

## SPRING 2011 SPANISH AND ART TRIP TO NYC

Due in large part to the generosity of donors to the HPEF, 15 KCS Spanish and Art students made a Spring journey to New York City. The adventure included a bus ride to Albany, a train to NYC, many subway rides and much walking. Not to mention the sights! All the traveling in that short weekend was well worth the effort.

Students, many of whom had never been to the Big Apple, enjoyed a typical Yucatan beach lunch before touring China Town and Little Italy. Then they experienced "Fuerza Bruta" at the Daryl Roth Theatre at Union Square. The show, created by Diqui James of Buenos Aires, Argentina, has been described as an experience in which "... both performers and audience are immersed in an environment that floods the senses... where individual imagination soars." Wow! This was not the North Country! Saturday was rich with the treasures of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The Art students had prepared presentations on various important Spanish paintings. After learning from our "private docents", all the students were free to explore the collections on their own. The latter part of the day was filled with enjoying street performers and promenading through Central Park. The Spanish students had researched tapas as an example of Spanish food. That prepared them well for an authentic and tasty dinner at Lizarrán Restaurant, highlighted by enthusiastic Flamenco performers.

In addition to the research the students had done concerning the sites and restaurants, they were responsible for navigating the streets and subway of NYC to guide the group. In anticipation of the trip, the youngsters conducted a raffle and also paid a portion of the costs. The CADAHEMARK Foundation awarded an important grant to the effort. The teachers who organized the trip, Señora Tremblay, Señora Wilson and Ms. MacFadden, expressed their gratitude to HPEF and the other supporters for assuring the success of the venture.

## NEW WEATHER STATION

At the end of the 2010-2011 school year the science department applied for and was approved for the costs to replace the KCS weather station. The new station has arrived and is slated to be mounted back on the roof with a digital link to the earth science classroom. With the addition of this weather station, we will have the ability to monitor various weather conditions here at KCS in real time. The digital link has the ability to chart data and predict oncoming weather events as well as display the current phase of the moon. The data will be displayed on the new KCS webpage for viewing by anyone with an Internet connection. This new addition to our curriculum would not be possible without the generous donations associated with the High Peaks Education Foundation.

## A SENSE OF PLACE: CONTINUED

The broad theme of this project, a sense of place, brings into focus the gifts of the natural environment of the Adirondack High Peaks region and the role of humans within it. Students have explored the importance of wilderness preservation and the impact this has had on human activities. Students have discovered how the natural environment has functioned as a living partner in the development and history of recreation and industry, and the value of preserving this partnership for the enjoyment of future generations. The project promotes a sense of awareness and pride in the unique qualities of life in the Adirondacks. Additionally, the project promotes a sense of unity through the collaborative learning experience of the participants. Every member of the school community, including custodians, bus drivers, and cafeteria personnel, all students, faculty, administration, staff and the Board of Education have made tiles for the 7' by 13' mural.

The visual arts learning focuses on the elements of art and principles of design as applied to the overall composition of the piece and how the smaller details fit within that design. Students have also learned the process of creating tiles from clay, glazing, and installing them for the successful completion of a mosaic. Besides the visual art curriculum, other core curricular areas involved with the mural are 4th and 6th grade social studies, English language arts and science as well as the students in Living Environment, mostly 10th graders. Students in Digital Design class are documenting the project through digital media to share with the public.

A Sense of Place has been funded by the Adirondack Arts in Education Partnership that is administrated by the Depot Theatre in Westport. This granting organization helps bring working artists together with classroom teachers to accomplish projects that enrich the students' artistic, academic, and career awareness. Additional funding has come from High Peaks Education Foundation, Keene Central School Parent/Teacher Committee, East Branch Friends of the Arts, and generous private donors.

## GREECE & ITALY TRIP

14 Sophomores and juniors provided their own resources, fundraised for a year, and received a generous donation from the HPEF in order to make the second KCS trip to Greece and Italy in the summer of 2011. The group toured Florence, Vatican City, Rome, Capri, Sorrento, Pompei, Delphi and Athens. Museums, historical sites, walking tours, bus tours, train tours, and boat tours day & night gave the students memorable history, geography, art and literature experiences.



