

Teacher's Message

As I frantically try to write this and distribute it before it is officially no longer December, I realize 2016 is nearly over. This year held many unexpected and tragic things- deaths (Bowie, Prince, Carrie

Fisher, Debbie Reynolds, AND Gene Wilder!?), financial burdens, my two, once peaceful dogs, fighting for no good reason!, an unbelievable presidential election that divided our country, and an overwhelming amount of senseless violence all over the world. I also know that some wonderfully beautiful things have also happened this year. I got engaged to an amazing man, Chelsea Clinton came to our school, I am closer to getting my Master's in art ed, and I have seen the It's Your World project and my students flourish in ways that I could have never imagined. The students that help me to keep this going are more like a family with each other now. We had a

fantastic Christmas party before the school vacation and there was music, games, gift exchanges, and homemade food by them (who knew my football player could make such a mean lasagna!?). When I looked around at them laughing, chasing each other, and enjoying our meal it genuinely made me content. Stopping to acknowledge these moments is what it's all about, I think. It may have seemed like a simple gathering, if observed from an unaware outsider, but to me it was so much more. I saw it with the eyes of someone that knew all of these people hadn't known one another at the start of the year. I saw it with the eyes of someone that realized





what drew us together was a common goal- the goal of trying to make a difference in this world the only way that some of know how. I didn't force any of these students to take the IYW class, to help with any cleanups, or to try to figure out how to make artwork out of what we found. They all did this on their own. They came to the weekly meetings, helped willingly on their weekends, and signed up for my class because there was something inside of them that wanted to help in some way. I saw this when I looked at all of them together that day after school. I saw all of this with the eyes of someone that was pleased to see them together, smiling. It made me very proud to know how hard they've worked and it made me happy to see them smile, because I know how fleeting moments like this can be. I think that we all need to remember that, no matter what this upcoming year brings our way, there will be good moments like this, despite the bad ones that will try to weigh us down. When you find yourself in one of those good moments, see it for

what it is, savor it, and allow yourself to be happy. Goodbye 2016, hello 2017! I hope you all had a

wonderful
Christmas and
**HAPPY NEW
YEAR!!!!**



If you have been wanting to help us, but have been unable to, no fear- **there are plenty more opportunities to be a part of this!** We still need a great deal of help washing and sorting items on Saturdays. If this is something

you're interested in, please e-mail me. We will also need you to spread the word to your families and friends about the art workshops and contests we're going to offer all over the city.

Thank you so much to everyone that has gotten involved and kept us going.

For more details about our project:

Follow our newsletter * Facebook: fb.me/ItsYourWorldEP * Twitter: [@ZurestCandie](https://twitter.com/ZurestCandie) and [@ItsyourworldEDH](https://twitter.com/ItsyourworldEDH)

Art Sale!

We had such a successful art sale in December. If you'd like to be up-to-date with our happenings, please like us on Facebook (fb.me/ItsYourWorldEP). The items that really "flew off of the shelves" were the lightbulb planters, wine bottle planters, magazine earrings, and the vile necklaces filled with crushed beer bottle glass. The high school students, surprisingly, loved the soda bottle pins. We really made a lot of items and promoted it before the Christmas break in hopes that people would purchase for the holidays. It worked! We nearly sold out. Some people have asked whether we will continue to make and sale more items- the answer is YES! We can do custom orders, as well. Just drop us a line for any special requests and we'd be happy to accommodate. Getting more money in our account for future projects was great, but our main goal in all of this is to show people just how great recycled items can be. With a little bit of creativity and some items that are already lying around the house, you can make amazing art and functional objects. Think twice before discarding these things and sending them to the landfill.



Trashy Art

By: Dillon Schneider

On a planet as perfect as ours, people sometimes forget just how delicate our world really is. People litter and we continue to create huge landfills. In the midst of all this waste, we sometimes find artistic geniuses that revolutionize the art world. Art out of trash that portrays beauty and elegant sweetness to the eyes is what this month's artist creates. Bordalo II, a young artist from Lisbon Portugal, takes car parts and trash from junk yards, drills them into walls, and makes amazing graffiti-style murals out of said debris. He adds splashes of paint to make these brilliant pieces of art come to life. Such captivating, prepossessing pieces of craft are the size of building walls, with tires for eyes.



All things that just lay to waste, objects that potentially harm the animal life are what he uses to create his animal murals. The idea is to depict nature itself and raise awareness about the wildlife that these materials are harming. He leaves behind more than paint and trash on a wall- he leaves behind a message that we must change our ways or lose the life that we love on this planet.

New Website

By: Andrea Ramirez



Good news! The It's Your World Project here at El Dorado High School is on its way to publishing an official website devoted to the project. Here we will be able to reveal all obstacles conquered, goals accomplished, information about upcoming news/events, and answer any FAQ's.

In addition, it will provide all necessary contact information in case one would like to sign up for our monthly newsletter. Andrea Ramirez has been hard at work to make this a reality. It should be done in the next couple of months, so stay tuned! All our hard work and accomplishments can finally be shown through a permanent media outlet!



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