

May 8, 2009

WESTWORD

WEB EXCLUSIVES

First ever art extravaganza to honor all art students

by Hira Malik
Staff Writer

Niles West will hold its inaugural art extravaganza on May 21 at 6:30 pm in the auditorium gallery and lobby for all the students who took art courses this year.

The two sponsors of the art extravaganza are fine arts teachers Barbara Wismer and John Zilewicz.

According to Wismer, the reason behind an extravaganza is simple.

“We think that it is important to celebrate the accomplishments of all our students. We have quite a few other art shows year round; however, for those we can only choose a few students. The art extravaganza is different because this is for all art students to display their work,” Wismer said.

Senior art student Lynn Choi agrees.

“I think [the art extravaganza] is a good opportunity for all the Niles West art students to display their art work throughout the school. It is a fun, casual way to show off all of what [the art students] have been working on throughout the year,” Choi said.

Zilewicz sees the art extravaganza as a way to honor the accomplishments of everyday students, not just those who belong to clubs or athletic teams.

“We do not have a banquet that closes our year. We wanted to do something special for all of our students who work hard in class, and this was the idea that we came up with,” Zilewicz said.

The fine arts teachers plan to make this an annual event open to art students, their families, friends and staff members

“We will send out a personalized invitation to the families of those enrolled in art. We also hand out invitations to all the students in art classes. From there, we invite all the teachers at West. The personalized invitations are standard to all of the art shows that [the art students] participate in,” Zilewicz said.

This event will also allow others to see art as an important department in this school, Zilewicz said.

“I think this is a really cool idea not only because it is nice to see our peers work, but it shows that it is not just sports in this school. [The event] will allow others to realize art means a lot too,” sophomore art student Josh Weintraub said.

Zilewicz has high hopes for the art extravaganzas to come.

“This is the first year that the art department is having an art extravaganza. This will be a trial and error event. Next year, we plan to take the extravaganza one step further with a lot of entertainment and to combine the event with other creative classes so that a lot is going on at once that revolves around the students’ art work,” Zilewicz said.



Paintings for the Art Extravaganza grace the gallery walls. Photo by Hira Malik