

Village School Receives IRTAF Grant for Art

By Shelley Trump Nov. 11, 2010 at 10:55 a.m.



Principal Elizabeth Sullivan presents grant award to teachers Maria Somarriba, Susan Howard, Denise Hollech, and PTO art coordinator Shelley Trump.

On November 3, 2010, the 5th grade teachers at Village Elementary School in Round Lake received a grant award check from the Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation for \$245 to purchase supplies for an upcoming art mural project. The 5th grade teachers are Maria Somarriba, Denise Hollech, Susan Howard, Adam Dassow, & Ashley Zurkowski.

Five classrooms of 5th grade students will participate in a mural project with a theme of Tall Tales. As these students prepare to leave Village Elementary School, they will create a mural as a culmination to their 5 years of art instruction through the PTO-sponsored ArtSmarts Program. With help from professional artist, Sandie Bacon, each classroom will work together to research, design, and paint their own 5×10-foot canvas mural to be hung in the school library.

This year the Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation awarded a total of over \$15,000 in grant money to several public school educators in Northern Illinois counties. Applicants for the grant were required to meet the proper criteria and to submit their proposals by mid-September. The IRTAF Ad Hoc Committee met in September to select the grant recipients. Winners were contacted in October and awards are being presented now. The IRTAF is affiliated with the Illinois Retired Teachers Association, a lobbying group for retired educators, with a current membership of over 32,000.

Students Paint Tall Tales, Fairy Tales, and Fables

By Shelley Trump Today at 3:36 p.m.



Fairy Tale Land painted by Mrs. Howard's 5th grade students

Fifth grade students at Village Elementary School in Round Lake recently created 4 beautiful murals as part of a project sponsored by the PTO and the Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation. Professional artist, Sandie Bacon, of Lake Bluff, worked with students in 5 classrooms to create the 10x5-foot murals. This is the 6th year that the oldest students in the school have created murals to leave behind when they leave the school.

The theme for this year's murals was "Tall Tales, Fairy Tales, and Fables." Mrs. Howard's class created a mural with a path through Fairy Tale Land including many familiar fairy tale characters. Mrs. Hollech's class mural depicts 4 classic Fables with great morals. Ms. Somarriba's class created a Fairy Tale land with castle, knights, dragons, & princesses. Mrs. Gaylor and Mrs. Zurkowski's students worked together to create a mural depicting scenes from the Tall Tale life of Pecos Bill. These colorful murals will hang in the school library, where they can inspire students to read for fun and adventure.

The 5th Grade Mural Project is a culmination of 5 years of PTO-sponsored ArtSmarts instruction which the students have received from professional Guest Artists in the classroom. The cost of supplies for the mural project was covered by a generous grant from the Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation.