

2017-2018 Artist in Residence Program

Exposure to the arts has been shown to have a positive impact on a child's cognitive, artistic, social and psychological development.

How fortunate we are at Westbrook to have a strong and vibrant **Artist in Residence (AIR)** program where students at *every grade level* can have meaningful exposure to the arts in a way that supplements the MCPS curriculum.

The Artist in Residence program is funded by the PTA through your generous contributions.

Over the years, students have worked with amazing artists through one- to two-week residencies, all designed to provide a creative and enriching experience for our children. This year's 2017-2018 Artist in Residence program offers a mix of visual and performing arts.

Each grade works collaboratively with an artist to learn an art form. The focus of the residency is aligned with a topic from that grade's curriculum. Some grades work with performing artists creating and performing operas, musicals, song parodies or plays. Other grades work with visual artists creating mosaics, paintings or clay murals, for example.

During a grade's residency the artist will hold 5-10 workshops with each class. Each residency culminates with either a performance for families and students or a completed piece of artwork to be hung at Westbrook and enjoyed by the school community for years to come.

Thanks to generous contributions from Westbrook families, the PTA is able to fully fund the AIR program to make these residencies possible. We could not do this without your support!

This year we welcome back favorite artists including Mary Gresock, of Odyssey Opera, who will work with kindergartners in the spring, and Alden Phelps, singer/songwriter, who will teach third graders how to write and perform song parodies in November. Fifth graders team up with Gianne McNeil, Westbrook's acclaimed Music Teacher, who will lead them in producing and performing our annual musical.

Fourth grade welcomes back for the second time, poet and hip-hop artist, Bomani this December. First and Second grade artists will be confirmed shortly. It's likely both grades will welcome visual artists to work with students this year. Further details on all this year's residencies, artists and timeframe will be sent to you via the listserv and/or through room parents.

Last year's lineup was as follows:

Kindergartners learned the art of the Opera with Mary Gresock of Odyssey Opera Theater. Students created and performed for parents their own mini-operas based on the book "The Gruffalo."

1st graders also worked with Mary Gresock of Odyssey Opera. Each first grade class created and performed a different version of a mini-opera based on the "Stega Nona" tale.

2nd graders worked with Arturo Ho, Mural Artist. Each class created a mosaic mural on the phases of the moon, of which students were learning about during the spring when they created their murals. Their murals have been hung in the 2nd grade hallway.

3rd graders wrote and created parodies with Singer/Songwriter Alden Phelps last November. Their songs were based on "Eating Healthy, Staying Active and Being Green."

4th graders welcomed a new-to-Westbrook artist last year. Bomani walked students through **hip-hop songwriting** and writing verses about early settlements, which students were studying in social studies. Fourth graders performed for fellow students and families.

5th Graders produced, directed and performed the musical *The Lion King* in June 2017, led by Gianne McNeil, Westbrook's Music Teacher.

Students in Westbrook's ED Cluster Program, created another beautiful set of murals with Carien Quiroga, Mural Artist. Their mural, based on Mindfulness, is hung at the end of the hall past ED classrooms. We were fortunate to receive a grant from the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County which funded much of this residency.

**Questions or if you'd love to help out — reach out to Chris Dixon Barone, Artist and Residence Chair, at chrisandsam@mac.com