

Project CREATE

Art class gets gifted kids' juices flowing

Walled Lake Schools

By Darrell Ciem
staff writer

Charlie Schweitzer doesn't mind if others shiver, gasp, feel a tingle down their spines or experience some odd sense of doom as they view his art project.

"I'd be pleased," he said. "I call it 'Scraps from the Graveyard,'" Schweitzer said, gazing at the collage of scrap metal, sheep wool, burlap and sea shells glued to construction paper.

No sense of impending death here, though, in this Twin Beach Elementary School art class that's alive with young artists participating in a pilot project called CREATE.

"I like this class a lot," said Schweitzer, a 9-year-old third grader.

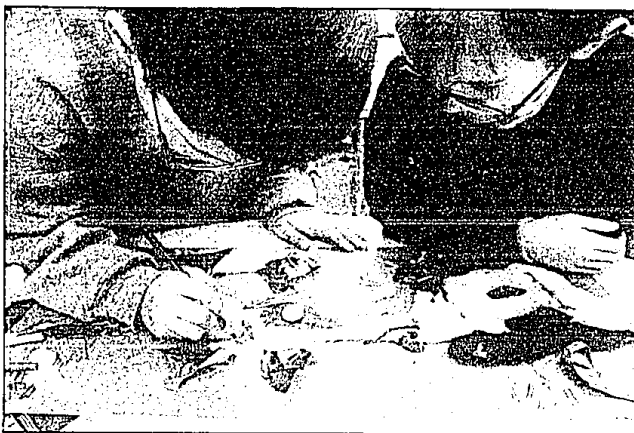
GIFTED AND talented youngsters from Twin Beach and Keith elementary schools who have special abilities in visual arts attend an exclusive one-hour art class.

Although they must complete some teacher-imposed art assignments, each of the 29 pupils will be allowed to design an individual art curriculum next semester.

They also are visited by some artists, including one who recently came to school and showed the pupils how sheep wool is used to make felt.

"This project gives children who are talented in art an opportunity to have an outlet for that talent," said Marela Detter, art teacher at Twin Beach and Keith.

The students learn about the four basic components of art — art production, art history, art criticism and aesthetics, Detter said. They use that knowledge as they create their



Brian Sniokaitis, 9, adds pencil color to his art project, which is a collage of metal, burlap, felt and other materials. Classmate Eric Eaton, 9,

looks on. Both are in the CREATE art program for gifted students in the Walled Lake schools.

DAN DEAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

projects, which will be displayed next spring at a "major" art show at Links of Pinewood, a golf course on Oakley Park Road.

Detter said all elementary students in the Walled Lake Consolidated School District, which includes northwest Farmington Hills, receive

40 to 50 minutes of art instruction each week. But the CREATE project is aimed at providing additional opportunities for pupils who have extra talent.

"I'm learning to draw better," said third grader Blake Schweitzer, 9. "I love doing arts and crafts, too,

and I like working on art projects with other people."

Detter said the project has received strong support from school administrators, teachers and parents. She hopes it will be expanded to the other nine elementary in the school district.

LTU adviser named

George Schneider of Farmington Hills was named adviser for Industrial engineering technology and an associate professor in the department of technology in Lawrence Technological University's College of Engineering.

Schneider's appointment resulted from a reorganization of academic programs at Lawrence Technological University which resulted in the formation of four new colleges earlier this year. The former School of Technology and School of Engineering were combined to form a College of Engineering.

The establishment of new colleges of Architecture and Design, Arts and Science, Engineering, and Management was announced in June.

"Combination of our former School of Engineering and School of Technology into a College of Engineering allows us to respond to the needs of industry and the professions in a more integrated and effective manner," says Dr. Richard E. Marburger, president of Lawrence Tech.

Schneider is the immediate past chairman of the Society of Mechanical Engineers' Detroit Chapter One. He is the president of the International Executive Board of the Society of Carbide and Tool Engineers and is a certified manufacturing engineer.

Schneider received a bachelor's degree from Kent State University and a master's in business administration from Case-Western Reserve.

Girl wins float design award

Adria Vitar, fourth grade student at Longacre Elementary, received a special telephone call from the Michigan Thanksgiving Parade Commission. She was selected as one of the winners of the Commission's Float Design Contest for School Children.

Adria's design was judged best for all third grade entries in the State of Michigan. She finished runner-up in the contest for all grade levels. Art

teacher Diane Russell encouraged all her students to enter the contest.

As part of her prize, Adria was invited to walk in this year's parade next to the float designed by school children. She was also able to visit the warehouse which held many of the floats prior to the parade. The Michigan Parade Commission presented a certificate to Adria highlighting her achievement.

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