



Casey Art News



Casey Named As a National Blue Ribbon School!

JPSD



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Jackson Public Schools held a ceremony celebrating news that Casey Elementary was named a 2015 National Blue Ribbon School. JPS Superintendent Dr. Cedrick Gray, Elementary School Chief Academic Officer Dr. Michelle King, former principal Leslie Coleman, and current principal Rhoda Yoder joined students, parents, teachers, and the community in the school-wide celebration program. The National Blue Ribbon Schools program distinguishes and honors schools for helping students achieve at very high levels and for making significant progress in closing the achievement gap. Casey embraces the Whole Schools Initiative that uses the arts as a vehicle for promoting high quality

instruction and learning for all students. The first time Casey was named a National Blue Ribbon School was in 1998. This year, it is the only Mississippi School to achieve the honor.

"Casey teachers, students, and parents are 100 percent focused on the work of improving student achievement," said former principal Leslie Coleman. "At Casey, we've had a very strong belief that the integration of the arts into our academic subjects addresses the multiple learning styles of our students and makes learning more meaningful. We've managed to close the achievement gap at Casey, and these things together are what makes Casey a National Blue Ribbon School."

"I have had barely two months to learn to know Casey, yet I already see clearly why Casey is a Blue Ribbon school—amazing teachers who give consistent, high quality instruction, the blending of arts and academics, a culture that embraces every child, an effective intervention system, and tremendous parent and community support," said Principal Rhoda Yoder.

"I congratulate Casey Elementary School for being recognized as the only 2015 National Blue Ribbon School in the state of Mississippi," said JPS Superintendent Dr. Cedrick Gray. "The academic performance in Casey Elementary is the result of focused students, teachers, education leaders and parents working together toward the same goal of high student achievement."

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced the 335 schools named National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2015, calling upon these educational leaders to share their secrets of success with schools, families, and communities. The National Blue Ribbon Schools will be honored at a recognition ceremony on November 9-10, 2015, in Washington, D.C. Each school will receive an award plaque and a flag as symbols of their accomplishments.



Casey has been designated as a Model Whole School and receives support from the Mississippi Arts Commission, which in turn is supported by funding from the Mississippi State Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.



National Blue Ribbon Award Announcement



Kindergartners greeted school visitors to the National Blue Ribbon Award Announcement. They cheered and waved their handmade blue ribbons in the air.

(Upper right) Superintendent Dr. Cedrick Gray speaks to the crowd and officially recognizes the school as a Blue Ribbon school.

(Lower right) Some of Ms. Trotter's fifth graders create a tableau with Ms. Trotter and Mr. Howell to illustrate their interpretation of the word "ambition." Arts integrated activities like these are part of what helps Casey students to excel by connecting to ideas through the arts.



First Grade Class Play



Ms. Kling's first grade class put on an outdoor performance of the play "Cat and Rat." Students contributed in various ways to the show, with some making and manipulating scenery, some manipulating paper puppets of the characters, and others seated across the front of the stage who narrated the scenes of the story.



Something Beautiful



My something beautiful is my turtle. He is my best friend. He is fun to play with. My turtle is a red-eared slider. My turtle likes to eat and sleep. His name is King Turtle. This is my something beautiful.

By Dedrek Walker



My house is gray and beautiful. It is filled with love and food. My favorite place in my house is my bedroom. In my bedroom, I have a TV, toy, bed, and a chair. I have fun in my house with my brother and me playing basketball.

By Nathanael Wallace



The Music in Me

My something beautiful is singing. Singing is my favorite thing to do. I like to sing "Let It Go" from the movie *Frozen*. I love to sing because it's musical. That's why singing is the most beautiful thing to me.

By Amaya Gilbert



Butterflies Are Beautiful

After reading the book *Something Beautiful*, I think butterflies are beautiful to me.

Butterflies are insects. Adult butterflies have large brightly colored wings. Butterflies have up to nine pair of legs and four wings.

I think butterflies are beautiful because of all the different colors, shapes, and sizes. Butterflies can fly anywhere they want to go and eat flowers.

By Jacob Ulrich

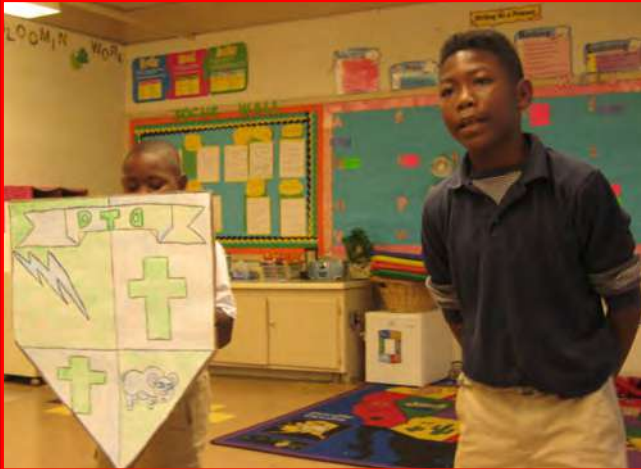
We have heard that beauty is in the eye of the beholder and that each person has their own ideas about what is beautiful and why. Second graders were inspired by the book *Something Beautiful* to find something that was beautiful to them. Their choices, presented with creative collage illustrations and expressive words, help us to recognize that beauty is all around us.

