

From ART to SCIENCE: Igniting Stellar Imaginations



"Sun and North Star"
by Brandenisha (5) & Ebony (4)
YOUTH IN NEED, St. Louis, MO

"Sometimes in the morning when I come to school, I can see the sun and the North Star.

The North Star is the brightest star and never moves. Sailors ask him for directions."

"Imagination is more important than knowledge."
Albert Einstein

The Joint Institute for Nuclear Astrophysics (JINA) takes Einstein's famous quote seriously with its educational outreach program for young children titled "From ART to SCIENCE: Igniting Stellar Imaginations." Through this program, JINA provides books and other materials which point young children (pre-school through elementary school) towards the wonders of the heavens. We then purchase fine art materials as directed by the art teacher and the children create beautiful artwork that we exhibit and publish. Additionally, JINA has adapted this project for one-day events like the Children's Fine Art Festival in Mishawaka, Indiana and the NSCL lab open house at MSU.

Participating teachers have embraced the project with tremendous enthusiasm. One teacher had this to say:

Who knows how this experience - - - making a connection between art and science - - - may affect the children? Perhaps we are encouraging (in some small way) some of the children to pursue a life-long interest in Science (or ART), with our efforts. I always think of my interactions with children in those terms - - - will something I do, help a child realize a passion in life?

Since 2003, this project has reached over 700 children in three states and has produced a beautiful collection of artwork, some of which is on permanent exhibit in the lobby of the National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory at MSU.

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"Stained Glass Masterpiece"
Kennedy Primary Academy



"Splatter Stars"
Kennedy Primary Academy



"Stars of Bennett Woods"
Bennett Woods Elementary

Participating Schools &
Centers in 2005-2006:

Kennedy Primary Academy
South Bend, IN

Bennett Woods Elementary
Okemos, MI

Wardcliff Elementary
Okemos, MI

South Chicago Art Center
Chicago, IL

St. Joseph County Parks
Department, South Bend, IN