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Student Art Auction Supports Foundation

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For the last three years, the TCSD (Trumansburg Central School District) Foundation has given the district a grant to host workshops, invite artists to come demo, and pull off an art show at the end of the month to support the students' love of art. This year, the district repaid the Foundation by hosting an auction of student-donated work during the show with all the proceeds going to the Foundation.

"We were happy to help them out—they've helped us out for the last three years. We do all of our workshops through the grants. They do so much for the school that people don't even realize," said high school art instructor Ellen Pennock.

On Thursday, March 27, TCSD hosted its third annual Art Show in the High School cafeteria, in honor of Youth Art Month (YAM). YAM takes place every March and emphasizes the importance of art education for kids in schools and creates support for quality programs within schools. The month was filled with workshops for the students in all three buildings, funded by

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AUCTION

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a grant from the TCSD Foundation.

The workshops this year had a general theme of "fiber." Each building did different projects incorporating fiber or loose-knit materials. "We try to use materials in the workshops that are more involved—ones that you don't usually use in the classroom," said elementary art instructor Sara Apker.

The elementary school did projects based around circle and wall-hang weaving, the middle school centered projects around papermaking and paper clay sculptures, and the high school crafted paper clay sculptures and gargoyles. Unfortunately, the gargoyles that were being made this year weren't finished in time for the show. To show the process, a gargoyle made in a previous year was set up at the show next to one of the unfinished ones, allowing the community to see the contrast and progress from beginning to end. An artist was brought into the demo theme-related topics to the classes and some even took a field trip to Bel Canto Farm to learn more about alpaca fiber and its potential uses.

While the workshops each had a specific theme, the show itself did not. Projects that were crafted for the theme were displayed at the show amidst other general art projects that students had done. One of the bigger projects was displayed on the side wall of the cafeteria. Apker had organized a project to be done throughout the elementary school: one that could be displayed together and show how the classes come together. Apker had each student from grades K-4 decorate a hand; the amount of hands produced ended up covering the entire wall. Another major piece featured at the school was a painting done by high school senior Blythe Gurche, who won a prize for it at the National Scholastic competition. The painting was proudly displayed right next to the entrance of the cafeteria and will soon be going on a two-year journey across the nation to be featured at different shows.

The show was designed to raise awareness in the community about the TCSD Foundation, what it does for the school and the community, and about art in the district in general. "It (the art show) shows off the workshops and artwork in general from art programs in the three buildings," said Pennock.

Students had donated items that

sold for a range of prices. A duct tape lunchbox was sold to the highest bidder for \$25 and a student-crafted teapot sold for \$30 within the first half hour of the auction. The art teachers have hopes that over the next few years, community involvement will increase. Instead of just student donated art, there was talk about gathering pieces from community members to auction off at the event as well.

"We want to thank the community," said Tara Masters, President of the TCSD Foundation. "The support they show our kids when it comes to their art made this possible."