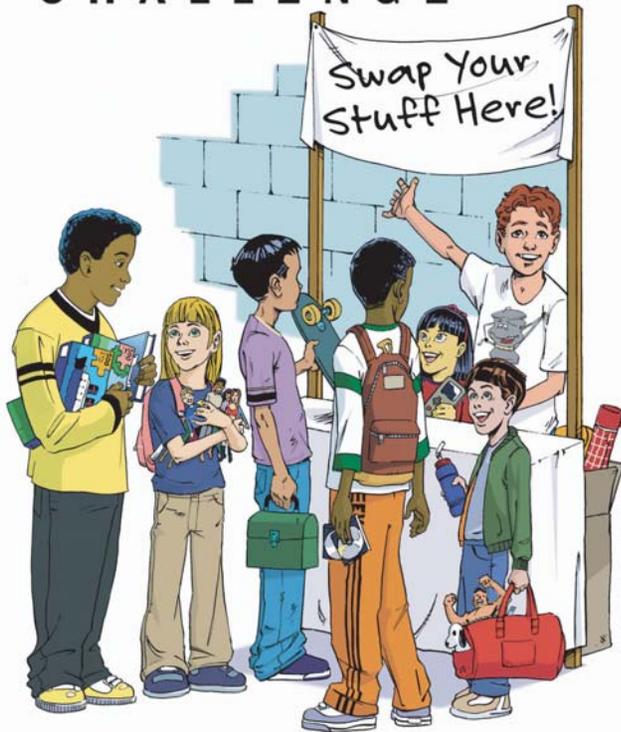


TrashMasters!™
REDUCE & REUSE
CHALLENGE



Elementary Division
Brooklyn Borough
Runner-Up

Success Academy
Cobble Hill

2013 GOLDEN APPLE AWARDS

This certificate is awarded with the sincere appreciation and esteem of a grateful Department and City in recognition of your school's efforts to help make New York City shine.



City of New York
Department of Sanitation
Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling
nyc.gov/wasteless

NYC
recycle more,
waste less!

2013 Golden Apple Awards Contest Entry Judging Info

(This sheet prepared for judges' use by DSNY BWPRR)



ID Info: 13001
School: Success Academy Cobble Hill
Grade Division: LM
Borough: K

Golden Shovel Award contestant
(for borough Master School Composter)

2013 Project Entries received for:

School Population: total # 172

Core Group: **Total Participating:**

TrashMasters! Super Recyclers

Received:

TrashMasters! Reduce & Reuse Challenge

172

172

Starry Night Bottle Cap Mosaic Project

Received: 1/31/2013

Since our founding in September 2012, our school community, comprised of 172 kindergarten and first graders, has collected bottle caps. As a school, we began a discourse about how one of an artist's jobs is to have an imaginative eye and think outside the paintbrush, finding new ways to create art from everyday objects and cultivate the ability to see beauty and potential where others see junk. Over the course of four months, our young artists collected, cleaned, and sorted tens of thousands of caps, while exploring how our waste system works and thinking about why sustainability is so important. We combined this with a study of post-impressionist artist, Vincent Van Gogh. Our community of young artists explored these themes of sustainability and collaboration and more as they moved towards their ultimate goal of creating a large-scale bottle cap

TrashMasters! Team Up to Clean Up

Received:

Prior Year Entries:

13:RR-RU

Current Prizes

13:RR-ru

School Contact Information:

Phone: 718-704-1459

Address: 284 Baltic Street
Brooklyn

11201

Block&Lot: 3004020001

DOE Location: K129

DOE Bldg: K293

Contest Coordinator:

Sarah Traci

Principal:

Kerri Tabarcea

Sustainability Coord:

