

New 7th Grade Art Program

By Britta Swanson

During break, 7th graders are often missing. This is because they are probably finishing an art project. For the first time this year, 7th graders have an art class on Thursday mornings as part of their weekly schedule.

The 7th graders are enjoying it quite a bit. They like it because it's fun and it helps open up their creativity in art.

They have currently finished a city-scape project. A city-scape is a painting of buildings with a background that helps them practice the idea of tinting and shading.

The students also have learned not to be judgmental of other peoples' work.

Jill Johnson says that the morning art program helps her think outside the box. Although her favorite artist is Claude Monet, famous for garden paintings, Jill enjoys making collages.

Mrs. Morrison, who teaches the art class not only for 7th graders but also in an after-school program, enjoys



working in the mornings since she has a lot more energy (she is expecting a baby soon). She says teaching art to the 7th graders is no different than the other art classes she has on Thursdays and Fridays after school.

Mrs. Morrison enjoys teaching modern art the most, being a modern artist herself. She admires the work of Andy Warhol. "The 7th graders have improved their

skills because they built a foundation by starting with basics and having the work get harder," says Mrs. Morrison.

Mrs. Ashizawa, who enjoys being creative and believes that it is valuable for students to develop creativity, came up with the idea of the weekly art class with Miss Hansen. The plan works because the 7th graders had an open slot in their schedule.

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opinion on the whole program is that I enjoy it because it is at a recreational level and it is enjoyable."

In October, Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Hoover took a class together at Sacramento State University to learn about new games and other ways to teach. "This year there is more variety," says Mrs. Hoover. She also said that Four Square and Prisoners Base were some of her class's most requested games.

Mrs. Ashizawa said that she thinks the staff is great this year. "I like the program this year. I think it is an op-



portunity to gain gross motor skills. The skills are taught and developed through games and this enables the kids to gain strength. The students can

experience different skill activities and they don't get bored. The program teaches them about cooperation and teamwork."