

# Spaghetti Supper 2011 -

## ROMAN ART AND ARCHITECTURE

great weather and fabulous turnout

DECORATING CHAIR PERSON: Emily Burchill Stewart  
Burchill Interiors

COMMITTEE: Meri-Sue Nuzum-Clark  
Lauren Schmitt  
Fiona Sibley  
Hsumao Yang  
Donna Cantrill

### MURAL PROJECT

This year the 6<sup>th</sup> graders were very involved with the décor. Starting at the end of the kids 5<sup>th</sup> grade year I sent a email to the art teacher Rachel Levy describing my plan to do a mural with the kids to use as décor for the spaghetti supper the following fall. At the beginning of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade year I resent my proposal and the school agreed to allow 2 sessions/week for 5 weeks or 10 after school sessions from 2:20-4:30 with Mrs Levy's help. This would be an art club for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students only and sign up sheets were posted on the art room door. The school provided the space, Mrs Levy's time and the tempera paint for the project. A donation by the Quinlan family provided the roll of fire retardant paper for the mural 120.00. This was purchased through the school supply catalog. The one roll was ample for all our needs (36 in wide by 1000 feet). For the first weeks sessions, until we received the paper, we had the kids make paper column covers with regular craft paper left over from various 7<sup>th</sup> grade plays. We had the kids paint 6 columns one for each of the pillars in the cafeteria.

The following weeks were then committed to the piecing together and painting of 2, 36 in widths paper for 22 feet lengths. (That was the length of one bank of windows) . There were 6 banks of windows to total 132 feet long by 67 in wide. The final painting was 67 in wide by 88 feet long to cover 4 banks of windows. The mural was painted in 4 sections and then pieced together. Where the mural did not cover the boarded up windows, we used the black plastic table cloth material and black duct tape to unify the space.

Issues:

- Size of mural – hard to set up
- find ample painting space
- Weight of final product
- keeping the area clean

fire proof paper was very thin and once wet with paint was very fragile

Reinforcement of mural had to be done so rolling and unrolling of the project did not ruin it.

Constant masking tape repairs made throughout the process.

### THEME

The theme this year was Italian architecture and art. The mural was a continuous silhouette of various architectural landmarks in Italy (Leaning tower of Pisa, the colosseum, Michelangelo's David, the vineyards of tuscany, Mona Lisa in the Dolomite Mountains, The Pantheon, the bridges of Ponte Vecchio, Venice along with Gondolier and the aqueducts . They were done in silhouette against a brilliant sky fading from night to day to night again. In some of the shadows were Italian words, mangia, boun appetito, and ciao. In the sky a Van Gogh like swirl of color complete with birds and stars.

### PORTRAITS

As a funny joke I did portraits of all the sixth grade teachers plus Mrs Levy, (along with a special

Thank you poster with pictures of the kids during the mural project), Mr Maier, Mr Flannery, Ms Longaker, the three language teachers, Ms Callahan and Mrs Mahaffey as Roman bust sculptures. They were exaggerated, funny and flattering likenesses all given column pedestals with the exception of the three language arts teachers who were depicted riding a chariot. At the head of their columns I made a space for their Roman names. Joycia Domina Mahaffey, Billius Maximus Galeous etc. We hung the portraits in the foyer over red plastic sheeting and posted a sign outside the entry as "The Roman Portrait Hall" The portraits were then a keepsake for all the teachers as a thank you gift.

The 2 bulletin board walls just inside the foyer were covered in red white and green plastic sheeting to make the Italian flag.

#### TABLES

The tables were covered in white plastic table clothes and Meri-Sue and I took red duct tape and taped on squares of red and white checkered cloth to the center of each table. We made table trees with the health warning (saved for next year) with white card stock, printed in green in and tied with red and white ribbon. We had three glass votive candle holders per centerpiece with a battery operated votive in each. We had 28 tables and 28 glass vases (from CEF auction supplies) painted with a green stripe on the bottom, clear in the center, and a red stripe on top. A piece of white fire retardant paper was rolled and inserted into the vase and a piece of oasis wedged into the top portion of the vase. Various shapes of dried pasta were then arranged coming out the top of the vase like a floral arrangement. The white paper inside masked the oasis and provided the middle white stripe to complete the Italian flag on the vase. Elbow macaroni was added on top to hide the oasis. Table numbers were inserted in each vase (saved for next year) those were made with printed green numbers trimmed in red card stock, mounted on foam core, two sides. Bamboo skewers were inserted into the foam core and then into the arrangement to mark the tables.

#### CEILING

Large and small paper ball lanterns, in cream and white, ordered from Oriental Trading Company were hung from the three skylight bays in clusters of 15.

**OUTSIDE :** We had no plaza this year so people waited on the stairway and kids played on the grassy knoll.

Another funny reference to architecture was the large sign posted on the construction fence outside going up the stair way saying "Rome was not built in a day..." The kids painted this sign in red letters outlined in black. White Christmas lights were strung on the middle railing outside to light the stair way and wrapped around a small seating area at the top of the steps. Lauren Schmitt brought her white outdoor furniture and set up 2 sets of 2 chairs with a small round table in between. We put a square of checkered cloth atop the tables and votive candle lights on each table. Green paper lanterns hung in the space for a touch of color.

**LIGHTING:** I turned off the bank of florescent lights and just had the canister and perimeter lights along with the sky light lights which illuminated the lanterns. Battery operated votives on the tables.

**DONATIONS:** The fire proof paper as well as the two large red mums which decorated the top of the stairs were donated by the Joanna and Kevin Quinlan. Lauren Schmitt purchased all the plastic sheeting, gobs of duct tape in red green and white and all the votive candles. I bought the table cloth material (red and white checkered along with white round), paper/card stock and ink for table numbers and trees, ribbon for the table trees, gobs of duct tape, poster board, wire and all the paper lanterns. Hsumao Yang bought the monofilament for hanging the lanterns (which we ended up not using - in box for next year) and the clear plastic tape. Meri-sue Nuzum Clark provided the red card stock for the table numbers. Donna Cantrill provided the foam core and spray mount adhesive for the table numbers. A 50.00 dollar donation was given to me by Janice and Kerry Kissinger to go toward the supply costs thus no expenses submitted for décor.

I think the end result had a fun and whimsical, hand-crafted look that only the kids involved could have contributed. The mural brightens the cafeteria until construction is over.