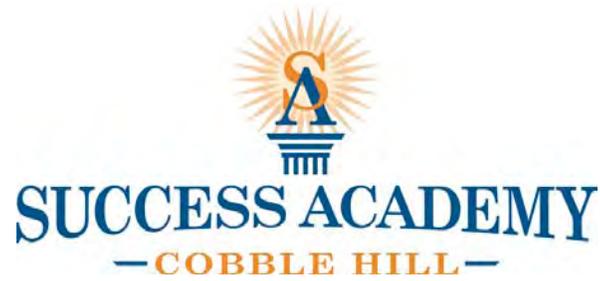
PLEASE PROVIDE

REQUIRED for Super Recyclers only:

Custodian: RICHARD AURELI

Info Confirmed: 4/30/2013

Printed: 6/26/2013



Starry Night Bottle Cap Mosaic Project



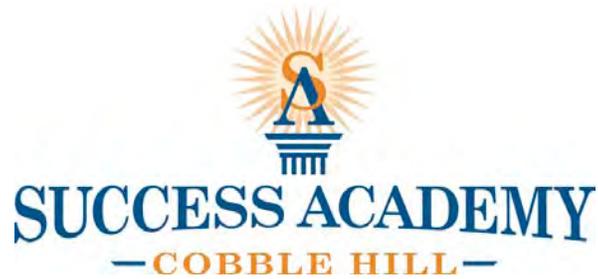
Created by:

Success Academy Cobble Hill's Kindergarten and First Grade Artists

Art Teacher:

Sarah Ellis Traci

**Submitted for consideration for the Materials for the Arts'
TrashMasters! Reduce & Reuse Challenge**



WHY THIS?

Our school was inspired to collect bottle caps by a recent NPR interview with the Bryant Park Project, regarding plastic recycling. In New York City, you cannot recycle bottle caps and, as citizens, we simply throw them away. Bottle caps are made from a type of plastic called polypropylene, which has a much higher melting point than the rest of the plastic bottle. This is a significant issue when it comes to processing the caps through the recycling system. Caps need to be sorted, washed, shredded and ultimately melted at an extremely high temperature. In the end, the cost and processing work is too extensive to recycle these caps and they ultimately end up in the trash.

A few bottle caps may seem insignificant and ultimately may not have that much impact on the earth, however when all of the bottle caps are pooled together, you are able to see how much waste is really produced. Our students at Success Academy Cobble Hill collected tens of thousands of caps from just our school community alone and repurposed them to make a beautiful art project. Children can often feel that they are too small or insignificant to make any change in the world but with this project, they understood that even a little action, done in the spirit of collaboration, can make a big impact.

PHASE 1: We began the year by sending home a letter, inviting families to send in their bottle caps and letting them know why we were doing this project. We also included regular blasts in our newsletter.

□



September 15, 2012

Dear families,

In our art studio, our kindergartners and first graders are exploring many different themes this year, but one of our main focuses is sustainability and collaboration. To bring this to life, we are asking scholars and families to work together to collect plastic bottle caps to make a collaborative community mosaic that will hang in the entrance of our school.

As a class, we have started to talk about how, as artists, our job is to see the world differently and to not only depend on conventional materials to make art. An artist must have an imaginative eye and "think outside the paintbrush", finding ways to create art from everyday objects and cultivate the ability to see beauty and potential where others see "junk". In addition to looking at different artists who employ these practices in their work, we have also begun to talk about where trash goes after it leaves our wastebasket (a fascinating cycle!) and the effects on our earth and ecosystems.

In response to this, our school community will be collecting plastic bottle caps over the next few months. Because of the type of plastic that is used, bottle caps are not recyclable in New York City. This is largely due to the high melting point of this specific type of plastic used for caps (different than the bottle itself), as well as the cost to process.

