants for their participation and commitment to this program:



Andrew J. Lucas

Affair with Flowers
Brooks Pharmacy
Freetown Trading Post
Galaxy Video
Junior's Convenience store
The Neighbors Convenience Store
Seamaster Kennel
Sedell's Pharmacy
Subway



Literary Luncheon at Our Middle School

By: Gail Zamaitis, Library Media Specialist

Winter brought record snow, spring brought torrential rain, but the sun shone brightly for the second annual Literary Luncheon held at the Freetown-Lakeville middle school.

The beautiful library media center was the setting for the intergenerational lunch bunch. Council on Aging directors Marilyn Mansfield and Barbara Place invited senior citizens from Lakeville and Freetown to read the same book as

6th grade students from the classes of Mrs. Nancy Annincharico and Mrs. Eliza Couture. "What a wonderful way to celebrate literacy—bringing students and community members together for an intergenerational book discussion. The sharing of student spontaneity and senior citizens' wisdom is an incredible learning experience," states Mrs. Couture. On May 11, the seniors met in the library and were treated to a luncheon organized by Pam Dziura and graciously provided by the Freetown-Lakeville P.T.O. The lively, animated book discussions followed lunch. Library Media Specialist Gail Dooley-Zamaitis states, "I'm so excited about this event, it's a great way to have our senior residents come in and share this beautiful building and learn more about our school community." The book chosen for this year's event was *Pictures of Hollis Woods* by Patricia Riley Giff. The book tells the story of a girl who goes from one foster family to the next. At 12, Hollis is placed with Josie Cahill, a retired art teacher, who convinces Hollis to pursue her passion for art. Josie is in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease, and Hollis moves into the role of caretaker. "It's about a young girl that's never had a family," Ms. Dooley-Zamaitis said. "It's about family, belonging, friendship, truth and hope. This is a wonderful way to open up dialogue and discuss these issues." Donna Tibbets of the Lakeville public library and Vickey Dawson of James White Memorial library provided the books for the seniors. The book discussion culminated with poetic presentations written by the students regarding the importance of family and belonging to a community. Ahh, summer! The sun smiled on this truly intergenerational bonding experience.

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Articles, comments and suggestions should be addressed to the Superintendent's Office at (508) 923-2000

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