Making the school environment even more fun, the Kindergarten and First Grade teachers have come up with some really creative animal-shaped doorways. Each door represents a different class of animals including a reptile, a bird, an insect, a mammal, and (not pictured) a fish.





The fifth graders have been reading Shakespeare's *Macbeth* in Ms. Trotter's classroom as they prepare to perform the play in October. The action of the play is set during the Middle Ages, so the students have learned more about that era of history. Each student created a medieval coat of arms to represent themselves with symbols and colors that have special personal meanings.



Corderius Smith is a former Casey student who visited the school recently to see some of his favorite teachers, including Ms. Daschbach. Corderius first became interested in art as a young Casey student. He continued to study art in high school and at Jackson State University. He is now working towards a Master's degree in Graphic Arts at the California Institute of the Arts in Los Angeles. Corderius showed some of his artwork (strongly influenced by Pop Art) to Ms. Daschbach's kindergarten students.





Puppeteer Lesley Sheblak poses with one of the Japanese puppets.

Peter Zapletal's Puppet Arts Theatre presented two performances of the Japanese folktale *The Adventures of Momotaro* at Casey on September 29. The shows were made possible by grants from the Mississippi Arts Commission, the Casey PTA, the Japan-America Society of Mississippi, and the National Endowment for the Arts. The shows were performed with the puppeteers in the full view of the audience, manipulating Japanese-styled Bunraku rod puppets. Dressed all in black, the puppeteers almost disappear into the background as the puppets take on a life of their own. Peter Zapletal, is an award-winning producer and a former puppeteer and animator for Mississippi Educational Television. Since 1968, his Puppet Arts Theater has thrilled children of all ages and all across the country with magical and exciting theatrical experiences.



Special Events for September-November 2015

Friday, September 18

College Spirit Day!

Thursday, September 24

Parents and students enjoy **Make and Take Night** at the evening PTA meeting.

Tuesday, September 29

The Puppet Arts Theatre presents two puppet show performances of the Japanese folktale, *The Adventures of Momotaro* in the Library for all students.

Wednesday, September 30

Superintendent Gray announces that Casey has won the **National Blue Ribbon Award** at a school assembly.

Monday-Friday, Oct. 12-15

National School Lunch Week

Wednesday, October 14

Reading Fair Projects due.

Thursday, October 22

At the 6:00 p.m. PTA meeting, the fifth graders perform their version of *The Tragedy of Macbeth* by William Shakespeare.

Friday, October 30

Parent-Teacher Conference Day

Tuesday, November 17

The **Model Whole School Pop-Up Exhibit** featuring Casey student artwork at the Mississippi Museum of Art from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 19

10:30 a.m. **Dance Class Presentation** by second graders in the Library, followed the Second Grade Thanksgiving Feast.

6:00 p.m. At the PTA meeting, third graders will present an arts-integrated program on the *Wonders of the Rain Forest*.

Our new principal, Ms. Yoder, makes a point every morning to remind students that Casey is a school "where the arts make us smart." We do believe our focus on teaching with and through the arts makes our school special and allows students to discover inner talents and interests that help them learn and relate better to the world.



VISUAL ARTS

Early in the year, Ms. Walker reminds all our students about the five arts disciplines (including Creative Writing), and she asks them to draw themselves showing their favorite ways to be an artist. We want our students to understand that all of them are artists in different ways, and they can use those arts skills throughout their lives to address challenges and enrich their communities.



MUSIC



DRAMA



DANCE



To help parents understand the process of “arts integration,” we invite them to “Make and Take Night” at the September PTA meeting. Here they work alongside their children to make meaningful art that explores different topics in the classroom curriculum. This year, the kindergartners made self-portraits from a single continuous line; the first graders made paper bag puppets for “The Three Little Pigs”; the second graders created original versions of graphic text features like charts, captions, and tables of contents; the third graders made ocean animals in the style of Eric Carle’s collages and attached them to their hallway mural of a coral reef; fourth graders used awareness of color and value to express the mathematical place value of specific numbers; and the fifth graders drew from their studies of the Middle Ages and potential and kinetic energy to build miniature working catapults.



College Spirit Day

On College Spirit Day, Miss JSU, Charence Higgins, visited each class to inform students of the importance of going to college.



These third grade girls (below) invented and performed their own inspirational song and dance.



Second graders (below) energized everyone with their college cheers.



Ms. Walker and Ms. Rivera did an excellent job of organizing events for College Spirit Day.



The members of the Murrah Boys' Ensemble sang and spoke to students about the skills that will help them in high school and beyond.

Getting Smart Through the Arts!

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