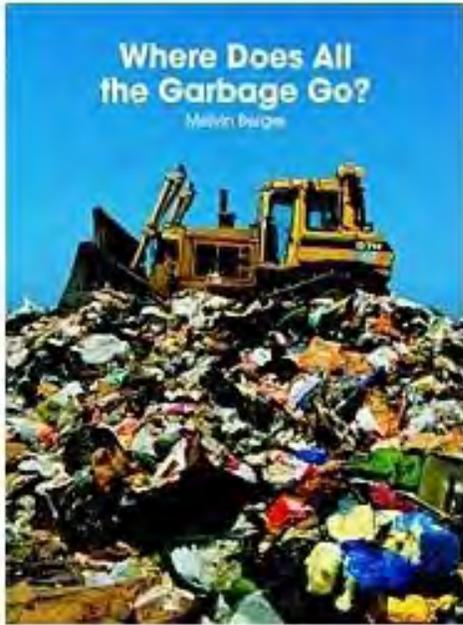
Here's how you can help! We need thousands of plastic bottle caps to reach our goal in the next few months. That means caps from water, juice, milk, laundry detergent, coffee, you name it!!! All shapes, sizes and colors are welcome. (Exception: no logo-ed beer/liquor caps please!)

Our school community (and a global community), we would love your help with this green effort! Please let me if you have any questions. Thanks in advance for your help!

Best,

Sarah Ellis Traci
Visual Art Teacher
Success Academy Cobble Hill
609-707-4898

PHASE 2: Artists began to consider where the garbage goes once it leaves the can. We looked at the trash cycle and how waste that is not recycled is processed. We also discussed how bottle caps, due to the type of plastic, cannot be recycled. We considered other ways we could repurpose garbage to make something beautiful.



We read "Where Does All the Garbage Go?" by Melvin Berger



We considered other artists, like Richard Lang and Judith Selby Lang, who create art out of found garbage. This couple creates beautiful sculptures and mobiles exclusively from plastic they find on the beach.



We also looked at images from the Brooklyn Museum's El Anatsui show, "Gravity and Grace," which showcases this African artist's magnificent sculptures that are made with with recycled metals, bottle caps, woods and more.

PHASE 3: As caps began to roll in, artists spent time cleaning them and sorting them by color in preparation for art-making. Students took ownership over this organizational process to prepare for the project to begin.



The art room sink was filled to the top almost EVERY DAY with bottle cap contributions. Young artists took ownership over the washing, sorting and organizing process.



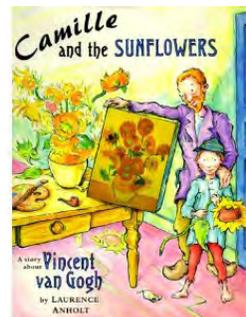
PHASE 4: By December, our collection was complete! As a school, we took a trip to the Natural History Museum and noticed all of the beautiful mosaics on the walls of the 81st Street subway station. Artists learned that a mosaic is a collection of small colored pieces or tiles, put together to make an image.



Public mosaics in the 81st Street Subway station.



PHASE 5: Our artists, learned about Vincent Van Gogh and his style of painting. We learned that he was a post-impressionist painter and noticed that a lot of his paintings were comprised of little tiny brush strokes and a wide variety of tints and shades of vibrant color. We looked at “Starry Night” in particular. Artists compared Impressionism to mosaics because both are made of smaller “blobs” of color that come together to make a picture.



We read a story about Van Gogh, entitled “Camille and the Sunflowers” by Laurence Anholt. We also looked at how other artists have interpreted “Starry Night,” like the video of the artists above who used dominoes to recreate the famous painting.

PHASE 6: Artists used three large foam boards to paint a reproduction of “Starry Night”. We then used our sorted and cleaned bottle caps to create a mosaic of the famous artwork. Artists matched the colors of the bottle caps to the painted colors, carefully dipping their caps in tacky glue, and affixing it to the board.



PHASE 7: Upon completion, artists wrote about the process of making the mosaic, what they learned from the project and why it was important to them. Many artists wrote about why, as an artist, it is important to find beauty in things that other people are junk. Finally, our finished mosaic was hung in the hallway for all to see!