## A SENSE OF PLACE: CERAMIC MURAL PROJECT BRINGS ALL OF KCS TOGETHER

For this school-wide project, titled A Sense of Place, students have worked with ceramic artist Sue Burdick Young, Keene Central School art teacher Cheryl MacFadden, 4th grade teacher Chad Filipski, and high school science teacher Mary Werner to create a mosaic on the outside main entry wall of our K-12 school. The elements of the mural tie into the curricula of multiple classrooms and explore a sense of place not only through the representation of the living environment of the Adirondack High Peaks region of New York State, but also through visual references to our local history and symbols of the local culture. The project culminated in an unveiling and presentation by students on June 23, 2011. *Continued on Back*

## TASK FORCE STUDYING AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM FOR KCS

In September the Board of Education commissioned a task force to investigate the creation of an International Student Program for KCS. Modeled after the very successful program in Newcomb, NY, the program would bring a few students from other countries into our town to spend a year as students in the high school grades. The motivation behind the proposed program is to enrich the educational experience at KCS by connecting KCS students with students from other countries and to better prepare them to live in the global society they will be entering. The hope is that the presence of international students would also enrich the community at large. The international students would live with host families within the community who would receive a stipend to defray extra costs. The program may need assistance from HPEF during the startup phase but will be entirely self-funded once operational. A number of current and former HPEF Board members are serving on the task force. A decision is expected within a few months and, if given the go ahead by the Board of Education, the first students would arrive in September 2012.

## KCS TRIP NEWS

The KCS Spanish Department has begun planning for the next Spanish trip. We have led three trips to NYC and now we're excited about our third adventure to Spain in the summer of 2013. This time the 10 Spanish students will do some touring, but the major focus will be studying the language. It is early in the planning stages but we anticipate some time in Madrid, day trips to Avila and La Alberca, and 5 days of classes. We're investigating home stays for our week in Salamanca. We expect to work hard, see amazing historical sights and have mucho fun.

As in the past, students will pay a portion of the trip expenses and conduct fundraising. The HPEF has already indicated support for this effort. ¡Muchas gracias!



We made the Ausable Club because it brings back memories of Capture The Flag during the summer and ATIS. To us it's cool to know that someone who comes to or visits Keene Central School will see something that we made that is permanent. We liked working together.  
**Brittany Guerin and Anna Kowanko, 12th Grade (Ausable Club)**



*We like to think of the mosaic as a metaphor for Keene Central School. All the pieces are quite wonderful by themselves, but together they create something that's pretty magnificent.*

On the Keene Central School mural I made the Holt House at Marcy Field in the heart of our community. I made this piece because I believe it distinguishes Keene and Keene Valley... A part of me will be forever in this community and always stay with the school. I liked making the mural because it brought together everyone in the school together to make a masterpiece...  
**Amanda Boyle, 12th Grade ((Holt House))**



For the mural I made animal tiles because I love the wildlife in our area. It means a lot to have those in the mural because it shows how one piece of art is connected to many other people's artwork all in one mural. I think this project really brings the community together.  
**Megan Hall, 11th Grade (deer)**

I made a blue jay. I loved the process of designing, creating, and painting. When the mural was complete and I saw the blue jay in the branches of a large tree, I felt so proud of what I had made. The tile reminds me of home because whenever I see blue jays, I know I'm in the Adirondacks.  
**Torey Patenaude, 11th Grade (blue jay)**

I made a bobcat in the KCS mural. I've always been fond of animals and the outdoors. Many people were working on tiles at the same time and this really gave a feeling of community, which Keene has always been about.  
**Hannah McCabe, 11th Grade (bobcat)**

I made the lean-to for the school mural because I think it is very representative of the Adirondacks and our community. It means a lot to me to have a tile in the mural because it means I was part of something at the school and in the community that will last and make people happy. The entire mural makes me think of home because of all the buildings in our town.  
**Emma Gothner, 12th Grade (lean-to)**



I made a purple dragonfly on the KCS mural. I made the dragonfly because I like dragonflies. They are amazing insects. The mural makes me think of home because at my house I have mountains, a river, and lots of things in the mural, including dragonflies. Thank you for donating to our project.  
**Nora Porter, 4th Grade (dragonfly)**

In the mural at Keene Central School I made a cricket. It was nice to see my insect in the mural. I was honored to participate in something as amazing as the mural. What I loved about making the tile was seeing it blend with the whole mural. I would like to thank all who helped out with the mural and helped make it happen.  
**Caitlyn Lopez, 4th Grade (cricket)**