



Promoting creative power in people with disabilities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Kate Blair

Howe Elementary - Dearborn

VSAMI Dearborn Representative

Howe Office: 313-827-7000

Howe Fax: 313-827-7005

Email: blairm@dearborn.k12.mi.us

VSAMI Website: www.vsami.org

Howe Elementary Collaborates with Famed Mexican Artist!

DEARBORN, MI: September 3, 2009 — On Wednesday, September 23 from 6-7pm, Howe Elementary of Dearborn will celebrate the installation of a mural created during the 2007/2008 school year by their students in partnership with Mexican artist, Demetrio Aguilar. The mural is based on the six core values recognized by Dearborn Public Schools: Honesty, Integrity, Courtesy, Cooperation, Citizenship, and Responsibility.

VSA arts of Michigan-Dearborn and Howe Elementary School are pleased to celebrate the efforts of Howe students and Mexican artist, Demetrio Aguilar, in creating murals for the school. A dedication and celebration ceremony will occur at Howe Elementary, 18000 Oakwood, Dearborn, Michigan, on Wednesday, September 23 from 6-7pm. This event is free and open to the public.

Howe Elementary art instructor Kate Blair took the initiative to provide her students with a more diverse learning experience that was about more than playing with crayons or clay. Inspired by the work of ceramic artist, Demetrio Aguilar of Oaxaca, Mexico, Blair invited him to be an artist in residence in her classroom. Using the idea of self and the core values identified by Dearborn Public Schools, students worked with Aguilar to create self portrait ceramic tiles that would later be used to create a mural for the school. This project was completed in the spring of 2008 and the fruits of their labor is now available for all to appreciate. This project was made possible by funding from the Dearborn Community Arts Council, the Dearborn Education Foundation, and The Dearborn Rotary Club. In-Kind support was provided by an anonymous donor.

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PO Box 02805 100 W. Alexandrine • Detroit, Michigan 48202-2805 • 313-832-3303 • fax 313-832-3387 • vsami.org • info@vsami.org

VSAMI is a member of the international network of VSA arts, an affiliate of The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. VSA arts was founded in 1974 by Jean Kennedy Smith, and has been designated by the U.S. congress as the nation's coordinating agency for arts programs for people with disabilities. VSA has 52 affiliates in the U.S. and over 55 international affiliates, and annually serves millions of people worldwide.

VSA arts of Michigan supports its programs and services across the state through grants from national VSA arts under an award from the United States Department of Education Office of Special Education; the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs; and through contributions from corporations, foundations and individuals.

For further information, please contact Kate Blair by phone 313-872-7000 or email at blairm@dearborn.k12.mi.us.

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