

# Expressions program sought to create challenge

## Art grant resulted in free workshop for Fannin students

BY BRIANNE COLLAR  
STAFF WRITER

Implementing a new challenge, pushing the envelope of a student's ability, and creating art in a new and interesting genre was the goal of a recent Creative Expressions Program at Fannin County High School.

The Blue Ridge Mountains Arts Association (BRMAA) secured a 2016 Georgia Council for the Arts Vibrant Communities Grant in early December, 2015, bringing mixed media and printmaking artist Pamela Beagle-Daresta to the area to teach art students at FCHS and free workshops at The Art Center during March.

The one-week residency began Monday, March 21, with a workshop for area educators. Visual arts were implemented through the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Math curriculum (S.T.E.A.M.), followed by workshops the rest of the week at FCHS.

From Tuesday, March 22-25, students in Holly Viccaro's art class learned Intaglio printmaking techniques. Beagle-Daresta taught the students lessons that reinforced multiple curriculum standards.

Students chose from topics that language arts and science teachers are currently covering. Etching ideas came from topics dealing with Romanticism, mythology, authors like Edgar Allen Poe, Ralph Waldo Emerson, genetics, DNA structure, and more

Viccaro said.

"Print making is really interesting," student Evan Weaver said. "As a ceramics class this isn't what we're use to, but a whole new interesting concept."

Students first drew their idea on paper. Then they used a dry point etching needle on an acrylic plate where they made very small grooves in the medium that were then filled with ink. Paper was carefully soaked, and the etching placed on the paper to make the complete opposite of a relief print.

"She (Beagle-Daresta) has told us how to change a drawing into something completely new by helping me learn something completely new and challenging," student Crissy Clowers said.

Viccaro said both she and her students learned a number of skills from Beagle-Daresta. "I think they especially liked the collaboration project where we printed some of their pieces together."

They matted their work Monday, March 28, to then deliver to the art center to put on display. "We will have an opening art reception on Friday, April 8, at 5 p.m. for the artists and community," Executive Director Nichole Potzauf said.

"The entire process was very inspirational and taught skills through a medium of art we were unfamiliar with," student Emily Hamilton said. "She gave us great constructive criticism."

During the curriculum session at the beginning of the week, Beagle-Daresta guided teachers on the art of paste paper creation and bookmaking. Potzauf said the artist told them how to correlate bookmaking into

other areas of curriculum by aligning them to teach grade specified standards.

"This was an opportunity for all of us (educators) to gather together and learn how to apply the arts to curriculum in a variety of classes," Viccaro said.

"They really enjoyed the workshop and how it could hopefully continue to empower them to be advocates for the arts across the curriculum in their schools," Potzauf said. A community workshop for the public took place March 30.

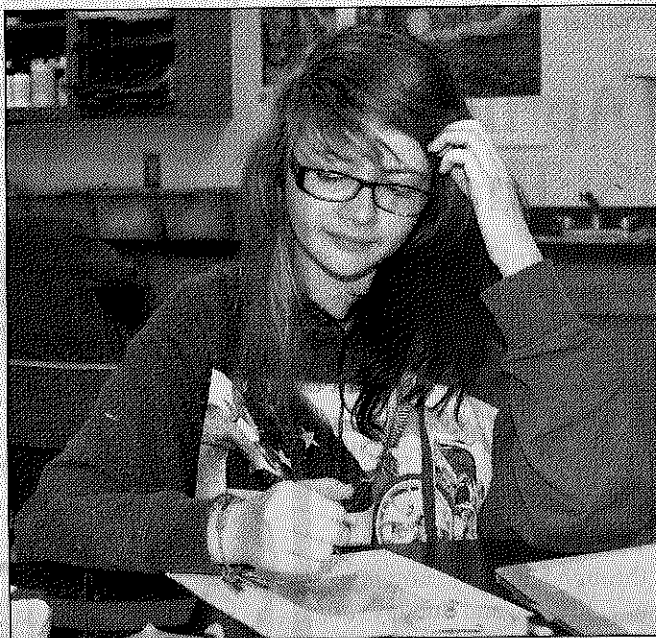
Beagle-Daresta is certified in discipline-based arts education, with training in artful learning and therapy. Through the Georgia Council for the Arts, the Creative Expressions Program allows Beagle-Daresta to connect with a wide audience based on credentials, visual hands-on, and professional development.

For more information on the arts in Blue Ridge, and this Friday's opening, call 706-632-2144.



News Observer photo/Brianne Collar

Evan Weaver, left, follows the Intaglio printmaking process with guidance from teacher Holly Viccaro on Thursday, March 24, during an artist-in-residence Creative Expressions Program funded through a grant secured from the Blue Ridge Mountains Arts Association.



Crissy Clowers carefully uses a dry point etching needle on an acrylic plate that was placed over the drawing she made March 24 that was funded through a 2016 Georgia Council for the Arts Vibrant Communities Grant.

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