



The School of Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales
307 School Street
Bennington, VT 05201

Providing excellence in academics and a deepening faith in God and Gospel Values in an environment that is caring, challenging, and respectful, striving to develop in every student the habits of thinking critically and acting responsibly in daily life.

January 13, 2009

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This past fall The Museum of African Culture Portland, ME travelled a great distance to The School of Sacred Heart Saint Francis de Sales in Bennington, Vermont, enabling our students to experience a small piece of African culture and art. The visit enhanced our elementary school art program as this year's theme is "Art around the World". Having Oscar, an African, present storytelling and the history of African masks, their symbolism and how they were/are created was a unique opportunity for our students. The students were excited to have the presentation and expressed their excitement of the "Medicine Man Parade". Oscar changed into an authentic African wardrobe and with African music he meandered around the group, blessing them with a true lion's tail. Students enjoyed both being able to touch and try on real African masks. They wished they could have had more time.

This cultural experience would not have been possible for our students had there not been grant money to defer the cost of the program. Now three months after the program, one of our kindergarten students created a multicultural stick puppet, named it Oscar from Africa and he likes to eat apples and all kinds of fruit. The impact to the program continues today from the experience of The Museum of African Culture. To see the African art work created by our students after the mask presentation, go to Artsonia.com and enter our zip code 05201. We are The School of Sacred Heart Saint Francis de Sales.

Sincerely,

Jennie M. Hogan,
Elementary Art Teacher

