Preparing nearly thirty art pieces for competition and display is no small feat! Sister Peg Pilewski, Program Director and long-time NAH art teacher Mary Lubowicki matted and framed photographs; paintings in watercolor, acrylic, and tempera; charcoal and pencil drawings; and fabric art pieces. The subject matter for these submissions covers a wide range of topics including self-portraits, abstract art, a drawing of a toaster, and a glorious sunset.

Mary Lubowicki and Sister Peg Pilewski

A total of thirty-two entries by twenty-three children were submitted to the Presque Isle Women’s Club Art Contest 2012, the Mercyhurst Prep Art Contest for 7th and 8th graders, “Celebrating the Possibilities” held by the Barber National Institute, and the National Educational Ceramics Exhibit.

Mary Lubowicki and Sister Peg Pilewski

Proud parent smiles were abundant at December’s Open House and January’s Music Recital. The Open House featured an extensive display of children’s art work and performances from the dance, music and poetry classes. The enthusiasm of the beginners, the determination of the “middle children” and the growing skill of the older group gave testimony to the fine dance instruction they have received. Two of our poetry students brought the audience to surprised laughter as they performed their interpretation of several short poems. On a more serious note, the Girls Write Class read some of their original poetry. Music presentations completed the stage performance with piano, drum, violin and cello pieces. There was even a brief fashion show as students in the new sewing class modeled the skirts they had made. Throughout the building, drawing, painting, mosaics, clay, carving, paper craft, fabric art, digital photography, airbrush, and quilting pieces covered the walls and tables with hundreds of samples of the children’s art work. Some of these pieces are shown in the Art Gallery Section of our webpage (www.neighborhoodarthouse.org).

Music performance took the spotlight at the winter Music Recital where twenty-five students who receive individual lessons at the Art House gave both ensemble and solo performances. Whether beginners, second or third year students, all gave their best effort to perform well. Clearly these children were well on their way in developing their music talents. With both events, parents and guests were quick to acknowledge the tremendous opportunity that the Art House provides for neighborhood children to develop their talents and explore the arts. The Neighborhood Art House is grateful to the Lynn Gasche Levinson Memorial for Piano, a Clarence E. Byers Music Performance Grant through ArtsErie, and Erie Insurance Group whose support makes these events possible.

The world needs dreamers, and the world needs doers. But above all, the world needs dreamers who do.
— Sarah Ban Breathnach

Eleanor Roosevelt

A UNIQUE FEATURE of the Art and Sole Run/Walk is provided by the children who attend the Neighborhood Art House. Their donated art pieces are the prizes to be awarded in all the various age divisions for both running and walking. We know of no other similar event that has prizes so well-related to the organization that is holding the event.
GRANT SUPPORTS NEW CLASS

A $2,000 grant from Ronald McDonald House Charities of Erie, Inc. is funding the purchase of five new sewing machines, fabric, thread, tools and notions for a new Art House offering entitled Fabric, Thread and Yarn. During the fall session three girls made skirts with a borrowed sewing machine. “With these new machines each child will be able to get real time actually stitching instead of spending so much time waiting for their turn. I know they will be thrilled!” said class teacher Debbie Sementelli.

Celebrate Poetry

In preparation for POETRY DAY ON APRIL 19, students at the Art House will have the opportunity to choose a poem to memorize and perform. Chairpersons Marge Podolsky, Tina McCracken and Laurel Taft assisted by the Hooked on Books! readers and faculty will return and share their projects with one another. 

All the children will then be assigned a poem at the NAH Open House.

APRIL IS POETRY MONTH – HOW WILL YOU CELEBRATE?

THE STORY OF BLUE

by Precious Melendez

Blue moves like the beautiful sea
Blue remembers to light up the sky
Blue wears a spring hat
Blue is a box of magical dreams
Blue has a pocket of sadness

New website
www.neighborhoodarthouse.org

VISIT OUR NEW WEBPAGE to learn what’s happening, to view a picture gal- lery of art work done by the children, to join in the excitement of performance via video clips, to read about our mission, pur- pose, and history, and to donate on-line.

This website will be a good way for you to introduce others to the Art House—and we hope that you do!

WISH LIST

We offer our sincere thanks for the wonderful response we had to the Wish List in the December issue of Neighbor To Neighbor. Here are a few items that would benefit our students:

• Air dry clay for clay classes
• Photo paper for digital photography classes

DONOR CORNER

NAH programs for inner-city children are possible because loyal and generous don- ors recognize that “Just living is not enough… one must have sunshine, freedom, and a little flower.” (Hans Christian Andersen).

In addition to all who sponsor Taste of the Arts and Art & Sole and are acknowl- edged for their contributions which begin on March 19. Criteria for judging include diction, memorization, and expression.

Please support the Neighborhood Art House and help us fulfill our mission of enriching the lives of inner-city children by sponsoring your own Wish List! For more information please contact us at 455-5508 or at program@neighborhoodarthouse.org

POSITION AVAILABLE

We are seeking a guitar teacher for the after school program. If interested, please contact us at 455-5508 or at program@neighborhoodarthouse.org

Khang points out newsletter covers from Penn State Erie, the Behrend College and the Erie Credit Union. Both featured Neighborhood Art House participants.

APRIL 19, students at the Art House will have the opportunity to choose a poem to memorize and perform. Chairpersons Marge Podolsky, Tina McCracken and Laurel Taft assisted by the Hooked on Books! readers will help the children prepare for their reci- tations which begin on March 19. Criteria for judging include diction, memorization, and expression.

ART HOUSE FEATURED

All the children will then be assigned to classes with a poetry-themed art or per- formance project. At the end of the day, stu- dents and faculty will return and share their projects with one another.

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