

Times-Register

Westlake Academy students brush up for Gallery Night

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WESTLAKE -- A multimedia kimono, flags made of a composite of portraits, 3D printings and paintings, and an acrylic panel painting await buyers at the Westlake Academy's Gallery Night fundraiser, March 3.

Students at Westlake Academy with help from some pros have prepared art for the event, which is a collaboration between Westlake Public Art Society and Westlake Academy.

Besides the student art pieces, "The World Comes to Westlake" includes numerous professional art works.

To prepare the event, artists Greg Arth, Linda Bein, Trish Biddle, Janie Cavender, Nancy Herkert, Nolen Mueller, Richard Nunez, Holly Paulsen and Nell Potasznik helped students create art pieces in the artists' choice of medium.

In addition to a live and silent auction, this year's event features an international travel theme reflected in gourmet food stations and décor, and live entertainment from The Roof Raisers band.

Auction items include national and international trips, professional art, sports memorabilia, private chef dinners and donations from many local businesses.

Proceeds from Gallery Night will furnish the classrooms with equipment, campus and gym needs, specialized curriculum and technology upgrades.

"Overall the project is surpassing all of our expectations," said Westlake Academy Foundation president Kelly Cox. "Students are learning so much."

Cox said principals and teachers alike are enthusiastic about the program.

"Plans are already underway to expand to the upper school next year and teachers want an ongoing partnership with the artists throughout the year to build art into all units of inquiry," she said.

Westlake Academy Foundation executive director Shelly Myers said the event last year raised more than \$200,000. "The goal is to exceed last year's amount," Myers said. "So far sponsorships are at a record high at \$96,000."

The event is at 6 p.m. at the Dallas/Fort Worth Marriott Solana Hotel, 5 Village Circle in Westlake. For more information go to www.westlakeacademyfoundation.org.

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