



Wells Fargo Center for the Arts

Enrich. Educate. Entertain.

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For Immediate Release: March 25, 2009
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Sonoma County Students Experience Science and Art in Harmony

Student artwork on display now expresses the
power of the arts in education.

Santa Rosa, Ca. (March 25, 2009) – On exhibit now at Wells Fargo Center for the Arts is a colorful example of how children learn about the world through the lens of the arts. The multi-faceted project presented by the Center's Education Through the Arts program combines lessons in science with lessons in visual art and the performing arts to bring the ideas of symbiosis and metamorphosis fully to life for Sonoma County students.

While studying butterflies and other insects as part of their regular curriculum, 6th grade students from Mark West School also worked with local artist Inya Laskowski to learn techniques in blending, layering, pattern, color and texture. Thirty-two prints now on display in the Center's Student Art Gallery were taken from more than 200 oil pastel flowers created by the students. The exhibit will remain on display through mid-June.

On exhibit in the Center's West Atrium through April is a group of beautiful translucent butterflies drifting from the skylights. In this project 100 kindergarten – 2nd grade students from Alexander Valley and San Miguel elementary schools and Sonoma Charter School studied the life cycle of the butterfly and the migration of the Monarch. Those lessons came vibrantly to life on stage with the Center's school performance of "Butterfly: A Story of a Life Cycle." And, by working with local artists through the Arts Center's Artists in the Schools program, the students learned symmetry, color and texture to create their own visual examples of science and art in harmony.

A non-profit community arts center, Wells Fargo Center for the Arts is home to world-class performances, nationally recognized education programs, contemporary sculpture, and many popular events. The Arts Center is located in the heart of the Sonoma wine country and ranked among California's top performing arts presenters. Together with its resident companies, the Center presents more than 100 performances each year in music, dance, theater, renowned speakers, and comedy; and education programs serving 30,000 children and adults annually. Owned and operated by the Luther Burbank Memorial Foundation, the Center relies on charitable community donations to achieve its mission – to enrich, educate, and entertain.

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