Children’s Peace Mural Project

VFTH

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A WKU honors student is using her thesis project to spread an important message about peace.

Amy Bingham explains in this week’s View from the Hill.

When Meg McDonald was looking for an honors thesis project, her mom told her about the Kids’ Guernica International Children’s Peace Mural Project.

 “When I first looked at this I thought it was way too big for a thesis project but the right people got involved and it really came together more than I expected.”

The right people included the art teacher and fifth grade students at McDonald’s alma mater, Hartstern Elementary in Louisville.

 “We created this Picasso sized canvas that’s based off his piece Guernica which is about the destruction that war can cause and how we as citizens should strive for a more peaceful place and that should begin with the kids.”

The students were encouraged to use symbolism to illustrate what peace looked like to them. An artist then incorporated all sixty drawings into a mural.

“I drew different kinds of seasons and stuff. She put spring here and added where I put winter here.”

 “The whole mural is set on a stage because there was a little girl who said she felt most paceful when she was singing on a stage at her church.”

The project also prompted some important dialogue about how to handle bullies.

 “We would talk about stuff like that while working like we would ask them how can you say something encouraging to someone why should you encourage other people?”

McDonald won’t defend her thesis until the fall, but she feels she’s already scored with the Children’s Mural Project.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

The mural is currently on display at Kosair Children’s Hospital in Louisville after being at WKU’s Center for Research and Development last month. If you’re interested in having the mural displayed, contact Meg McDonald at 502-693-7271.

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