

Student art helps fund art program

By Charity Prater

Clowns, dogs, rainbows and pianos are just some of the themes of the paintings being sold to fund the art program at Sabin Elementary School, 4013 N.E. 18th Ave. Sabin art teacher Chris Lamp decided to auction and sell his students' artwork more than eight years ago.

"I wanted the kids to be able to have high-quality art supplies and learn to love and appreciate being creative," says Lamp. "Art is such an important aspect to education."

In the beginning, Lamp was hesitant to sell the art the kids were making because there were some legalities he wanted to avoid, so he decided to simply hang the pieces up in the Starbucks coffee shop at Northeast 15th Avenue and Fremont.

"I went back to Starbucks about ten days later to take the art down," Lamps says, "and the manager at the time begged me to keep them up."

The student art has proven to be such a hit with the public that Lamp established several spots around the city where it can be hung and sold. All proceeds from sales of the art goes back into the art program at Sabin.

"As a teacher, we are able to get certain supplies for free," says Lamp, but "it makes a huge difference in the art and the students' interest when we are able to supply them with high-quality

supplies, like mat paper and oil pastels."

Lamp teaches art to students in pre-kindergarten through the eighth grade. Middle-school students are being incorporated into the program as they are configured into Sabin. In the art program, pre-kindergarten students are taught to cut out vases and make flowers, while kindergarteners draw clowns, first-graders create portraits, second-graders create self-portraits and fourth-graders practice still lifes. Middle-school students are taught the elements and principles of design.

"I try to teach the kids new and different techniques every year," says Lamp. "Many kids find out that they are incredibly creative. I had a student, now in high school, who's sold many signed prints."

Lamp has taught art for nearly 25 years, but doesn't think of himself as an artist.

"I've taken some classes on art and collect art, but I don't consider myself an artist," says Lamp. "I always tell the kids that I'm learning along with them."

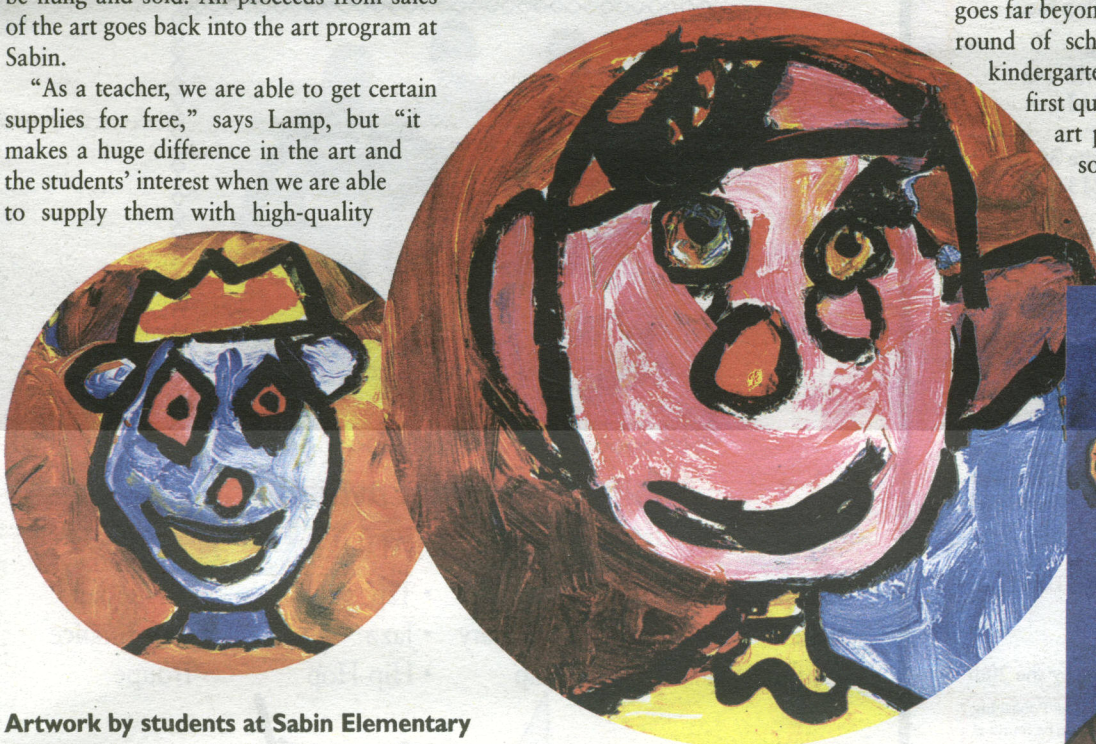
Lamp also has created an art program with a



(left to right) Ivonne Mata, 10, Tatiana F painting with the help of their teacher

growing reputation.

"Chris Lamp's success is obvious to anyone who's seen the Sabin School artwork on display each month at the Starbuck's at Fremont Place," says Sabin PTA president Ken Rumbaugh, "but his overall success goes far beyond room 105. During a recent round of school tours with prospective kindergarten students and families, the first questions were often about the art program, which has become so well thought of in the Sabin community. Chris Lamp has created a forum for young Sabin artists to not only



Artwork by students at Sabin Elementary School raises money for the school's art program.



Riddle, 9, and D'yani Allen, 9, practice Chris Lamp. – Photo by Nancy Woods

display their masterpieces on the parents' refrigerators, but on the walls of art galleries, marquee events and regional publications.”

In order for the students and their parents to enjoy the art that is made in the classroom, Lamp has the children make two pieces of the same kind of art. One is taken home; the other can be put up for sale. No works are put up for sale without the permission of the child's parents, and students retain the rights to the original work if copies are sold. The pieces sell for \$10-\$25 each and can be seen and purchased at several rotating locations, including Starbucks, Northeast 15th Avenue and Fremont St.; Backyard Bird Shop, 1419 N.E. Fremont St.; A Children's Place Book Store, 4807 N.E. Fremont St.; Marki's Fine Art, 2236 N.E. Broadway; and Signature Cutz, 407 N.E. Mason St.

The students' main fundraising event will be held May 19-31 at the Starbucks at Northeast 15th Avenue and Fremont Street, where a silent auction of 35 best-of-show pieces will be held. For locations and times of other scheduled auction and showing events, contact Chris Lamp at clamp@pps.k12.or.us.