

BOL RIINY RETURNS TO VINALHAVEN

Bol Riiny is a Sudanese refugee who has come to the United States, gone to college in NY, and is now based in Boston, working to build a school in his former country. He gives talks about his experiences and was last here in 2008. He made quite an impression on the students then where they got a chance to ask questions and learn about his life. This visit served as a culminating experience for the middle school immigration class. They have read about immigrants and refugees in addition to watching films, but meeting and interacting with someone who has his own stories to tell was an invaluable experience!



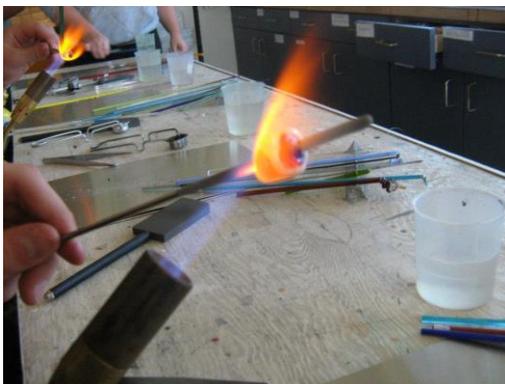
CAREER DAY

A Career fair served as the annual kick off for the Knowledge Quest program, where this year the theme was Career Exploration. Students were encouraged to explore careers as part of their process. This was an opportunity to explore ideas beyond careers to which they are exposed on Vinalhaven. Professionals were invited from a wide range of fields to come and speak to the students in a panel. Then, the students broke into smaller groups to do more in depth workshops with the professionals. This fit into the schools goals of engagement and rigor for students and was a great success.



GOODS, SERVICES & HEALTH WORKSHOP

1st and 2nd grade students learned about goods, services & community workers in social studies. They also learned about health and nutrition in science. As a culminating activity, community members were invited to offer a center about each of these topics on April 11, 2012. Kim Radley talked about Carver's Market and the types of goods & services that they supply for our community while Gabe McPhail from the ARC Cafe talked to the students about the importance of nutrition & a healthy diet. She also discussed the ARC & the goods and services it supplies to our community. At the end, the students cooked a healthy, yummy snack.



GLASS BEAD WORKSHOP WITH ALISON THIBAUT

High school students were introduced to a technique known as flame-working, the process of sculpting glass rods over a flame to create beads and other small glass objects. "I love showing anyone who is interested what I do and how I do it, but I have never 'taught' ... so I didn't know what to expect. WOW - all the students were eager to get started. Their engagement with the process and their willingness and enthusiasm as they tried all sorts of new creations was overwhelming."
Alison Thibault



CLIMBING EQUIPMENT FOR OUR GYM



PIE was awarded a grant from Ronald McDonald House Charities. With those funds, we were able to install several climbing elements in the Pratt Gymnasium. From elementary school through high school, VHS students are participating in team building exercises and trust activities, gaining confidence, and learning new skills!

We are so pleased to be able to help support such a fantastic program and thank the Ronald McDonald House for their generous contribution to the fitness and health of our Vinalhaven students!



TECH WORKSHOPS

A series of workshops were held covering various aspects of the stage. From hair, makeup, lighting, sound, set design to stage management; we covered it all. What a fantastic, fun and helpful sequence of trainings!



ABBY TRAFFORD JOURNALISM WORKSHOP

The middle school students had the wonderful opportunity to work with Abby Trafford - author, journalist and public speaker. This residency provided an opportunity for them to work with a professional journalist, learning about gathering, processing, and dissemination of news, and information related to news, to an audience by working as a group to create their own journalistic pieces.