

## Teacher's Message

This is my absolute favorite time of year! The air conditioner has been turned off, firewood has been purchased, our Christmas tree has been decorated, and my diet will be ruined for several months to come... We completed our desert cleanups right before it got too cold. Now begins our art workshops with the found objects from our scavenging, which can take place comfortably indoors. We are grateful that there are so many generous people that believe in what we're doing. A few of the most recent that have helped with supplies and funding our cause are Wet N' Wild, Paso Del Norte Foundation, & MCAD. In this newsletter, you will see what we have been able to do with these



Photo By: Leslie Santos

supplies. We have free art workshops for the community, a city-wide art contest for every age, and exhibition opportunities in April and May. Another Thanksgiving has come and gone and we seem to already be preparing for Christmas. If you find yourself in need of some creative, original gifts, my students and I will have plenty of items for sale very soon. Since we have returned to school, we plan on hitting the ground running to make some unique items from recycled materials. I hope your holidays are going well and that you enjoy this issue of our newsletter!





Photo By: Leslie Santos

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:

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# Final Cleanup-4 Miles Down!

By: Madison Poppe

The final cleanup was a huge success for the It's Your World club! Big thanks to the TFCU volunteers, UTEP, EDHS administrators, musicians from Carambola Community Music, parents, students, and our very own Aztec

The cleanup of four miles along highway. Whether dozens of bags of dollars in the bushes, completely covered cannot thank you support of the would not have been



Photo by: Madison Poppe

It's Your World club. encompassed a total the Montana you picked up trash, found ten or had shoes in stickers, we enough. Without the volunteers, the day such a success!



Being a part of such an amazing project has allowed me to open my eyes to the world around me and what I can do to help our four miles! Four miles! of what we are all able to together for a common the final cleanup with Ms. expressed to me that she cleanup location we had discovered that it was so disappointing to hear. spent so much time highway for it just to get began to realize that if we in some part to get that possibly could, that side of been two to three times



Photo by: Madison Poppe

planet. We completed That's crazy to think do if we come goal. I spoke about Printz and she had passed by the finished and dirty again. This was To think that we cleaning up that dirty again. Then I all hadn't contributed stretch as clean as we the road could have worse; if not more.



I'm a stickler when it comes to recycling. It's just how I've grown up. Sometimes my peers joke around about my recycling habits at school whenever I remind them where they should be throwing their recyclables instead of the trash can. Over time, however, my friends have been making some of these habits their own and it's so great to know I helped them realize what they can do for this planet. Little things like throwing your yogurt container in the recycling or collecting all your empty water bottles at the end of the week and putting them in recycling is something that every one of us can do. Without the help of our many volunteers, we could not have picked up the 40 bags that we did on that final Saturday. Thank you again, and happy recycling!!

# Stranger Things

By: Jazmin Paz

Now that our cleanups are over, it's time to wash and sort! Over the course of our cleanups, we found many odd items--- items that I'm sure you'd wonder how they ended up in the desert in the first place! Amongst the beer bottles, soda cans, bottle caps, and cigarette butts, we found high school diplomas, a gun, a mailbox, some dollar bills, Legos, a fake eyeball, a Halloween mask, tampons, a grave (we're really hoping it was for a pet, and not for a person!) and a great number of bottles of urine, shoes, hypodermic needles and tires.



We had forgotten about some of the weird stuff we found weeks ago, and it wasn't until we dumped the contents of the trash bags onto the floor that we met again with, not only black widows and brown recluses, but also with the weird items we were perplexed on finding out in the desert.



Photo by: Jacqueline Rodriguez

As funny as it may be to find the aforementioned items, it's important to take into consideration the land that these materials are being dumped onto. Oftentimes, people dump objects they no longer want in the desert, and it harms the wildlife and the land.



Photo by: Candace Printz

Nonetheless, I, along with other individuals, had a great time at the cleanups, keeping our eyes peeled for more strange things to be found!



# Trash to Treasure

By: Andrea Ramirez

It's absolutely crazy to see how much time has passed since the start of the It's Your World Project. Since our workshops began, we've had many amazing art pieces that have been created out of the "trash" that we've collected from the desert. Jewelry from tea cans & crushed beer bottles, magnets out of aluminum cans, portraits out of cables, and planters from plastic soda and water bottles have all been fashioned as a result of the creativity of our volunteers. \*All for sale for Christmas, by the way!\* The transformation from discarded items to beautiful pieces of art makes you question why more people don't reuse some of the items they have lying around the house.



Photos by: Brenda Mejia



Photos by: Candace Printz

These items, that once had a purpose, were somehow not disposed of properly. Because of our efforts, however, they have now been given a second life. It's inspirational to see how the hard work of making these pieces has united us in trying to make the world a better, environmentally friendly place. From working with the Girl Scouts to create wearable art out of aluminum cans, crushed beer bottles, and broken car parts to painting water bottles at a children's festival to make planters, we have had a blast rethinking how we see these materials!

# PBS Kids Fiesta

By: Victoria Duque



Photo by: Leslie Santos

On November 12<sup>th</sup> El Dorado High School students participated in the annual PBS Kids fiesta. We went to show the hundreds of families that attended what can be done with “trash” and to stress the importance of recycling. We cut plastic bottles open and transformed them into planters.

In preparation, students of the It's Your World class cut about 100 plastic bottles for kids to decorate, fill with soil and plant freshly sprouted pinto bean plants. Some of the bottles were cut into bunny or

cat-shaped designs, while others were abstract masterpieces that could only be created from the imagination of a child. The end result was artwork, growth, and several very happy kids.

Kids were given all the creative freedom and tools to create a personalized souvenir. The biggest hit had to of been when they got to put googly eyes on their bottles at the end, though. The kids loved it so much that we ran out of supplies before the event ended! We couldn't bear letting the kids down, so we frantically washed and cut about 50 more on the spot. Seeing a smile on every kid's face made this event so worth it!



Photo by: Leslie Santos



Photo by: Leslie Santos





Photos by: Leslie Santos & Candace Printz

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