



SCHOOL PAGE



ARTWORK, POETRY, AND WRITING FROM TACOMA STUDENTS

BELIEVE



INSPIRE

"I believe my picture fits the topic because my artwork has pictures of things you can dream about. It shows how people should keep on believing until their wish comes true."
Melany Juarez, 5th grade, Downing Elementary, Mrs. McCafferty-Lent.



"Nature is inspiring to me because it goes on forever."
Hannah Essman, 1st grade, Point Defiance Elementary, Ms. Grassi



Dreamland: "I made something that is make believe, and it's a beautiful place with a green bird holding a banner of 'Believe, Dream, Inspire.' It would be my dream to go there. It could inspire people to dream about wonderful things."
Anna Wilson, 3rd grade, Grant Center for the Expressive Arts



The Growing Flower: "I chose to take a photograph of this flower because it dreamed of growing up to be a big and beautiful flower. It believed and it achieved it's goal. This inspired me to grow up and have a good future, too."
PJ Stead, 5th grade, Downing Elementary



Maari's Happy Place: "Maari is a girl that was in my class last year who died of brain cancer. I made this quilt after her because even though she was having all those things happening to her, she still tried to live a normal life."
Paige Carr, 5th grade, Point Defiance Elementary



"I always dream about trees, green, and flowers. The world around me inspires me to draw it's natural beauty."
Alexus West-Girvan, 9th grade, Meeker Middle School, Ms. Kiesel

JELLYFISH, JELLYFISH WHO ARE YOU?

Jellyfish, jellyfish,
just who are you?
Why are you so amazing?
I really want to know.

Jellyfish, jellyfish,
I often dream of you,
in strange, shimmering colors
of pink, green, and blue.

Bright billowing angels
you dance through the night,
you blanket the dark sea
like a cathedral of light.

Beautiful but deadly,
you sting before you strike;
a bloom of angry mushrooms,
I would not venture to fight.

Is it true you have no feelings,
no brains and no eyes?
No blood, and no heart,
and yet you survive.

You lay your tiny babies
at the bottom of the sea.
You keep them all safe
from their hungry enemies.

The fish and the crab,
they love you, I can see.
You shelter your friends
under your umbrella tree.

You clearly are a creature
so vastly different from me,
made of such translucence
so light and so carefree.

What else can you tell me?
What more can I know?
You intrigue me forever.
I'll watch you as I grow.

Jellyfish, jellyfish
Just who are you?
I want to be a marine
scientist,
all because of you!

Catherine Rasgaitis, 4th grade, Browns Point Elementary

Note: Catherine's poem received the Washington state PTA's Outstanding Interpretation Award, and will go on to the national PTA contest!

CITY BLOCK

To celebrate Black History month, 7th graders from Ms. Haddigan's art classes created a portion of a city block in Harlem in the 1920's modeled after Romare Bearden's "City Block" which he did of Harlem in the Renaissance. He was known for his collage art.



Shianni Welch



Taras Snitko



Kirill Deshkin



1) Ahmani Matthews



2) Katelyn Blanchette

GREAT MIGRATION

6th graders from Ms. Haddigan's art classes modeled their work after Jacob Lawrence, known for his "Great Migration" series of panels of art, which when put all together, told stories of the migration of African-Americans from the south to the north in the early 1900s. Many settled in Harlem where the Harlem Renaissance began. The students were to pick 3 significant events from their lives that would tell part of their story. We've included one panel and story per student due to space constraints.

1) "This is the story of my 8th birthday. It was 1 week away and I had to start planning. I was planning and figuring out ideas for the theme and I started getting decorations. Once I figured out the theme of my party, (a dance party), I had to start figuring out the people I was inviting and making invitations. I started putting up decorations like my strobe lights, and I also figured out the food that I would have. It was the day of my birthday and people started arriving. Some people helped me get the food set up and the party began. Everyone was dancing to the music and my Mom brought the cake to us and the ice cream. We ate and then it was time for presents. I opened all my presents and I liked them all. This day was one of my favorite birthdays!"

