



## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: ART AT CHIMACUM CREEK PRIMARY

### Primary Art students give it their all

The brand new art program at Chimacum Creek Primary is already off to an amazing start. The primary art program uses a curriculum that has been developed and implemented by special education and art teacher, Carianna Bell, and follows Washington State visual arts standards for grades K-2.

The young students tumble into Bell's class fresh from the playground, bringing energy and a multitude of emotions with them. Bell uses a variety of activities to help them center themselves, then applies an interdisciplinary style of teaching to her lessons that breathes life into standards-based learning and helps her students see art and creating as more than just an activity.

"Free exploration in the arts gives children opportunities to integrate and express their lived experiences in a safe educational environment," says Bell.

Some of the projects students have worked on this year include designing playgrounds from blocks of wood (design and engineering), exploring outdoors to complete nature journals (drawing, biology, and writing), and sharing the intent and meaning of their artwork with the class (critical thinking and public speaking).

Bell has a background as an artist and as an educator. She's worked as a professional teaching artist, classroom teacher, and outdoor educator before coming to Chimacum to head up the primary art program. As both an Art and Special Education teacher, she gets to advocate for each student individually while creatively supporting the school as a whole.

When asked what her favorite part of teaching primary students is, Bell says "I love how fearless they are. Whatever medium we are working on, they go in 100 percent."



### Behind the Program: Carianna Bell

Carianna Bell has a Bachelor of Arts in Ceramics and Education from The Evergreen State College. She began her teaching career in Massachusetts and has since taught a wide range of ages and subjects. She recently completed her Master of Arts degree from Central Washington University with dual endorsements in K-12 Special Education and Visual Arts.

While this is Carianna's first year teaching at Chimacum Creek Primary, you may have previously met her as she completed her student teaching at Chimacum Junior and Senior High School. When not teaching, Carianna enjoys time with family, in the woods or on the water, gardening, fishing and creating art.



# ARTS



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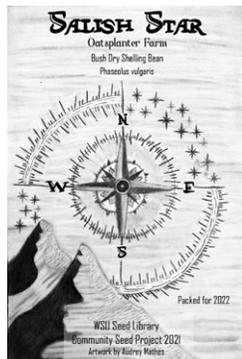
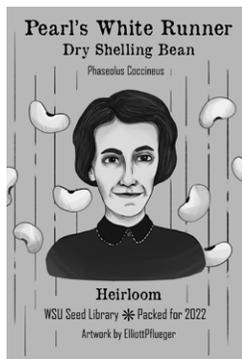
## Chimacum students push the limits of traditional art classes

Teacher Gary Coyan strives to create a learning environment in his art classes where students feel relaxed, safe, and excited to learn. The classes are mental breaks for students, and a space to become energized and rejuvenated through creativity. He teaches both the technical principles of each art discipline as well as shares various ways the student artist can interact with and stretch the use of each medium.

“Creating is a universal need most humans have and it can be expressed in a variety of ways. I get the same release from painting as I do from cooking,” says Coyan. “Empowering students to care, holding oneself to a standard, and pushing the limits of that standard is important.” His classes build the framework from which students can then explore traditional or out-of-the-box ways of creating that cross over into other disciplines.

One such crossover includes food, art, science, and the Community Seed Project (CSP), a program through Washington State University that works with communities to improve their genetic seed diversity.

Students in the horticulture (science) class teamed up with CSP to grow new bean varieties last spring and then harvest the seeds, where student Raiden Kasperson named one of the new seeds Salish Star. Art class student Audrey Mathes then designed the Salish Star seed packet and students in the Culinary Arts class will package the seeds for distribution throughout the community by CSP.



Seed packets designed by Gary Coyan's students for the Community Seed Project.



### CAMPUS CONNECTION

#### Student creations catch the light

If you walk into the Flexible Learning classroom at Chimacum High School, you will most likely find transition student Cole Henley working away under a bright light at his desk. He may be working on a new painting, making cards to sell, making jewelry, or creating one of his signature “Rainbow Catchers,” a beaded item designed to hang in the window and sparkle in the light.

Paraeducator Kathy Paddock has worked with Cole for years and is the one who brought forth the initial idea of Cole creating the Rainbow Catchers, which he has now expanded to include necklaces and keychains.

Creating items with such small beads requires focus, fine motor skills and dexterity, and a creative mind—all of which are areas where Cole excels.

“Cole has always shown talent in the arts and it’s been great to see his growth through his creations,” says teacher Ann Abraham.

If you’re interested in purchasing one of Cole’s creations, please contact Ann Abraham.



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