

May 8, 2012

Volume 5, Issue 35

May 2012

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Upcoming Events

- May 7 Track vs. Fremont @ Fremont 4:30 PM
- May 10 Parent Education Event:: Montessori High School at University Circle, Cleveland 6 PM Victorian Farmhouse
- May 11 In-service Day - **School Closed to Students**
- May 12 Uganda Project (Art Exchange Show) 5 - 8 PM Continuum Gallery
NOTE: CHANGE IN VENUE
125 West Wayne Street , Fort Wayne
- May 16 Afternoon with the Arts
Oak Farm Arts Center, Green Drive
Gallery Opens at 3:15 PM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Headlines from Oak Farm Montessori School

Our mission is to provide a Montessori environment that inspires children to reach their potential through meaningful work.

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FROM JUDITH CUNNINGHAM, HEAD OF SCHOOL

Art Connects the World, Again



For the second year, our upper-elementary students have used art to reach across language, geography, and culture to

touch and be touched by Ugandan orphans. The activity this year involved sharing art. To this end, students in both countries painted half a canvas depicting their country. The canvases were then exchanged, with each group completing the other half of the canvas with a design of their own world. When our students exchanged their painting halves and photos of themselves holding their paintings, their Ugandan counterparts suddenly became real, not merely names on a page. This genuineness heightened our students' interest in knowing more about these young people whose life styles are so different than theirs.

It is not surprising that this project continues. Last year, our students learned that their work has economic value. In their desire to reach out to improve the lives of the Ugandan orphans, they raised \$2,300

through the sale of the art. The orphanage was able to purchase rain barrels and water filters to create clean drinking and cooking water for the compound as well as new bed linens and dental visits for the students.

At 5 PM this Saturday, May 12, at the Continuum Gallery at 125 West Wayne Street in downtown Fort Wayne, the students will hold their second art show to once again raise money to improve the quality of the lives of our Uganda friends.

The adult champion for this project is Heather Miller. Heather continues to inspire our students and remove obstacles in the path for this experience of cultural understanding and social action.

Please save Wednesday, May 16, for Afternoon with the Arts at the Art Center on Green Drive. Elementary and middle-school students will showcase their art in the Gallery starting at 3:15 and then create music from 3:45 until 4:30pm. Specific information will be in next week's newsletter.

While only elementary and middle-school students will perform, younger siblings are invited to join and sit with their parents.

Uganda Project



1/2 and 1/2 PAINTINGS
1/2 painted at Oak Farm.
1/2 painted in Uganda!

Last September, each student in Upper Elementary designed and painted 1/2 of a circular canvas. When finished, the paintings were shipped across the world to Uganda, students there painted the remaining half. What an amazing collaborative effort! The paintings were returned to Oak Farm, where students prepared them to display them in a top notch gallery.

Students are asking gallery visitors to consider making a donation to the children in Uganda. Our goal is to help HALO purchase chickens for the group homes so that they may develop a sustainable food source.

They also hope to supply important medical needs such as vaccinations and general health check-ups.

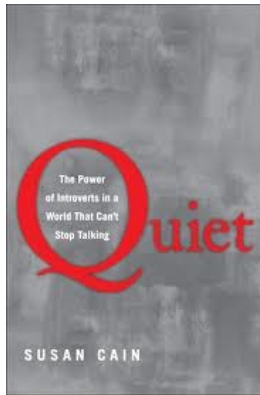
THE UGANDA PROJECT

May 12, 5:00-8:00
Continuum Gallery
125 West Wayne Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46805



QUIET: A BOOK REVIEW

By Janet Canino, Parent



A little girl sits off to the side sticking close to her parents while the other children race to the center of the room ready to dance the night away. One well-intentioned parent comes over and comments within earshot of the girl, “Oh, clearly she’s shy, but hopefully she’ll grow out of it.” Ten minutes later, this same little girl has migrated away from the back wall and is now moving and grooving to the beat, albeit over on the sidelines still within the comfort zone of her parents. Another five minutes pass and that same “shy” girl has decided, all on her own, to walk up to a child twice her age, whom she doesn’t know, asks if she’ll dance with her, and away they go.

Still think that little girl is shy? The confusion is understandable. Unfortunately, the observant, introspective, quiet-types are frequently, although erroneously, viewed as shy.

Thankfully Susan Cain in her book *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking* (2012) sheds some brilliant insight on the lives of introverts and introduces us to the new research findings that coincide with her assertions.

What, exactly, is the difference between shyness and introversion? An excerpt from *Quiet* (pg. 12) helps clarify the answer.

Shyness is the fear of social disapproval or humiliation, while introversion is a preference for environments that are not overstimulating. Shyness is inherently painful; introversion is not. One reason that people confuse the two concepts is that they sometimes overlap (though psychologists debate to what degree). Some psychologists map the two tendencies on vertical [anxious-stable] and horizontal [introvert-extrovert] axes. With this model, you end up with four quadrants of personality types: calm extroverts, anxious (or impulsive) extroverts, calm introverts, and anxious introverts.

You can also, of course, be both shy and an introvert... Many shy people turn inward, partly as a refuge from the socializing that causes them such anxiety. And many introverts are shy, partly as a result of receiving the message that there's something wrong with their preference for reflection, and partly because their physiologies... compel them to withdraw from high-stimulation environments.

But for all their differences, shyness and introversion have in common something profound. The mental state of a shy extrovert sitting quietly in a business meeting [or in an elementary classroom] may be very different from that of a calm introvert—the shy person is afraid to speak up, while the introvert is simply overstimulated—but to the outside world, the two appear to be the same.

In other words, a child’s quiet, observant outward behavior can easily be misinterpreted as shyness when in reality he is merely trying to manage an overly stimulating environment by distancing himself from it a bit. About one third to one half of Americans are introverts; thus many of us are subjected to such misinterpretation of our observable behaviors. So while you may not be an introvert yourself you are likely working with one, married to one, or parenting one. Hopefully knowing the distinction between shyness and introversion will teach us to pause before reflexively labeling a quiet child as shy and will also lead to a more accurate understanding of our introverted children.