PAPERMAKING RESIDENCY WITH RICHARD LEE

Richard Lee, paper maker and journalist, visited the Vinalhaven School and worked with grades 3-8 making paper and discussing journaling.

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BOL RIINY VISIT

Bol Riiny is from Sudan, where a civil war killed over 2 million and displaced over 27,000 people, mostly young boys. He has spent the past eight years living in the United States, first in Massachusetts and currently in New York where he is attending college. In response to a request from Middle School teacher Amy Palmer, who is teaching a unit on immigration as part of her social studies curriculum, Vinalhaven School Enrichment was able to bring Bol out to speak to students in grades 5-12, as well as give an evening presentation to the community in Smith Hokanson Memorial Hall. Bol made fast friends with his kindness and humor that ran throughout his stories of surviving the terrible tragedy he faced. He hopes to return to Vinalhaven soon!

LIBBY MARCUS, MASK MAKING WORKSHOP

Mask making is part of the drama curriculum for students in grades K-5. To help her teach students about masks, Irene Dennis requested a residency with professional Mask maker, Libby Marcus of Portland. Libby spent two days on Vinalhaven and worked with students in grades 1-5 during the school day. She also ran an afterschool workshop for Middle School and High School students and an evening plaster mask workshop for adults. Grades 3-4-5 are studying insects, so Libby guided the students through a fun activity that produced ladybugs, flies, doodlebugs, bees and much more! To fit in with the rainforest studies of grades 1&2, Libby had the students make colorful rainforest bird masks with torn tissue paper and lots of feathers!
WOODCARVING RESIDENCY
Camden National Bank recently awarded PIE $2,000 for a traditional woodworking residency with artists Lucas Zee and Diana Cherbuliez. Lucas and Diana will work with students in grades K-12 at the Vinalhaven School to use traditional woodcarving techniques to carve a complete apple tree using wood harvested from land on Vinalhaven. The completed project will be an installation piece that will be shared with the extended Vinalhaven community for years to come.

POETRY FESTIVAL
PIE is thrilled to announce that we have been awarded a grant as part of the New Century Community Program made possible by a matching grant from the Maine Humanities Council and the Maine Arts Commission. The award, in the amount of $1,000, will be used by the Vinalhaven School Enrichment Committee to fund a workshop with a slam poet as part of the Poetry Festival that runs from April 28 to May 2. Grades 6-12 will work with Hashim Allah and his bass accompanist Duane Edwards to listen to, critique, write and perform slam poetry. There will be a live Poetry Alive! slam at the Harbor Gawker on Tuesday April 29 at 6:00pm. Other jazzy special events will include parking lot chalk poetry, Burma Shave signs and an all-school assembly; the whole town will know that these kids are rhyming!

MICHAEL TOUGIAS, author of Fatal Forecast: An incredible true tale of disaster and survival at sea.

Michael Tougias will talk to high school English classes about writing this “dramatic account of what happened to a pair of small fishing boats caught in the path of the devastating November 1980 storm off of the coast of Cape Cod.”

THE MILKWEED PUPPET THEATER
Nancy Tyndall will bring the Milkweed puppet theater to Vinalhaven to work with students in grades K-5 as part of the drama curriculum. Working closely with Irene Dennis, Nancy will help the children select characters from a story and craft their own puppets. She will teach them how to use their puppets to show movements, emotions and tell a story.

INTER-ISLAND ARTS FESTIVAL 2008
As part of their Island Community Fund grant program, the Island Institute recently awarded a grant of $1,000 to PIE to help fund the Fox Island Arts Festival on May 29th this year. In 2004 Vinalhaven School hosted the first inter-island arts festival with attendance from 4 island schools! The festival cycles through every 4 years so that high school students participate once during their high school career. With performances, art shows, workshops and more, it is a wonderful celebration of the art the students have been studying all year! This year the festival will be hosted by North Haven.