



Mad Science – Up, Up and Away!

In March, this Mad Science Special Event program focused on specific scientific principles related to air and air pressure. “The typical grade school student might begin to yawn at the mere thought of an hour spent discussing air...but that is the beauty of this special event. Even the science of air can be FUN when presented in the Mad Science way.”

Ben Franklin, Live!

Ben Franklin, Live! (aka Christopher Lowell) came to the Vinalhaven School on March 21 and 22. Christopher Lowell is a renowned portrayer of Ben Franklin’s life, philosophy, accomplishments and place in American history. The students were very engaged! Check out the website for more information:

<http://www.benfranklinlive.com/home.aspx>



Chris Clarke, Etching workshop

Vinalhaven artist Chris Clarke worked with students in his studio in March teaching them the process of etching. Students had the opportunity to work through the etching process and all that entails with wax grounds, acid baths, & printing. They each produced 2 plates, one implementing the soft ground process and another using the hard ground process. It was great to make such a positive community connection with a local artist that students may see around town.

Poetry Slam with Port Veritas

To celebrate national poetry month (April) and to enrich Vinalhaven School’s middle and high school English classrooms through experiential learning, Port Veritas was here for a week-long poetry workshop and poetry slam. Rather than just read and study poetry, middle and high school students were able to experience and observe how poetry is both written and performed for different audiences. The end-of-week poetry slam hosted by one of Port Veritas’s “Slam Masters” at the Harbor Gawker provided students with an opportunity to perform for a public presentation.



Contra Dance with Chrissy Fowler

In December, students in K-12 had the opportunity to learn about the traditions of contra dancing, a dance form that was popular in New England and on Vinalhaven during the late 19th and 20th centuries. The culmination of the week-long residency ended with a school/community contra-dance and potluck supper. A grand time was had by all!

Counting Corvids with Erica Hansen

November brought the Vinalhaven high school students the integrated exploration of Counting Corvids into relationship between crows and humans through history, natural science, literature, and philosophy. The residency was designed and led by artist Erica Hansen. Each class participated in a crow watch, and created a field guide to local crow behavior and sightings. They then created ink-blot painting studies of crows, and enjoyed a creative writing session investigating the meaning of various historical Counting Crow rhymes while creating their own. The project culminated with a presentation of a book for the school library, as well as a mural depicting a selection of student work and writing.



Leaps of Imagination

LEAPS of IMAGINATION brings local artists into Maine public elementary schools to ignite children's imaginations and engage them in new ways of thinking and creating. Within the context of literature and social justice themes, students work on long-term, integrated art projects directly linked to their curriculum.



Vinalhaven Press Corps with Abigail Trafford

Grade 4 & 5 became the Vinalhaven Press Corps for the week of October 12 – 16. Together with veteran journalist and PIE board member Abbie Trafford, and teachers Pat Paquet and Robb Warren, they created Island Week, a news magazine. The students interviewed important members of the community, wrote articles, essays and editorials, took photos, created puzzles and comics...and had a great time doing it!