It is important to recycle because you can make really wonderful art out of things people might just throw away." -Bianca, age 6

"It is important to recycle because if you don't, the world will be a big old mess and not beautiful, like the art we made!" - Akash, age 6



"It is important to recycle because otherwise there would just be too much trash in the world. I would like to make other art from trash like sculptures made of tires or a beautiful trampoline." -Miles, age 7

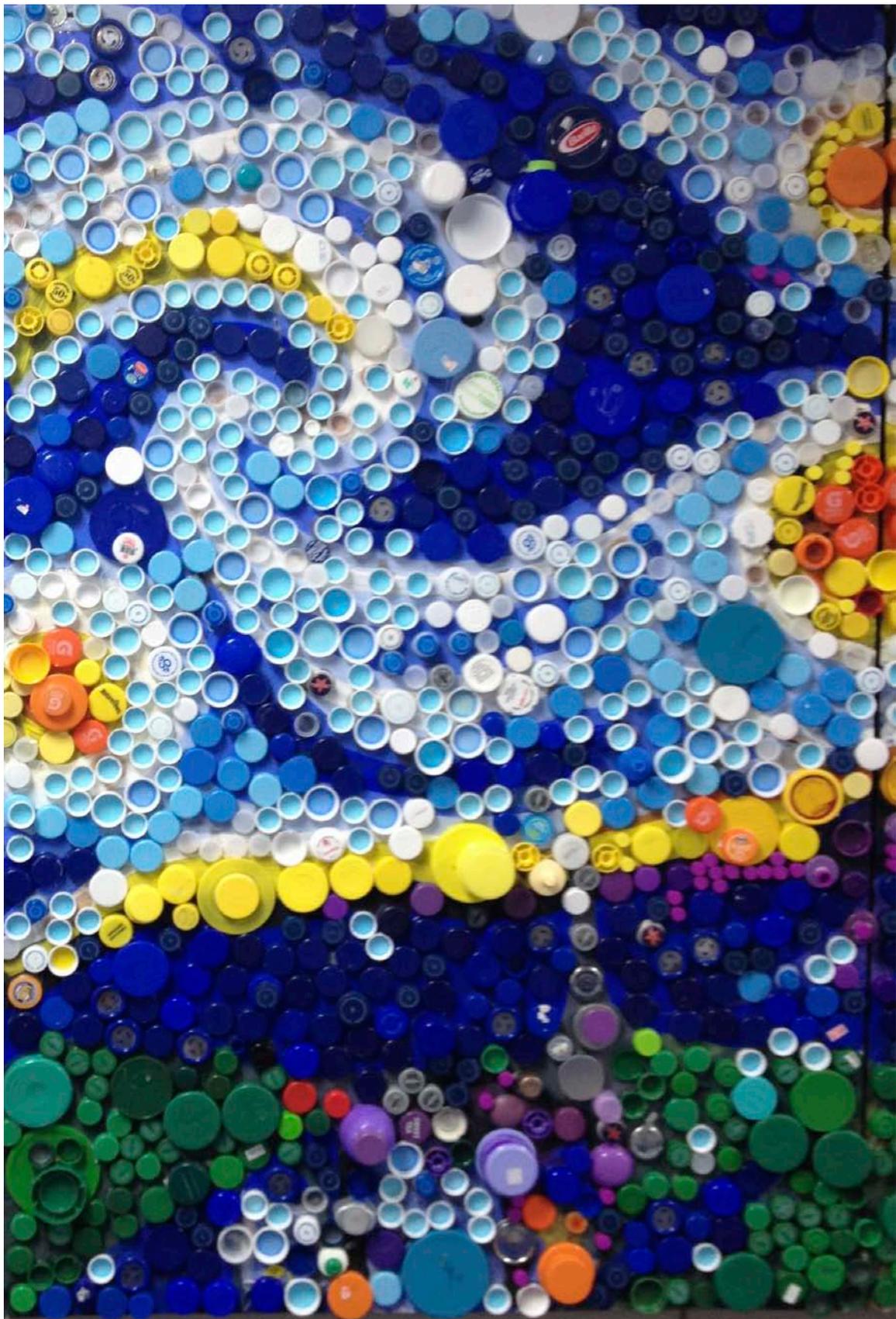


"It is important to recycle because if you do not, it goes to the dump and the dump people put it in the garbage in the ground and it smells bad and the animals can't breathe and it is disgusting." - Oona, age 7

