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from the office of Superintendent Robert Collins



Character Education In Action: What's It All About?

I continue to receive numerous questions about my commitment to values and character education and what it means. **Maybe the following story from MSN can clarify our initiative.**

With two runners on base and a strike against her, Sara Tucholsky of Western Oregon University uncorked her best swing and did something she has never done. Her first home run cleared the center field fence.

But it appeared to be the shortest of dreams when she missed first base and started back to tag it and collapsed with a knee injury. She crawled back to first but could do no more. The first base coach said she would be called out if her teammates tried to help her. The umpire said, a pinch runner could be called in, but the homer would count as a single.

Then, Central Washington first baseman, Malory Holtman, the career home run leader in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference, asked the umpire if she and her teammates could help Tucholsky. The umpire said there was no rule against it. So Holtman and the CW shortstop put their arms under Tucholsky's legs and carried her around the bases, stopping to let Tucholsky touch each base with her good leg.

"In the end, it is not about winning and losing so much," Holtman said. "It was about this girl. She hit it over the fence and was in pain and she deserved a homerun."

This is what character education is all about, and it is what every Grossmont District athlete and coach needs to embrace as part of what they do every day. **It is what is right and demonstrates what we want our student athletes to become as young adults.**



From left to right: Amber Johnson "To Sleep per Chance to Dream," Steele Canyon-Best of Show (teacher Shari Duran); Carlos Galvan "Water Wheel," Monte Vista – 1st Place Advanced Photography (teacher Karen Breedlove); Allison Brittain "Macrosm," El Capitan – 2nd Place Advanced Commercial/Illustration (teacher Miriam Haughey)

How Do You Choose?

That's the dilemma. Select one piece of art from the District's Art Show for display in the Grossmont District office. And the next comment was, "Why did you select that one? Haven't you seen . . . ?" It's a great dilemma to have; so many pieces of artwork, so many choices. And it's this dilemma that tells us so much about the quality of the Grossmont Union High School District's Visual Arts program.

Friday night, artwork filled Westfield's Parkway Plaza Mall. Hundreds of pieces of art were submitted and 98 awards were presented in 22 different areas of visual arts. **Creating Visions** was the theme, but to the thousands of visitors who visited the Parkway Plaza this weekend the title might have been **"Grossmont Union High School District Visual Arts, a tribute to the genius of teachers and students."**

We should all pause to reflect on the scope of an exceptional visual arts program available to students across the District. **Offering 22 different areas of visual arts is a tribute to teacher leadership and commitment.** It is an area that we want to be able to maintain, support and expand over the coming years. **Our art program is a centerpiece for the quality of education in East County and the Grossmont Union High School District.**

While concerns exist about the current State budget crisis, displacements and freezes, these times will not last and **a new art plan will set the goals and benchmarks for visual arts in our District for many years to come.** That plan would include the renovation of current art classrooms that were not included in Proposition H. We want to be able to set forth grant funds that could position the development of the arts in our District as a career pathway with multiple programs.

This program was organized by the Grossmont Visual Arts Instructional Council, chaired by Mick McMurray from Mount Miguel High School. Mr. McMurray also emceed the awards presentation at the Art Show. Special thanks the **Friends of East County Art, the Associated Student Bodies and Westfield Parkway,** whose support made this event possible.