

The Colorado Springs School
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NEWS

DATE: October 7, 2009
For Release: Upon Receipt

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THE COLORADO SPRINGS SCHOOL PRE-KINDERGARTEN CLASS HEADS TO THE ZOO TO PAINT WITH THE ELEPHANT AND ORANGUTAN

Colorado Springs, Colo. – Pre-Kindergarten students at The Colorado Springs School (CSS) are learning that anyone can be an artist --- even an elephant! After reading the children’s book *Elephants Can Paint Too!*, the teachers decided the book made a wonderful catalyst to extend the classroom lesson with a trip to the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo. **On Thursday, October 8, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.** the four-year-old students will visit Lucky, the African Elephant residing and painting at the zoo. Lucky has become a well-known artist in the Colorado Springs community. The students will then head to the ape house to further explore the amazing talents of animal artwork with the orangutans.

“At The Colorado Springs School, we really engage the minds of young people by providing an array of experiential and hands-on learning experiences,” said Karen Lawson, Director of the Early Childhood Center and Pre-Kindergarten Teacher. “Through typical student to teacher ratio of eight students to one teacher, we can engage each child’s intellectual curiosity and promote a dynamic learning community.”

The Colorado Springs School Pre-Kindergarten class started this favorite theme of study in October, *Exploring Our Community*, and began with pets and veterinary medicine. During this unit, the class had its first classroom visitor, Dr. Lisa Gerleman, and one of her canine friends. They will continue with *Exploring Our Community* with the world of art, as the four-year-olds will study line, shape, color, and the different mediums used to create works of art. The class will also take a field trip to the Hayden Hayes Gallery at the Broadmoor. During this theme, the teachers will use a variety of mediums, explore famous paintings, and encourage the students to create original works of art. To strengthen math skills, they will study the use of shape in art through Piet Mondrian’s and Paul Klee’s works, as well as size comparisons in Georgia O’Keeffe’s paintings. The garden and flower paintings of Monet, Van Gogh, and O’Keeffe will be studied for style, texture and use of different medium. The

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science of color mixing will be tested in experiments, and the results will be displayed for the parent's viewing pleasure. The class will also paint with some of the materials Jackson Pollock used. A powerful social and emotional lesson of noting that beauty is in the eye of the beholder, will be emphasized throughout this unit of study. The unit will culminate on Friday, October 30, at the 9th Annual Pre-K Art Show in the Gallery in the Louisa Performing Arts Center on The Colorado Springs School campus.

To learn more about The Colorado Springs School, visit www.css.org or call 719-475-9747.

******Any media wishing to attend this event must call ahead of time and make an appointment to be escorted at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo. To do so, please call Jessica L. James, Director of Communications at The Colorado Springs School at (719)210-3499- cell. Appointments can also be scheduled with Sean Anglum, Public Relations and Special Events Manager at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo at (719)633-9925 ext. 140. ******

About the Colorado Springs School (CSS)

CSS offers an experiential educational curriculum for Pre-Kindergarten – 12th graders. Through superior academics and mentoring, The Colorado Springs School prepares students to think independently and to meet the needs of a dynamic world with leadership, ingenuity, problem-solving skills, and personal integrity.

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