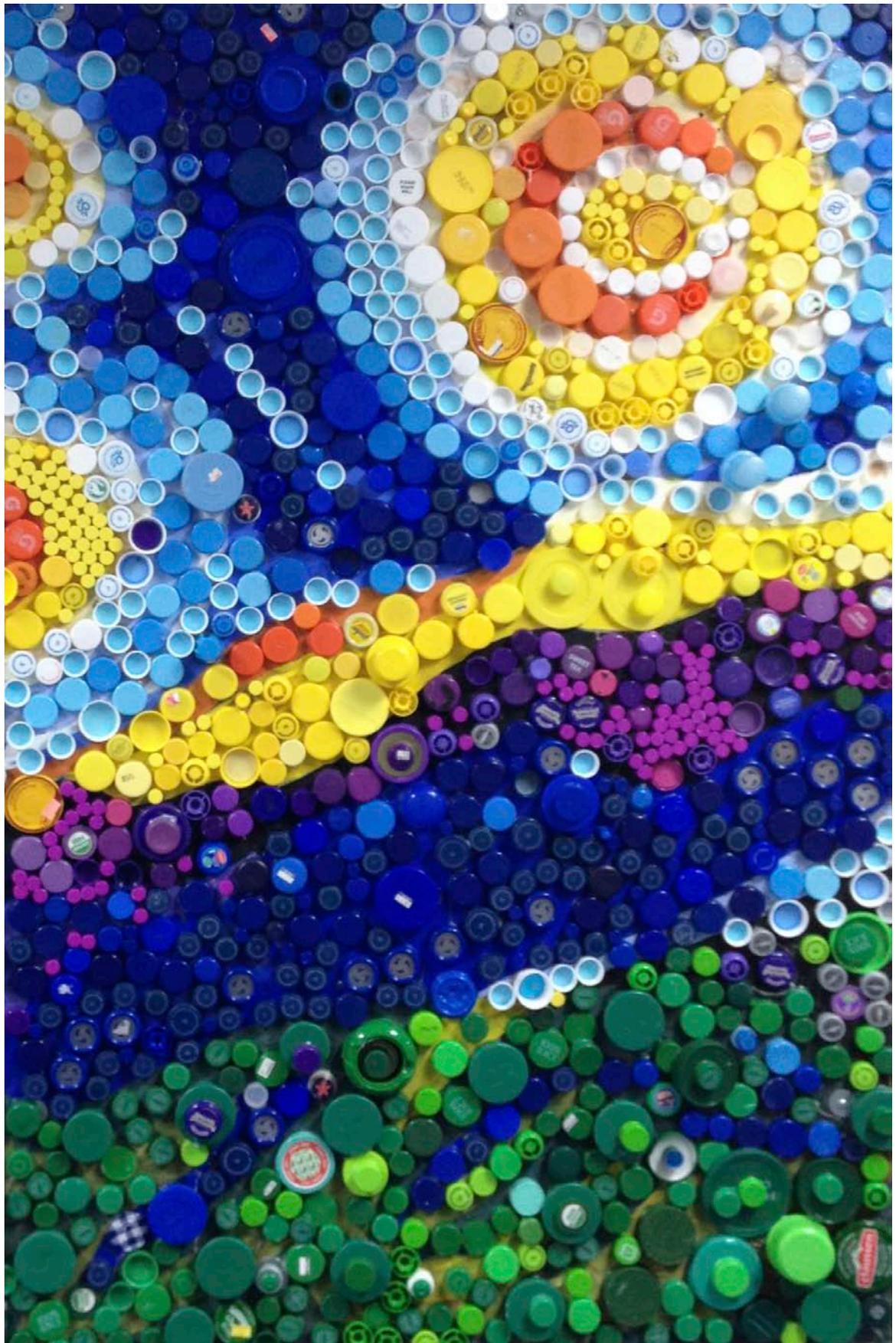
A closer look... (panel #1)

