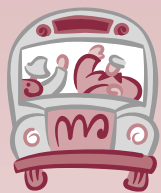


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focus

Preparing World Class Citizens

December, 2006



Young artists at Lisha Kill Middle School, like seventh grader Meenu Prasad, are replicating famous paintings on old chairs and raffling them off to support their school. More on page 3.

Will Lisha Kill's next budding artist please stand up?

That's the only way you'll get to see their latest creative creations – on the seat of their chairs. A group of Lisha Kill Middle School seventh and eighth grade art students – under the direction of teacher Christina Mikus – have been busy refinishing discarded classroom chairs with replicas of famous paintings.

The seat cover came off this project when Mikus heard about the amount of unused furniture being stored in the Lisha Kill basement. The chairs, she thought, would make a nice canvas, while raising money for the school.

"Many of the chairs were in pretty bad condition with lots of scratches and marks on them," Mikus said. "Our students, with their talents, are giving these old broken chairs new life."

The first "chair painting" was a replica of Vincent VanGogh's *Starry Night*. It was created by eighth grade art student Delia Rae Danzy. The chair was raffled off at a school basketball game. More chair raffles will follow. The money will be used to fund various school events and a student scholarship fund. For a look at her work, please turn to page 3.

South Colonie teens produce 'fresh' image for classic rockers

Colonie High School student logo design gives new look to pop stars of the past

Flashback to your high school dance ... grabbing your date and rushing to the floor to rock to your favorite tune – "Smoke on the Water."

You remember: "Dan't, Dan't, Dan't ... Dan't, Dan't Dannah ... Dan't, Dan't Dan't ... Dan't Dan't."

No? Well, perhaps you're from the '80s generation. How about "Eye of the Tiger" from the movie Rocky III? "It's the eye of the tiger, it's the thrill of the fight ..." Does that ring a bell?

Whether you were a teenager in the '70s or '80s, your record, 8-track or cassette tape collection wouldn't be complete without hits

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... rock logo

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from Top 10 performers like Deep Purple, Survivor, Orleans, Santana, Edgar Winter or the Atlanta Rhythm Section.

That's classic music ... stuff your kids could never appreciate today ... right? Or could they?

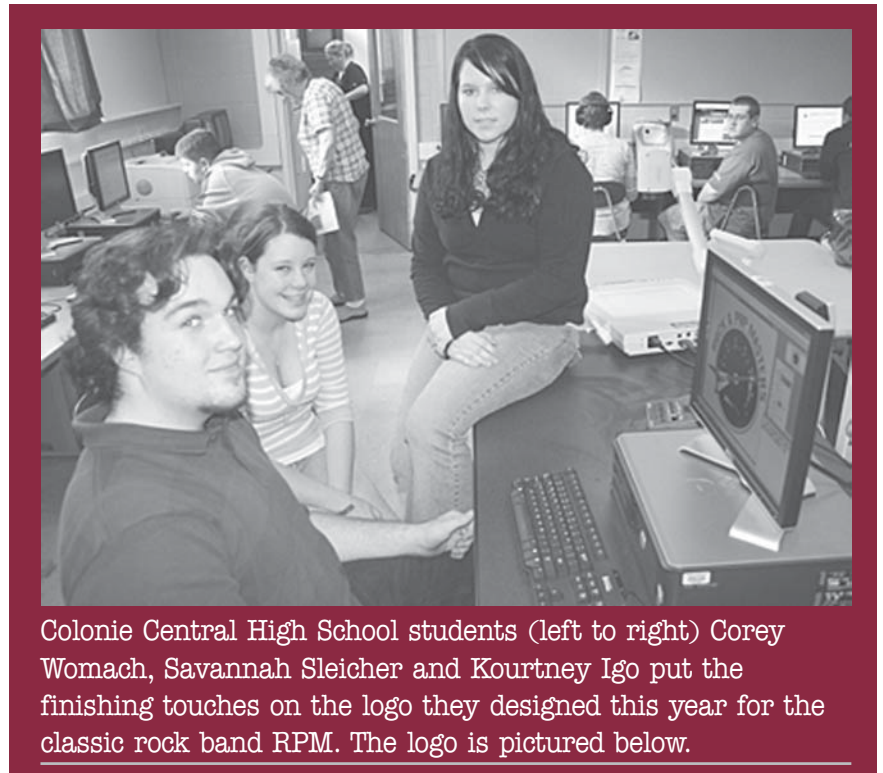
At Colonie Central High School, students in the Advanced Computer & Electronic Art course are developing a new appreciation for these artists of the past. In fact, some have even gone to work for them.

Corey Womach, Savannah Sleicher and Kourtney Igo have used the creative and technical skills learned in the course to collaborate on a new logo design for the "retro" band — Rock & Pop Masters — a.k.a. RPM. The band consists of superstar singers and musicians from some of the most successful groups in rock history — Grammy Award nominated groups sure to be in their parents' old music collections.

The logo — featuring a classic Gibson Flying V guitar over a car tachometer — is being used nationally in RPM's new DVD and music CD releases, on the band's web site and whenever the group is being promoted. In addition to the bands mentioned before, RPM also includes rockers from former groups like Pablo Cruise, John Cafferty and the Beaver Brown Band, Iron Butterfly, Rare Earth, the Spencer Davis Group, Gary U.S. Bonds, Badfinger and the Robbie Dupree Band.

