

Mascoma High School's Open House Festival

April 26 10 A.M. - 5 P.M. Huse Park, Enfield, NH

Taking Pride in our Students by Showcasing Their Work!



April 21-25, students in many courses will be involved in hands-on activities during our "Theme Week." They will be showcasing their experiences at Mascoma's Open House Festival, April 26 in Huse Park, Enfield. What started three years ago as a collaboration between the Science and Art departments now sponsors hands-on activities embedded within the curricula of many other courses. Students will work on hands-on projects with experts, guests artists, and professionals, creating displays, performances, demonstrations and other arts project that will showcase their learning at Mascoma's Open House Festival. By presenting their work at the festival, the students themselves take ownership in the learning process and feel pride from their accomplishments. Teachers and families who attend the Festival are also rewarded by feeling and sharing this energy.

Experiencing the Arts and has brought more than 130 arts events to the students in our district. Each year, the curriculum of Experiencing the Arts is made up of sixteen field trips, four all-school assemblies, artists in residence, cross-curricular arts experiences for individual classes, entire departments, entire classes, the whole school and the broader community. Each year, Mascoma faculty members submit a wish list of areas in their curricula that could benefit from the vitality of an arts experience in the six areas of the arts covered by the Experiencing the Arts program (Theater, Media Arts, Visual Arts, Dance, Music, and Writing/Poetry). Teachers across the disciplines see a greater need for arts activities to stimulate learning in their classes. They are excited to stimulate learning by bringing the arts into their curricula. Teachers do not work in a vacuum and learning does not just take place in the formal classroom. In order to continue to raise the bar and meet No Child Left Behind goals, teachers need the continued commitment of their students. With Experiencing the Arts, we have seen firsthand that student learning is energized by enrichment experiences. Students find their classroom work more meaningful and useful when skills have been brought to life, so to speak, by arts experiences.

Mascoma's Open House Festival is our mini Celebrate New Hampshire Culture show (patterned after the 1999 show developed by the Smithsonian Institution which illuminated NH's culture and natural heritage). With the visionary leadership of Principal Patrick Andrew and an energized faculty Mascoma Valley Regional High School and Experiencing the Arts are poised to embrace the potential of our students.

What follow are details of some of the sponsored activities planned so far (more are still being planned). Please support your school district and come to Mascoma's Open House April 26 in Huse Park, Enfield and in Enfield's Community Center (located at Huse Park). Experiencing the Arts is funded through grants from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, the Welborne Trust, the Byrne Foundation, the Walker Fund, Mascoma Bank Foundation, and matching funds from Mascoma Valley Regional High School.

Christopher Hill Morse, Director, Experiencing the Arts





Northeast Shakespeare Ensemble (NESE) will offer a workshop in Mr. DeFilippo's ninth grade English classes. Mascoma has enjoyed workshops with NESE for many years - this year's workshop project will be the most extensive. Look forward to an energetic performance from the ninth graders at the Festival!

Miss Coconubo's Spanish classes and Miss Coons' gym class will be working with Manchester Tango and will present Latin dance at the Festival.

Spanish Club will have a Spanish food fund raiser at the Festival.

Consumer Education will display quilts representing the five towns in the district with photographs from the five towns on fabric included in the design - these will be sold to raise money for new equipment for the department. Consumer Education teacher Mrs. Christine Jespersen and her students have been making hundreds of beautiful quilts over the years all donated to the homeless (2007 Consumer Education students delivering quilts to the homeless pictured). These newest quilts featuring images of the five towns in the Mascoma School District are the most beautiful; their sale (auction by sealed bids) will buy new machines for her department. PLEASE reward Christine's years of dedication and bid on these amazing quilts.



Consumer Education will have twelve students present their final cultural food presentation at the Festival.

Mr. Kobe Van Beest's Graphic Novels classes will be working all week with graphic novelist Anne Sibley O'Brian. Anne will share the experience of creating her first graphic novel, including the differences between picture books and comics, research, and the process from rough drafts to final art. The hands-on portion will include demonstrations and student exercises in breaking scenes into actions, choosing what to show, character and emotion, composition and framing, and other skills for thinking about expressing an idea with words and images. Students will be displaying over-

sized pages they create during the Theme Week at the Festival and may be performing from their original story.

Anne Sibley O'Brian will also make an educational presentation at an assembly, Monday, April 21. In addition, Experiencing the Arts will sponsor her appearance at the Cartoon School in White River Junction in an effort to strengthen our relationship between the Cartoon School and Kobe's Graphic Novels class (Kobe and his class pictured at the Cartoon School).



The French classes are planning a cultural food event for the Festival. If you enjoyed Madame Beuafays' Coq Au Vin dinner at Enfield Community Center, you should be tempted to come to the Open House Festival, April 26.

Art classes will be working with eco-artist Cynthia Robinson and will display their work at the Festival. Cynthia may have some class time available for English teachers to integrate writing and art on the theme of our environment.

Experiencing the Arts will present its Eagle Celebration, celebrating the bald eagle's removal from the endangered species list and showcasing the students' eagle paintings and their monumental concrete eagle sculpture (pictured in progress with Experiencing the Arts students Mike Evans and Mike Davis). The finished eagle sculpture will be presented as a war memorial for Grafton.





April 23 and 24, the Ways of the Woods mobile museum will be placed between Mascoma Valley Regional High School and Indian River School. In conjunction with the Ways of the Woods museum visit (April 23 and 24), Dustin Coates, one of New England's premier wood turners, will be demonstrating wood-turning techniques. Dustin is well known as a demonstrator at the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen's Fair at Mt. Sunapee - you are in for a treat to see him make distinctive hand-turned burl bowls. Experiencing the Arts would like to have as many people as possible enjoy this exhibit and demonstration. We invite classes from all area schools, home-schooled students, senior groups, and individuals to schedule a visit to the exhibit. Experiencing the Arts can arrange a bus to shuttle groups from area schools (and for other district area groups) April 23 and 24. Dustin Coates will also be demonstrating at our Open House activities in Huse Park April 26. To arrange a visit to the Ways of the Woods mobile museum, April 23 or 24, contact Experiencing the Arts Director Christopher Morse, e-mail: oculuspress@valley.net or call evenings 523-7997.

The Recycling Club's partners from Dartmouth, David Lukofsky and Philip Perrinez, have lined up six graduate students from the Thayer School of Engineering to present workshops in science and engineering. The Recycling Club will be presenting a major display at the Festival in conjunction with Recycling Club "Planeteer" Colleen McCleary's not-to-be-missed fashion show (Colleen McCleary's 2007 Spring fashion show pictured).

Dave Goodrich, who brought us fabulous music last year (Iron Road, Rik Palieri, etc.), will be bringing us some bluegrass and folk music. He will be acting as the MC for stage events.

Mrs. Wenig has been implementing the pilot program of a carbon curriculum with Sarah Silverburg, of the University of New Hampshire's Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space. Mary will again be working with this program during the Theme Week. This curriculum ultimately will be used in many other schools.

The American Precision Museum of Windsor, Vermont has proposed to work with faculty in History or Social Studies to develop a pilot program for high school students with an Industrial Revolution Kit of artifacts and exercises to examine the impact changes brought on by developing technology during the industrial revolution.

Senior level sociology classes and MAP classes working with Dartmouth's Class Divide project may be presenting at the Festival. They are working with resident artist Pati Hernández, a dancer, puppeteer and director from West Glover, Vermont. She will explore political and social issues embedded in high school curricula; students will explore issues surrounding class within school, family and community through a combination of dance and theater.

