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Yankton High School Pottery Students Enjoy a Day of Raku Firing



BY HANNAH LOGUE

Yankton High School has hosted Tom & Wanda Clarke of West Sioux Ceramics / Dakota Potters Supply to demonstrate the Raku firing for two years now, and it is proving to be a success.

The Clarkes have been in the pottery business for about 35 years and have been practicing the Raku technique for about 12 years. When they come, they bring their specialty glazes, their kilns, and just about everything else needed to complete the process, except for the pieces of pottery that the students created beforehand.

Raku is a type of Japanese pottery that is traditionally used in the Japanese tea ceremony, most often in the form of tea bowls. It is characterized by hand-molding of the clay as opposed to turning it on a potter's wheel, resulting in each piece being one-of-a-kind.

Low firing temperatures, lead glazes, and the removal of pieces from the kiln while still glowing hot give the pieces the metallic multicolored look that is desired. In the traditional Japanese firing process, the fired Raku piece is removed from the hot kiln and put directly into water or allowed to cool in the open air. Raku techniques have been adopted and modified by contemporary potters worldwide.

The method of Raku that the Clarkes use only takes about two to three hours, compared to the traditional firing of pieces which takes about 24 hours.

The process starts with the making of the pot or bowl. Special clay is used to make these projects; it contains large pieces of sand called grog, to reduce the risk of the pieces from cracking or completely shattering under the harsh conditions of the quick heat-up and cool-down.

After the piece is made it is fired for the first time in the traditional kiln. Once it is out and cooled down, the project can be painted with the special glazes that were brought for the demonstration; they are usually painted with more than one glaze to add more variety to the colors and textures.

Then they are taken directly to the kiln, mainly run by Tom Clarke. Once the kiln is full, the hatch is closed and the fire is ignited.

The kiln is set to heat up to 1,850 degrees. After that temperature is achieved the hatch is opened and the pieces are removed with long iron prongs and set into a nest of cut-up paper and sawdust. The projects sit in the nest for 3-5 seconds, to allow a fire to take place, and then they are covered with metal pails and let to smoke out. After about twenty minutes of sitting the pails are removed and the pieces are taken to a bucket of water to be rinsed of any ash or dirt stuck to them. After being rinsed the projects are basically ready to take home.



PHOTO BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE

Jake Hacecky, Yankton High School junior, checks on some raku pottery which has just been removed from the kiln.

There are plenty of different ways to glaze or fire a Raku project, but it turns out beautifully just about any way you try. YHS pottery teacher, Vicki Barron, said, "I love seeing the great colors and all the variations of color that are achieved."

All of the students appreciated the experience and hope that future classes get to do the same.

Jeremy Nelson, the youth pastor at Calvary Baptist Church, takes part in the baccalaureate here at Yankton High School. Nelson explains that, "Baccalaureate is an opportunity for the senior class to gather together to participate in a worship service aimed at giving thanks to God for his guidance throughout their lives to this point and to encourage them to seek him as they go out."

Yankton Ministerial Association Sponsors Baccalaureate Service



BY TAYLER DAISY

Each year at the end of the school year, every senior gets excited for graduation and the events that come along with it including: prom, the graduation ceremony, graduation parties, and summer of course!

Not many people remember that every year for the seniors, the school hosts a program called baccalaureate that occurs for the seniors before their graduation day.

Alecia St. Pierre, a senior at Yankton High School, is planning to attend this program at the high school. St. Pierre states, "I will be attending baccalaureate, as will the majority of my senior class mates."

Nelson explains, "Anyone can attend baccalaureate from seniors, their families, school staff and faculty, leaders, and many others from the community."

The program is held the Wednesday before graduation. St. Pierre said, "Anyone can attend this event: the more people, the better."

Some people from around the community of Yankton wonder what exactly goes on during this baccalaureate. "Baccalaureate services here typically consist of a welcome and opening prayer by a local pastor. Aside from a closing prayer from a pastor, the senior class typically leads the rest of the service," explains Nelson.

Not many people are aware that this is put on for and held by the senior class. "At Yankton High School, we usually incorporate the senior dance from both dance studios in town, part of the YHS choir sings a song, and scripture is read by students. There is also usually a couple of solos or duets by the students, and then two seniors share short messages with their fellow seniors," says Nelson.

St. Pierre states, "People speak at baccalaureate and the seniors dance from both studios and also speaking takes place."

It takes a lot of effort from the students to put this event together. The dancers, the musicians, and the speakers, display a considerable amount of courage to perform and speak in front of a public crowd. Many people wonder who sponsors baccalaureate, because, even though the event is held at the high school, it is not the Yankton High School who sponsors it.

"Baccalaureate is sponsored not by Yankton High School but by YAMA which stands for Yankton Area Ministerial Association," explains Nelson. "Representatives from YAMA

meet regularly with the senior class officers to give them guidance as they plan Baccalaureate."

Some people from the school and the community think that this is a great opportunity for the seniors to really realize that they are soon to be graduates and out in the real world.

"I think it's a good idea to have baccalaureate. It's a good thing to get our class together for a prayer service to realize what is coming for us," says St. Pierre.