Today, RPM hires itself out for corporation function gigs — mixing and matching artists to create a customized show featuring all original song arrangements from Santana's "Evil Woman" to, you guessed it, Deep Purple's "Smoke on the Water." Their web site is www.rockandpopmasters.com.

"My mom recognized all of them," said Corey Womach, the CCHS senior who



Colonie Central High School students (left to right) Corey Womach, Savannah Sleicher and Kourtney Igo put the finishing touches on the logo they designed this year for the classic rock band RPM. The logo is pictured below.

produced the main guitar design for the logo. "I must say, she was pretty impressed with it all."

Corey, who enjoys classic rock music himself, said he's been dabbling in art since he was 12. He also enjoys working with computers, so combining the two art forms was a "natural movement" for him. He hopes to continue his graphic art studies in college next year and this logo design will make his resume stand out. He was also paid a \$145 stipend by the band, something he didn't expect.

"It took a lot of time (10 class periods in all) but I'm really satisfied with the results," he said. "It looks amazing."

Corey's classmates — Savannah Sleicher and Kourtney Igo — were paid \$25 for their contributions to the logo

design. Kourtney helped create the tachometer and Savannah assisted with the fonts and lettering. The project will also earn all three CCHS students school credit as well as college credit from Hudson Valley Community College.

Savannah, a senior, plans on studying psychology in college, but enjoys graphic arts as a hobby. "A lot of my friends are in underground bands and they're always wanting me to create logos and fliers for them," she

said. "This is a great class for me and something I think I'll use all my life."

Kourtney said she's a fan of any type of music except rap. Only a junior, she's not sure what career path she will take after high school,



but she enjoys computers and the graphics class. "I'm not very good at drawing but I certainly enjoy what I'm doing," she said. "I can't believe the logo got this far. It's very exciting to me."

So how do today's teenagers get mixed up with yesterday's rockers?

Meet Lisa Eichholzer, the students' technology instructor. Eichholzer teaches the Advanced Electronic Arts course, which introduce students to 3D modeling, animation, web design and advanced use of computer graphics programs. The course also promises that students will work on "real projects for real organizations."

After this experience, you can't argue with that!

"This course is the real deal," said Eichholzer, who's been teaching at CCHS since 1999. "It's all about preparing students to succeed in the real world."

Eichholzer knows a little bit about that, herself. Off campus she is a part-time local D.J. at FM radio station 94.5 — The Bone. Prior to that she worked as a longtime D.J. at popular classic rock station — PXY 106 FM.

Through those jobs she got to personally know many of the classic artists and has done secretarial and publicity work for them as a "virtual assistant." When the RPM band formed a couple of summers ago as "The Voices of Classic Rock," Eichholzer went on tour with them. Today, she still works for them doing publicity as RPM. That's how she got the students involved in the logo design. RPM Music Director Larry Hoppen, a former member of the band "Orleans," asked the class to help out.

"In past years, my students had done projects like this — CD covers for Sony Music and magazine ads for radio shows — so they knew we did good work," Eichholzer explained. "What these three students did was some pretty sophisticated stuff. I know today's graphic artists are getting paid a lot of money to do the same work. I'm very proud of them all."

"But what I think is really neat about this project is that here we have a generation of kids who weren't even born when these guys were famous," Eichholzer added. "So their ideas are young and fresh. That's what makes their work stand out."



Night out at Sand Creek

Sand Creek Middle School held a Girls and Guys Night Out in November. These events provide activities for students that focus on wellness, good nutrition, living healthy lifestyles, and developing positive self-esteem and manners.

This year, a ballroom dancing component was added due to the popularity of the TV show "Dancing With The Stars." A young couple from the Fred Astaire Dance Studio assisted. The young gentleman happened to be an exchange student from Denmark, who was the Junior National Champion of Ballroom Dancing in his country.

Kudos to health teacher Stacey Sausto for coordinating the event to comply with the district's anti-obesity initiative and new health curriculum. Also, Cornell Cooperative Extension helped with teaching how to make trail mix and play nutritional Jeopardy. South Colonie graduate R.J. Harvey (a Sand Creek staffer and Albany Conquest football player) led a weight training session for students to follow and teacher Lynne Ogren offered a Yoga workshop.



Lisha Kill eight grader Delia Rae Danzy uses an old chair as a canvas as she paints a replica of Vincent VanGogh's "Starry Night." The finished work was raffled off recently to raise money for her school. The full story is on page 1.



900 pounds collected at Veeder Elementary for Food Bank

The Veeder Elementary School community has collected 900 pounds of food for the Regional Food Bank this holiday season. Heading the food drive were Veeder Principal Kathleen Gottschalk, first grade teacher Barbara Ripps, and parents Nanci Montuori, Louise MacAloney, Laura Louis and Sue Little. The students pictured here are Vincent and Abby Montuori, Peter MacAloney, Clare Louis and Thomas Little.

Lisha Kill Holiday Food Drive

More than 1,200 cans of food were recently donated by the Lisha Kill community to the Student Council holiday canned food drive for the Albany Food Pantry, which will distribute it to the less fortunate in the Capital District.



Roessleville stacks pennies for Ronald McDonald

Ronald McDonald visited the kindergartners at Roessleville Elementary School in November after the students collected pennies in honor of World Children's Day. They presented a check for \$1,150 to Ronald McDonald for Albany's Ronald McDonald House.



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