



SARASOTA
COUNTY SCHOOLS

NEWS RELEASE

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Alta Vista Elementary students create mural for Sarasota Chalk Festival

SARASOTA – Alta Vista Elementary School fourth-grade students teamed up with the Multicultural Health Institute, a Sarasota-based non-profit organization, to create a Healthy Harvests Around the World mural for display at the Sarasota Chalk Festival. The event is a 10-day cultural festival in historic Burns Square in downtown Sarasota celebrating street art and performance.

The mural, created using acrylic paint, will be presented on the Observer Stage near Oak Street at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 3 and displayed for the remainder of the festival, which runs through Tuesday, Nov. 6. After the event the mural will travel to the North Sarasota Library as part of a student art exhibition.

Dr. Lisa Merritt instructed the students in good health and nutrition. Alta Vista art teacher Cassandra Whitehead and local artists Todd Berrien and Eleanor Merritt worked with the students to develop a large mural integrating cultural diversity with the visual arts, fitness and nutrition.

“Through this arts integration project, students gained a sensitivity regarding cultural awareness while learning about the importance of good nutrition and physical fitness,” said Principal Barbara Shirley. “We are thankful for partnerships with leaders and organizations that care so much about the education of the children in our community.”

At the North Sarasota Library, students researched nutrition and countries around the world at before beginning their artwork and completing the project at school.

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PHOTO CAPTION: From left, Alta Vista Elementary students Reinaldo Perez de Jesus, Elena Figueroa and Wesley Tunstall work with artist Todd Berrien on a mural, “Healthy Harvest Around the World.” The mural will be featured at the Sarasota Chalk Festival through Nov. 6.