



LDAMC inc.

LEARNING DISABILITIES ASSOCIATION OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD, INC.

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Non-Profit – Volunteer Based – Member Driven
www.ldamc.org

May 2013

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President's Message - May

The African proverb "it takes a whole village to raise a child" came to mind when I recently attended a local conference sponsored by the Maryland School Psychologists Association. I was invited because they wanted feedback from outside groups on their newest endeavor to bring varied comprehensive and integrated services to schools. This means that school psychologists would add to their traditional role as evaluator, and become more a part of the total school community. Counties across Maryland shared new initiatives that have been developed and implemented by school psychologists to help all children become productive citizens of their school, neighborhood, local community and the greater global society. They addressed school-wide behavioral interventions, training for teachers on LD and ADHD, social and life skills training for students with non-verbal learning disabilities, emergency response training for schools, monitoring academic and behavior interventions, and many more collaborative practices serving children, families, and schools. I was glad to be included in the discussion of broadening the array of services in our village, and remain hopeful that all our children will reap multiple benefits.

"Changing Images" Student Art Show
 Sunday, May 5, 2013
 1pm - 5pm

Bring a friend to the Opening Reception!

ART | SNACKS | FRIENDS | FAMILY

Montgomery Arts Association Gallery
 Westfield Wheaton Shopping Mall, 1st Floor
 11160 Viers Mill Road
 Wheaton, MD 20902-1094
 (corner between JCPenny & mall escalator)

Featuring student artwork from:
 Chelsea School | The Nora School | The Siena School

The exceptional entries from Chelsea, Nora and Siena School students are not done justice by photos or descriptive phrases so please STOP BY on May 5th to view these works in person because the talent and hard work of these students are deserving of this respect and acknowledgement. SEE you there!

"Selected Pieces of artwork will be for Sale" "Music and Food"

The Learning Disabilities Association of Montgomery County Presents...
Reading Disabilities and "Dyslexia": What does it mean?
 Saturday, May 11th ~ 1:00 – 4:00pm

Rockville Memorial Library meeting room, 21 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850
 See page 5 for details!

Young Artists- May 2013

By Judith Levine,
Montgomery Art Association Board Member
Newsletter Reporter/Children's Activities Chair

This month's featured artist is not an artist, they are our Featured Artists. MAA was approached several months ago by Susan Healy, the Newsletter Editor of the Learning Disabilities Association of Montgomery County. Healy has been an activist with LDAMC since 1995 in part because she has a son, now an adult, who has learning disabilities. When she took over her current position with LDAMC, she decided that it would be nice to have the newsletter display children's art rather than the somewhat dry photos that had always been used. She contacted the Siena School, the Chelsea School, and the Nora School to see if they would be interested in participating in the provision of art works by their students. These three Montgomery County private schools work with children who can benefit from the smaller classes and increased personal attention to their specific learning needs and styles. Something impressive is the dedication of the staff of each school, many who have been with their facility for more than fifteen years. An area that this writer and Healy strongly agree on is having a learning disability or learning differently, does not, nor should it not ever, define what a person is or how successful they can be in their life. We both recognize that every individual has abilities and talents, and we all have things we don't do as well. For some of us, our 'disability' just requires more assistance to successfully manage. And that is what the patrons who visit this month's show and see the work of these talented children will leave our gallery understanding.

The Chelsea School

I spent time with each of our three schools, beginning with the Chelsea School which was established in 1976. This is a bright facility that they have been in since 1989, with 80 students. Kate Fedalen, the head of the school since 2011, showed me around and explained that the school uses a multidisciplinary approach to learning, along with small classes and the ability to work one on one with each student, a fact I found to be true of all three schools. I met with Nia Collington, 14, Hannah Story, 10, and Chase Yaculak, 12. Nia said she really started painting at about age eight. Her *Fall Foliage* makes you hope one of her flowers will one day grow in your own garden. This young woman is multitalented- she loves to crochet and sew among other things- but is not sure if art will be a full time career but "I will still keep painting." Quiet, soft spoken Hannah showed me a beautiful, colourful piñata she is entering. She also said that she loves to paint watercolours. Flowers are one of her favourite subjects. Bright, energetic Chase will also have a wonderful piñata in the show. Chase showed me a very expressive

drawing he made of a heart that was torn and crying and laughing at the same time, most intriguing. None-the-less, Chase said he loves making sculptures the best.

The Siena School

I arrived at the Siena School to be greeted by Bekah Atkinson, the Director of Admissions. The newest of the schools, established in 2006, its name reflects its commitment to the arts as much as its academics, its mission, "...create one of the nation's finest schools for bright students who learn differently." Its classrooms reflect this desire. This is a bright, new facility that they just recently moved into, with 80 students. Again, students thrive in its multidisciplinary approach which lets each one move at their most effective pace and reach their fullest potential. In all three schools, a warm, non-judgemental atmosphere lets children feel safe to explore and create. We all make mistakes but in these schools they really are seen as a chance to learn, not as a failure. In the art room, I met with three of the young artists who will have works in the show, Ari Cottman, 15, Ayelet Berkowitz and Liz Mayo, both 14. Ari informed me that, "... young artists... are using their creative juices". She will be entering photographs in the show. I was excited by the way she used light to create her explosive images. "Photos make me happy in a way that painting didn't." Ayelet makes paintings in the pointillist tradition using markers. She chose that medium because, "[I] wanted to be very neat and clean and decided markers would be the best choice." She was successful in her use of them to create a work in this very time intensive style. Liz, who loves nature and swimming, decided to make a work using four canvases. The undersea theme was done in red, white and blue. Liz reached all of her goals in her painting, one of which was to demonstrate how cool and warm colours can be used in the same painting and still create a harmonious whole. This young artist told me that she has been making art her whole life, "... drawing animals, making clay sculptures, and doing pencil and charcoal drawings

The Nora School

My final visit was to the Nora School whose motto is "*Think differently*. At The Nora School, these are words we take to heart." Celebrating its 50th anniversary this Fall, The Nora School was happily added to the Siena and Chelsea Schools for our May show. The Nora School, also a college prep, is the smallest and only encompasses grades 9 to 12 (the others are elementary through 12). I met with Marcia Miller, Director of Admissions, then with award winning sculptor Nic Gallaro who has taught art there since 1999. Nic explained that his students were making 3 dimensional clay sculptures to illustrate the work and time period they were studying.

Article continued on page 4.

LDAMC, Inc.

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TOUR DAY:
Wed. 9:00 am

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