

Peace-Liard Regional Arts Council
Shaping Today - Inspiring Tomorrow

Feature Artist: Laura Filgate

Chetwynd Secondary School art students have a gem of a teacher in Laura Filgate. In her eight years at the school, Laura's love of art and gift for teaching have helped students tap into their own creativity.

While Laura was a certified teacher, she didn't consider teaching art until the former CSS art teacher suggested she fill the role when it became available. She spent a year at art school to gain the required credits, and since then has taught art to all grades at Chetwynd Secondary. While her teaching schedule leaves her "drained creatively" from making her own art, she finds facilitating art very fulfilling and a natural strength.

Under Laura's tutelage, CSS students have completed art projects in a wide variety of mediums and techniques, and most years do at least one project funded by either the regional district or by ArtStarts in Schools, with 2006/2007's mosaic project resulting in some amazing pieces that will be installed at the Chetwynd Hospital. The students have opportunities to see their art in exhibits usually twice a year, including at the School District #59 Students' Exhibition at the

Dawson Creek Art Gallery. The Chetwynd hospital has a permanent gallery space for student art, and Laura is working with the library to create another exhibition space there.

2007's projects have included exploring the fascinating technique of felting, with the completed Felt Ball Christmas Tree donated to the library's Christmas auction. It raised \$550 for the library. The students also explored sculpture with the unusual medium of packing tape, and their Hallowe'en themed sculptures were used in "The Ghoulish Affair" community event.

Laura sees a great need for a strong art program throughout all grade levels, and has travelled throughout BC studying their art programs and how they are implemented. Her priority remains the same, getting children and youth to embrace art, and involving the community in their education in positive ways.



Above: Laura's students at work on floor cloth (top) and mural projects.

Ready...Set...Exhibit!

Visual artists in all disciplines are invited again to submit their work to the annual Peace-Liard Regional Juried Art Exhibit, hosted this year by the Fort St. John Community Arts Council. Encana has agreed to sponsor the exhibition again this year, and awards total over \$1700.00.

Registration deadline is March 11, with work needing to be received by Peace Gallery North by March 25, 2008. The exhibit opens on April 5 and hangs until May 2, 2008.

People's Choice Awards

Sponsored by Fort St. John Community Arts Council

\$1,000 Distinguished Award

\$500 Recognition Award

\$200 Student Award

Sponsored by EnCana



Contact Us!



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We would love to hear from you! If you have any comments or information to share, contact the

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