

STUDENT PROJECTS SHINE IN 'BRAG DAY' SPOTLIGHT

By Micah Benke

Everyone likes a pat on the back every now and then, and that's exactly what students at Lighthouse Preparatory Academy got last week at the school's first "Brag Day" event. Students showed off their projects and work from last semester in special displays event to which they invited friends and family. Jamie Shepherd, parent of freshman Javen Shepherd, remarked, "I enjoyed looking at all the projects and seeing people from LPA."

There were many classes represented, including Spanish I and II, World History, Economics, and Drawing/Sculpting. Students in this art class, taught by instructor Phyllis Lesh, had many interesting sculptures on display -- including soap carvings, colorful masks, paint sticks decorated with colorful clay, and old shoes turned into decorative new items. The idea behind the shoe project, which attracted a lot of attention from visitors, was to take a used shoe and transform it into something that does not resemble a shoe. One example was a tennis shoe turned into a fish; another shoe was turned into a Star Wars ship.

Some students made masks. "The masks were my favorite project!" said sixth-grader John Meyer.

Each student in the high school World History class, taught by instructor Debbie Livingston, made a 3-D model depicting some major aspect of Biblical or Roman history. One very impressive project was a student's actual working model of a Roman Aqueduct. Also displayed were a model of the Ark of the Covenant and a replica of the Ten Commandments, hand-written in Hebrew!

As with all first-time events, there is room for improvement in the future. Staff and students are already looking toward their next "Brag Day." As a visiting parent, Shepherd had these suggestions: "I think that every class should have something for Brag Day. Some kids didn't have anything to show because they didn't take a class like art, which has projects to display. I also think that there should be a display for sports, the play and other extra-curricular activities. It might also be fun to have things like speeches, singing, instrument playing, etc., for those things that students do that you can't put on a table."

Obviously the students at LPA have been very busy this last semester, and by the turnout of family and friends that came to support them at this event, it would appear that LPA Student Brag Day will be a growing event for the school.

Micah Benke is an eighth-grader at Lighthouse Preparatory Academy.