



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Marvelous *Meraviglioso* Mural

Artists Working in Education (AWE) is helping the city's new Italian Immersion school use art to build a bridge between the youngest students phasing into this groundbreaking new language and cultural program with older students in the Victory Gifted and Talented program. The five-year-old kindergarteners, sixth and seventh graders at Victory K-8 School will unveil three Marvelous *Meraviglioso* mixed media murals on Wed., May 28 at 1:30 p.m. The works of art are a collaboration between the students and professional artists Laura Easey-Jones and Caitlin Carroll sponsored by the AWE School Studio program.

Under the artists' guidance, the older students studied historic Italian landmarks and chose to create a series of works depicting the Coliseum and the Trevi Fountain in Rome and St. Mark's Basilica in Venice. Using a grid system method, students transferred images onto boards and learned about painting methods and materials as they painted. The K5 children made rubbings of textural classic décor patterns before creating their own two-dimensional egg and dart molding to frame the paintings.

Victory art teacher Wendy Cooper initially applied for an AWE School Studio project hoping that connecting students at both grade levels to Italian History and Art History would enhance the school's sense of community by promoting collaboration and creativity while creating a lasting piece of artwork that will be permanently installed at the entrance of the school.

In celebration of the mural project, all K4 and K5 children and the K5 Italian Immersion children will perform songs in Italian. Sixth grade students will share essays about the three historic Italian landmarks.

Students will wrap up their project on Friday, May 30 at 12:30 by participating in an Artist led tour of the Milwaukee Art Museum focusing on the works of Italian artists.

The Victory K-8 School project is one of 17 visual arts residencies carried out by AWE during the current school year with major support from the Mary Nohl Fund of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation and the Richard and Ethel Herzfeld Foundation. Additional generous support for the Victory K-8 School program was provided by the Italian Community Center and WisItalia.

Artists Working in Education, Inc., founded in 1998, is a non profit organization whose mission is to provide youth in the Milwaukee area with arts enrichment programs to enhance human potential, advance learning and cultivate community. Its two main initiatives are the School Studio, an artist-in-residence program designed to advance learning through the arts; and the Truck Studio, a mobile outreach program providing free outdoor art experiences for at risk children in city parks and neighborhoods during the summer months.

Mural Dedication Details:

Wednesday, May 28, 2008, 1:30-2:00 p.m. with refreshments to follow.

At the Victory K-8 School Auditorium, 2222 W. Henry Ave., Milwaukee.

For more information, please visit www.awe-inc.org or call 414-933-3877.

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