

## **Dixie students benefit from Arts Enrichment classes**

Dixie Elementary Magnet School hosted a big finale to its six-week after-school Arts Enrichment Program. At Arts Night, students demonstrated their freshly honed talents in music, dance, drama and visual art.

“We’re really focusing on how the arts affect the students’ lives beyond school. We hope they take what they learned and experiment at home,” said art teacher Rachel Losch. “Our parents are very supportive and believe the arts are essential to their child’s education.”

In fact, parents were the impetus behind bringing arts teachers to Dixie for the enrichment classes, which were available for grades 2-5. Volunteers came from the University of Kentucky’s Art Museum, Central Music Academy, Fayette County 4H and the Lexington Children’s Theatre. Parents also pitched in.

Jo Stone, whose daughter is a kindergartener, led the sculpture class. “Wood sculpture is just not something elementary kids get to do,” she said of her choice of medium. “I feel strongly about building three-dimensional objects because it wires your brain to do 3-D problem-solving.”

Fourth-grader Grace Pentecost had two sculptures on display, “Flying Fish” and “Hearts of Fire.” The latter was a collaboration with classmate Breanna Langenek. “You can see where the fire is and hearts and curves,” Grace explained as she turned the sculpture. “You can also flip it around and just see fire.”

The first week of class, Stone’s charges made bent-willow sculptures, creating heart shapes with wood collected after the ice storm. Their next project was wall-mounted box sculptures. The class culminated with the freestanding 3-D pieces, made with discarded furniture parts and other wood scraps donated by local businesses.

Another highlight at the March 26 Arts Night was the display of glitter-and-satin shoebox coffins housing mini Egyptian mummies made of plaster cast. Other activities included jewelry-making, baton twirling, Native American drumming, handbells, West African ceremonial dance, clogging, a steel drum band, dramatic plays, book-making and knitting.