There are many reasons to have a baccalaureate service. "I suppose there are a lot of reasons for having baccalaureate at a school. It is a way for churches in town to serve and honor the school and our graduating seniors," explains Nelson. "It gives seniors another opportunity to reflect on this big transition in their lives. It also provides an opportunity for the many students with

faith in God to gather together to express and be encouraged in that faith."

The ministerial association helps the students with the baccalaureate

service, but the students put the event together themselves, which makes the service unique every year.

Assembly of God Youth Pastor, Annette Roux, explains, "Graduating from high school is a huge moment! There have been struggles and victories along the way, and it's a milestone that everyone can relate to, so it's usually an event that is somewhat emotionally charged. It's also a moment where you essentially leave one community and move on to another, whether you're going off to college or moving out on your own and starting a full-time job. So we, the faith community, believe that it is important for us to be a part of the celebration. Baccalaureate is a tradition that goes all the way back to Oxford in the 1400's! But what I feel is special about it is that even though the tradition is hundreds of years old, each graduating class can uniquely express who they are through this worship service. It's a time for giving glory and thanks to God for his role in helping students complete this phase of their education. And it's special because the students plan it - it's their own words. The ministerial association assists them with ideas and structure, but each class makes it their very own."



Earth and Space Students Stargaze



BY RYAN BOVERO

Earth and Space class, taught by Mrs. Jama Mathison, includes learning about stars.

Mathison brought in a guest speaker, Paavo Rasmussen, from the Siouxland Heritage Museum to teach the students about different constellations.

Rasmussen always brings a sky dome in which students crawl into and sit in a circle while a projector inside shows all the different constellations in the dome. After students have learned how to find the different constellations, Mathison checks the forecast for an upcoming night with a clear sky. Then, a night of star gazing can be planned.

Mathison has been doing this for about two to three years now. The class usually goes out star gazing more than once, so all the students have a chance to participate. She has a worksheet that the students complete after their observations. "One of my most memorable moments while star gazing would have to be when we had a telescope during summer school because we had more time," says Mathison.

Mathison takes the students star gazing at Sisters' Grove around 9 p.m. During this time, she will tell the students to find certain stars, then they will work together as a class to complete the worksheet and to learn more about the stars and constellations.

"Usually around two-thirds of the class shows up at Sisters Grove," says Mathison. "The purpose of this activity is to learn and take notice to what's up in the sky."

Students enjoy this activity and crazy things have happened while the class was out there. "One time last semester a cop showed up thinking there were a bunch of kids just getting into trouble and another time a local resident also did the same," says Mathison.

"Star gazing was an amazing experience, and from sky lab I learned how to find stars way easier," says Charissa Livingston, senior.

"My favorite constellation would have to be Orion's Belt or the Big Dipper, because they are two of the easier constellations for me to find, and I have known how to find the Big Dipper since I was a little kid," says Livingston.

Allison Kathol Receives a South Dakota Division of Securities Scholarship



BY KATRINA VYBORNY

Out of the approximate 257 essays that the South Dakota Division of Securities received as entries for the State Securities Division Essay Contest, Allison Kathol's essay placed second in the "How to Create Financial Independence by Understanding Five Principles of Investing" category. Kathol won \$3,000 prize money, which came from a grant from the Investor Trust Protection.

"I applied for this scholarship in hopes that it may help finance my college education next year," said Kathol. "I now plan on using the \$3,000 for college at Augustana."

Kathol's essay was sponsored by Lelia Elder. "It was easy to sponsor Allison as she is a great student and a leader at Yankton High School," Lelia Elder, said. "I was honored she asked me to be her sponsor."

"When I answered the phone and the lady told me I had won the contest, I was so surprised that I actually won! I was extremely excited!" Kathol exclaimed.

Elder said, "When we found out Allison won, we were excited. We jumped up and down and cheered. I was glad she received a substantial scholarship from the South Dakota Securities to further education. I got a bonus for sponsoring her."

According to Mike Youngberg, the Securities Division Director, there are two "graders" who separately score all essays. Then, the two graders make comparisons on which levels they placed each essay into. "Typically there is not a large difference into which level individual essays are placed into as both graders follow the same guidelines," informed Youngberg. "With the differences that do occur, the graders sit down and thoroughly discuss the variance and come to consensus on which level to place it." Afterwards, each Division official randomly selected two winners from each level. "The contest was designed this way to alleviate some of the subjectivity of the grading



PHOTO COURTESY OF TERI MANDEL

Left to right: Lelia Elder, YHS library assistant and a reference for Kathol, is pictured with Allison Kathol, YHS senior, as she poses with her South Dakota Securities Scholarship check.

and give an equal chance of winning to all participants in each level," Youngberg said.

"The essays were not hard to write, but researching what to write was. The topics were all about finances, which I am not very familiar about," said Kathol. "I am not very interested in money and banking, so I learned a ton writing these essays."

After writing about financial independence to win her scholarship, Kathol decided that, "financial independence is extremely important and all young adults and teenagers should learn how to be financially responsible. Learning how to be financially independent at a young age will only benefit one in the future."

"I have known Allison for many years and have enjoyed her in homeroom," Elder said. "I am very proud indeed of all of Allison's accomplishments during her high school years."

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