2) "This is about driving with Grandma to the airport. I got into the car with Grandma, then we drove on the freeway. We parked the car at the airport. Getting to Disneyland, I boarded a big plane. The plane was full of people excited to visit Disneyland. I loved riding the rides! There are several roller coaster rides at Disneyland. I liked riding on the Magic Mountain, Winnie the Pooh, and Splash Mountain. I really want to go to Disneyland again!"

3) "Vietnam is my home country. I was born and lived in Vietnam twelve years. My country has temperatures a little bit hot. I could do anything I wanted because I knew Vietnamese, and I lived there a long time. When I was twelve, my family moved to the United States in a plane. The U.S. is a big and nice country. The temperature is cold, but I like that. At first, I didn't know much English. Everybody was so big and taller than me. Now I feel better and know a little bit more English and I'm taller."



3) Man Le Dang

ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN

Times can be rough.
Never stop believing.
Don't give up.
Always believe and dream
that you can push through
everything.
Inspire yourself to just do
anything and be anything.
Maybe make a change
after a hard time.
Believe.
Dream.
Inspire.

Kailyn Ayres, 5th grade, Downing Elementary, Mrs. McCafferty-Lent

"I chose to write this poem because of the tragic events in the Philippines. This relates to our theme because you have to believe that you can deal with the event, inspire yourself and others to keep going, and dream of getting through it all."

ALL STARS: DISTRICT 10 CHAMPIONS

A while back there was one thing I wanted to do, win the All-Star District Championship. Every night leading up to the softball tournament, I'd lay awake at night as nervous as I could be. I would be thinking, "What if we lost? What if I mess up? My Dad told me to just believe!

When the day of the first game came, I told myself, I am going to pitch like Danielle Lawrie and Jenny Finch, the ones who inspired me to become a pitcher in the first place. When I pitched, I felt like no one could stop me. In the first inning after I pitched, I was up to bat twice, and scored 5 RBI's, (runs batted in), for our team.

We ended up winning that game 16-2, and we all began to believe that we could actually go far in that tournament.

When we got our All-Star sweatshirts, I saw that if we won we would get district champs on the back of them. I wanted that so badly. How cool would it be for someone to say, "Good job!" and to notice you play softball by reading your sweatshirt.

Every night before each game, I dreamed that we'd win the next game. After a long week of games, that dream came true, and before my team knew it, we were in the championship game! My team was alert and ready. We were up by two with one out in the

last inning. There was a runner on third. If we got two outs, we would win. If they scored, we'd lose. The ball was hit to center field, and Taylor caught the ball and stepped on second base for a double play. WE WON! WE ARE DISTRICT CHAMPIONS! That meant we had made it to state, which was another dream come true! To advance to state was a HUGE deal. It was the first time ever that the Soundview Little League U10 girls had ever made it to state. We were headed to Vancouver, Washington. Road trip, here we come!

After we won districts, the rest of my team and I traveled to La Center,

YOU CAN MAKE IT THROUGH THIS

I know that times are tough.
I know you are going through a lot,
but there are people in the world that are here to help. They are here to save you and your family.
We are not here because we have to be.
We are here because we want to help,
and I believe that one day, everyone will be inspired to help.
So stay strong and keep believing.

Meredith McDougall, 4th grade, Downing Elementary, Mrs. McCafferty-Lent

"I chose to write and dedicate this piece to the people in the Philippines, because of how hard it has been for them. I also wanted this to be a note to everyone that the little things we can do make a difference."

Washington, (near Vancouver, WA), where we represented our district in a week long double elimination tournament. We made it to the semi-finals but lost to the number 2 team on the last day. In our age group, we took 3rd in the state! It was an incredible experience, and it was a great way to spend my 11th birthday, which was the next day!

McKenna Braegelmann, 6th grade, Meeker Middle School