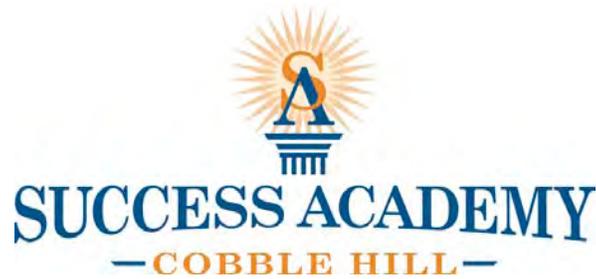


A closer look... (panel #2)



A closer look... (panel #3)





NYS Visual Art Learning Standards:

Through this project, our young artists met the following standards:

Standard 1: Creating, Performing, and Participating in the Arts

Students actively engaged in the processes that constitute creation in the arts and participate in various roles in the arts.

Standard 2: Knowing and Using Arts Materials and Resources

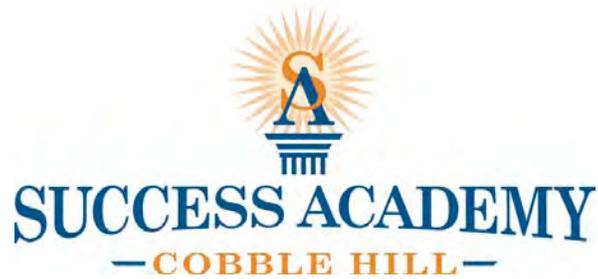
Students are knowledgeable about and made use of the materials and resources available for participation in the arts in various roles.

Standard 3: Responding to and Analyzing Works of Art

Students responded critically to a variety of works in the arts, connecting the individual work to other works and to other aspects of human endeavor and thought.

Standard 4: Understanding the Cultural Contributions of the Arts

Students developed an understanding of the personal and cultural forces that shape artistic communication and how the arts in turn shape the diverse cultures of past and present society.



PROMOTION AND COLLABORATION:

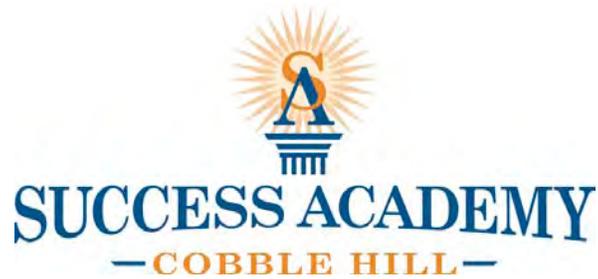
Our school virally promoted our bottle cap endeavor and solicited donations from students, families, extended families and businesses across America. People were extremely drawn to our cause and were excited to help! We promoted our project via letters, newsletters, word-of-mouth, blogs, and emails and more.

Here are a few businesses that made major contributions to our cause:

- Wells Fargo (Philadelphia branch)
- All Media Design Group
- Mr. Hero
- The Windish Agency
- Rometrics Salon and Spa
- Exponential Interactive
- Waters Corporation

Sample of a callout used in our biweekly newsletters to inspire participation !





PROJECT ANALYSIS:

As a founding school, I think that one of the most successful components of this project was the spirit of collaboration and pride that was generated within our school community and beyond. To watch scholars and families from diverse backgrounds, races and socioeconomic classes join together in almost a maniacal collection of caps was so inspiring.

It was very unifying for our new school community and the students became very invested in not only in the act of collecting the caps, but WHY we were doing it. Five and six-year-olds explored the changing nature of our planet and understand that they are responsible for how we treat it. Additionally, in the middle of our collection period, New York City was struck by the devastation of Hurricane Sandy. Many of our families were affected and many suffered personal loss. In collaboration with our science teacher, we took this opportunity to talk about climate change and how all of our earth's ecosystems are connected. Students not only understood the urgency for creating sustainable solutions but felt the responsibility to incite big change. We looked at many different artists who use sustainable practices in their work and talked about how, as artists, we have a responsibility to think creatively about these problems and see beauty and potential where others may not.

