



St. Martin of Tours Academy
Fine Arts Newsletter
September 2008

"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge."

Hello! Research shows that a well-rounded curriculum that supports the core academic subjects, while enriching and enhancing natural creative impulses, provides the most benefit to the child. At St. Martin of Tours Academy, we have a strong fine arts program that is woven into the class curriculum at each grade level. Students are given many opportunities to develop and express their innate creativity with music and studio arts activities. It is a joy to witness, here at SMA, the results of these efforts, as I do every year in the children. The above quote, by Albert Einstein, emphasizes the idea that the practice of teaching is indeed an art in itself. The connection between art teacher and art student is one that is constantly evolving within the context of each project. The teacher, as often as not, *becomes* the student, as artistic engagement and imagination flourish. The arts can also be an important catalyst in developing critical thinking, cooperative learning, and time management skills. It is with these concepts in mind that we begin the new school year together.

Fine Arts classes at St. Martin of Tours Academy consist of two 40-minute classes at the primary level, and one 40 and one 50-minute class in grades 4-8. Teachers also incorporate many creative activities, arts and crafts projects, and music within the regular schedule as well, so that we are meeting, and in many cases exceeding, the state and diocesan requirements for the fine arts. Students are given opportunities, whenever possible, to hear guest speakers and/or attend art-related field trips, and to contribute creatively to school and community service projects such as the "Big Ten," and Earth Day. Many exciting things are to come. It's going to be a great year!

F.Y.I.

Two "must see" exhibitions at the San Diego Museum of Art to make note of are:

- "Georgia O'Keeffe and The Women of The Steiglitz Circle", now showing through the 28th of September
- "Kimono As Art: The Landscapes of Itchiku Kubota", from November 1, 2008 to January 4, 2009.

I look forward to working with you on behalf of your children! Thanks.

Denise A. Pippin