

# Erskine Happenings

Erskine Happenings *continued from p. 13*

## Greening it Up

Tucked in between the cafeteria and locker room ell stands a little building with large sunny windows on its roof. Very warm air hits you unexpectedly as you enter the structure. Plants in various stages of growth sit on counters around the perimeter. It's the Erskine greenhouse project.

The greenhouse was built in the 2011-12 school year by the students in the industrial arts program with instructor Dave Barden. Initially, instructor Lynne Chadwick's biology classes used the greenhouse, although they tend to grow plants in the closer vicinity of their classrooms.

Starting in the spring of 2015, the Health III classes took over the greenhouse after receiving a \$500 grant from Inland Hospital's Let's Go! Goes to School mini-grant funding program. Under the direction of health instructor Shara MacDonald and school nurse Diane Dow, the students have grown microgreens, radishes, tomatoes, green peppers, and flowers. Some of the produce is sold to school personnel to bring in revenue for the



LEFT Diane Dow, R.N. '76 explains what is growing in the greenhouse ABOVE The sunny greenhouse

project, and greens are provided to the cafeteria to supplement the salad bar.

Local farmer Andrew York of Palermo, ME visited the Health III class and presented a talk on greenhouse growing.

This fall, the class took a field trip to Johnny's Selected Seeds to purchase leaf parsley, basil, sage, catnip, microgreens, and growing medium. The seedlings will be started probably at the beginning of the second trimester and nurtured until about April. A four-foot-long heat lamp has been ordered to help in the darker months. Roadblocks to a longer growing season include lack of water to the building and the intense heat as the days grow longer. There is no overhead ventilation, only side windows that can be opened.

The Health III students and instructors enjoy watching the plants grow and spending time in the cheery greenhouse. It is hoped that outside beds might be built to continue the growing period for a longer period of time. Donations to support the project are always welcome.

## Street Art

Students in art instructor Scott Minzy's Street Art class took part in an event with guest artist and alumnus Matt Demers '08. Large sheets of plastic were stretched between the trees near the art rooms. Using spray cans, the art students painted graphic images on the plastic. Matt offered helpful feedback and suggestions. It was a great demonstration of a creative and often under appreciated expressive art form. Matt's art work may be seen at [mattdemersart.com](http://mattdemersart.com).

## College Applications Days

Seniors spent some of their class time in early November stationed at computers in the library lab completing the "common app" for college acceptance during the annual College Application Days held as part of the MELMAC grant program. Guidance personnel Sue LaGasse and Betsy Benner circulated among the applicants offering help. In a nearby conference room, Senior Associate Director of Recruitment Nikolas Ray from University of Maine



ABOVE Artist Matt Demers '08 demonstrating the street art project  
RIGHT Students creating street art