I also think that it was a successful choice to use post-impressionist painter Vincent Van Gogh as inspiration. Artists learned about his life through stories and images and understood that he was an artist that had his own style, which wasn't always popular. He was an inspiring figure that stayed true to his self and students internalized the message that it is okay to be different. We thought analytically about his work as we observed the impressionistic nature of his paintings. They really gravitated toward the notion that a collection of insignificant "paint blobs" can come together to make a truly beautiful and significant piece of art. Like "Starry Night," we are stronger and more impactful when we work together as a team and can become something beautiful.

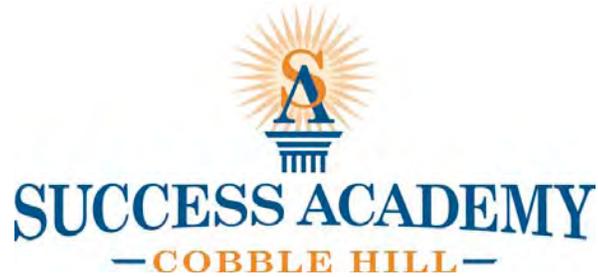


PROJECT ANALYSIS (continued...)

One element of our project that was challenging was the nature of the foam core on which we built our mosaic. After the students painted the image of “Starry Night” onto the board, the board warped, making it curve up. We did our best to tape and secure the panels as we worked so they would remain flat, however ultimately it made the installation tricky. Fortunately, a team of parents, together with our school staff, joined together to bolt the finished piece to the wall and keep it flat.

If I had to give advice to another school embarking upon this project, I would definitely recommend engaging the students and the surround community by not only helping them to understand the “what” but the “why” behind the project. I think the success of this piece definitely came from the collective enthusiasm for the cause and from the levels of pride they felt in what they were working towards. Bottle caps traveled in in lunch boxes, pockets, jackets and backpacks and filled classroom bins and sinks to the brim every day. They called grandparents in other states, and strong-armed parents to put out collection cups at their offices. The enthusiasm was so immense that parents had to have conversations with their children about “waiting until the orange juice container was empty” before pocketing the cap. The passion for this project was overwhelming and I think it definitely lent to the success of the final product. (Additionally, from a practical standpoint, I would also advise other art teachers to soak sorted caps in a bleach solution to eliminate any funky smells and creepy crawlers from entering their classroom!)

In assessing this project, I looked at a lot of different factors. I considered not only the finished product and passionate investment into the work, but also the students’ abilities to speak and write articulately about the process and the purpose. They showed a great deal of agency in their work and took ownership over all parts the project. The students can speak with authority about why it is important to recycle, the waste cycle, about artists who use sustainable practices, about public art and mosaics, about the work of Vincent Van Gogh, and about the process of creating this piece. It is really this deeper understanding and internalization of the essential questions behind this project that allow me to believe that our project was a success.



SCHOOL INFORMATION:

Success Academy Cobble Hill
284 Baltic Street, Lower Level
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Principal: Kerri Tabarcea

Contest Coordinator: Sarah Ellis Traci
Visual Art Teacher
609 707 4898
Sarah.EllisTraci@sacobblehill.org

School description: Success Academy Cobble Hill is part of the Success Charter Network of schools, located within New York City. Founded in 2012, Success Academy Cobble Hill contains 172 students in kindergarten and first grade, with the goal to grow each year to a K-8 school. Located in the heart of Cobble Hill, Brooklyn, our school reflects the community's rich and diverse history and culture.

CONTEST ENTRY INFORMATION:

Borough: Brooklyn

Grade Division: K-1 Elementary

Student Participation: Entire school, grades K-1 (172 students)



CONTACT:

Sarah Ellis Traci

Visual Arts Teacher

Sarah.EllisTraci@Sacobblehill.org

O: 718.704.1460

C: 609.707.4898

Success Academy Cobble Hill

284 Baltic Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201

www.successacademies.org