



For immediate release 10/1/2013

Event: We Celebrate the River – with area artists

Date: Friday, October 4th at 4pm – 6pm

Location: K.K. Berge Building in downtown Granite Falls

Sponsors: Granite Area Arts Council & Clean Up the River Environment (CURE)

For more information please contact Peg at 320-269-2984

Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) along with the Granite Area Arts Council are sponsoring “**We Celebrate the River**” at the Opening Night Celebration of the Meander Weekend. On Friday beginning at 4pm poems will be read about the river and work will be on display at the K.K. Berge Building. Area artists Florence Dacey, Marie Olofsdotter and Margo McCreary have teamed up with first, third and fourth graders from the Montevideo school district to learn more about and appreciate the river valley in which they reside. Come out and experience through river life through the voices, words and images of our youth.

Florence lead fourth graders as they learn about the Chippewa River on a field trip with stations on water quality, river creature, Dakota perspectives, and river history. The students compose poems based on their learning, then revised and shared one poem in class booklets and performances, with musical accompaniment. Learners practiced the use of imagery, figurative language, lining the poem, repetition, and revising the poem.

Margo McCreary worked with classrooms of third graders. Through classroom study, students learned about animal food chains, the diversity of living things and how all lives are interdependent. During a trip to Lagoon Park, which is on the Chippewa River, the student met with a Lac Qui Parle State Park naturalist to look into the water on a microscopic level, visit a beaver dam, and seek bird or animal sightings. Children made paper mache hand puppets and cloth costumes and worked in small groups to create stories about how characters' lives touch, learning plot, theme, character, language, sound and spectacle.

Marie Olofsdotte worked with the first graders who made handmade, stick-bound books to be turned into illustrated journals of the Minnesota River's path from source to tap. Students studied the history of the river, as well as river wildlife, and follow the river's path all the way into their own kitchen. Students were introduced to the basic techniques of drawing and will learn to identify the elements of visual art including color, line, shape, texture, and space and filled their handmade journals with scenes of the Minnesota River. The books will be bound using string and sticks found by the river's edge

This school residency was made possible in part by a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board with funds appropriated by the State Legislature and/or by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural heritage Fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.

For more information please contact Peg at peg@cureriver.org or 320-269-2984