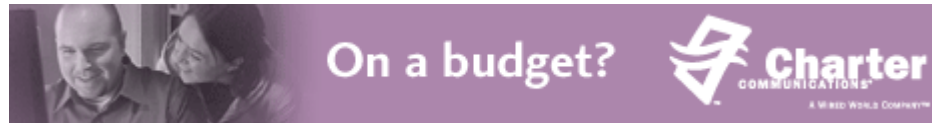




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Newport Middle School students take part in lanterns for peace project

Nicholas Clark, left, and Jerad Greenawald, talk over Greenawald's entry in the Words for Peace calligraphy exhibit. The students are in Kim Taylor's Newport Middle School eighth grade language arts class. The art project is under the direction of volunteer Christie Burns, a calligrapher. (Photos by Susan T. Wehren)



By Susan T. Wehren

Of the News-Times

Students at Newport Middle School are taking part in a project that could bring them international notoriety.

The activity is called Words for Peace and is the brainchild of Thomas Ingmire, a nationally known calligrapher, who started the project in March in response to the "war in Iraq and the ongoing U.S. defiance of the global community," according to the wordsforpeace.org website.

Leading the project at NMS is Christie Burns, a Newport calligrapher who has submitted her own work for Ingmire's exhibit and is a former student of his.

The project is designed for participants to make a "visual statement about world peace," according to the website.

Art work is done on 20- by 5-inch strips of paper. The choice of paper, ink and colors are up to the artists. In Kim Taylor's eighth grade language arts class at NMS, students are using supplies provided by Burns.

The finished strips of paper will be collected and made into lanterns that Burns plans to hang in the school entry before sending them on to San Francisco, Calif., where they will join Ingmire's collection.

The Friends of Calligraphy exhibit, Kalligraphia X, has been



shown at the San Francisco Public Library. Ingmire has at least 750 entries from nearly 30 nations.

The choice of lanterns for the exhibit was made because they are "a symbol not only of the desire to bring light into a world, which seems so increasingly dark, but also of the challenge which faces us to become more enlightened in and about the world," according to the website.

Burns, whose work is exhibited throughout Oregon, would like to extend the project to other schools. Persons interested may contact her at cburns@actionnet.net.

For information about Ingmire and his project, check the website or write to Thomas Ingmire, 1040A Filbert, San Francisco, Calif. 64133.



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