

Press Release

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Meriden, CT, October 1, 2011 -- The Meriden Arts Council (MAC) in conjunction with the Quinnipiac River Watershed Association (QRWA) have been awarded a joint grant by the Naugatuck Savings Bank Foundation for a Nature Art Show to be exhibited in May 2012.

The two non-profits will be working with Lincoln Middle School, a HOT school or *Higher Order Thinking* school, to foster a shared understanding of the importance of nature as the inspiration for art and as art as a means of learning. This will be accomplished by choosing a current environmental issue as the theme for the project. The two groups will then provide educational and creative opportunities to explore this issue on a deeper level and to express what's learned through art.

The grant will provide funding for this two-part project. Once the theme of the art show is established, the QRWA will present to the Lincoln Middle School students an educational event with subject matter experts to support the students in their understanding of the topic. This will build on the nature sciences curriculum already established at the school. Concurrently, MAC will develop the artistic guidelines and set the deadlines for submission of artwork to the juried Nature Art Show. Both agencies will then collect the artwork, organize and promote the art show, select judges for the event, and host the art show in a local venue. The artwork from the event will then be on special exhibit at a local Naugatuck Savings Bank branch after the initial show.

This Naugatuck Savings Bank Foundation Nature Art Show, as a collaborative effort between Lincoln Middle School, the Meriden Arts Council and the Quinnipiac River Watershed Association, effectively portrays the characteristics of a HOT school: creativity, adaptability, and teamwork. The overall intent is to demonstrate a community-focused example of the mission of Lincoln Middle School.

The mission of Lincoln Middle School is to *learn in and through the arts*, making it a natural partnering school for this grant funded opportunity. Lincoln consists of 700 plus students, grades six through eight, ages 11 through 13.

For more information, please visit www.meridenartscouncil.org.

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