



Students enjoyed hands-on opportunities and tried different art techniques. MACLAY SCHOOL

‘Art as a part of life’

MACLAY CELEBRATES CREATIVITY, CREATIVE CAREERS

Amanda Karioth Thompson | Council on Culture & Arts

“Growing up, when I thought of an artist, I thought of a painter, that’s it,” confessed Kyle Maurey. “Now, of course, I understand that there are lots of ways for people to work in the arts, it’s not just being a painter.”

As a high school art teacher at Maclay School, this is a realization she’s committed to passing on to her students. Maurey does that in her classroom and also through the annual Celebration of the Arts, a school-wide arts festival. For Maurey, the goal of the event is “to make people see art as a part of life, as a part of everything.”

She believes it’s important to show kids “actual career opportunities that allow them to be creative, innovative and expressive. Let’s get rid of this idea of the starving artist.”



Kyle Maurey’s books and artwork were on display for students to browse. AMANDA THOMPSON

Maurey graduated from Maclay in 2007 and, after earning a BFA in illustration from the Savannah College of Art and Design, she started teaching and creating greeting cards and children’s book illustrations. She’s published two books and is currently working on a third.



Kyle Maurey

Her books were on display during the Celebration of the Arts event, and there were dozens of other booths hosted by school clubs, community organizations and several Maclay alumni who now have careers in the creative industries.

Chase Jordan, a practicing architect, flew in from Chicago to support his alma mater and Barrie Maurey drove from Atlanta to give kids insights into her job as a logistics manager for a performance production company.

“Having the alumni here is great because these people are doing real things in real places. They’re bringing that

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real-world experience back to Maclay to show our current students that these are viable career opportunities,” said Maurey.

The Celebration of the Arts is a multi-disciplinary event and included opportunities for students to showcase poetry, theater, music or dance. One of many to take the stage was 12th grader Justine De Saint Mars who performed an original song.

“I’ve always wanted to do something in music since I was little. I just got into college for music composition at FSU. Music has always made me really happy and I knew there were career options. I don’t really know what people can do with a chemistry degree,” Justine admitted, “but I know what I can do with a music degree. I focus more on that.”

Laura Adams shared that Justine’s performance was “100% one of my favorite parts of the event.” Laura is currently enrolled in one of Maurey’s art classes. The 12th grader especially enjoys learning drawing techniques and she contributed to a collaborative, large scale art installation for the event.

Maurey hopes that many Maclay students will choose creative careers but regardless of their professional path, she knows the skills they gain by studying the arts will transfer to all areas of their life. Aside from



Maclay Lower School art exhibit. AMANDA THOMPSON

problem solving, experimentation, revision, persistence, innovation and ingenuity; Maurey sees an increased level of introspection and curiosity in her students.

“They’re working through things while they’re making art. It’s a very productive time. And they get so much joy from making something they’re proud of. I just love seeing people happy and making stuff.”

Amanda Karioth Thompson is the Interim Executive Director for the Council on Culture & Arts. COCA is the capital area’s umbrella agency for arts and culture (www.tallahasseearts.org).