“Art-A-Thon” celebrates importance of arts

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The students and the types of products they are creating within the department.

Another visitor to the exhibit was the chair of the department, Barbara Vvachka, who said that she has seen an evolution in styles and techniques being used by the students. She noted, "We see things shift from year to year depending on what the graduate students are doing and what their focus might be." She said, "I have to work with my own poetry as well as read the work of others." She thinks that words in poetry are powerful. "For 'Art-A-Thon' we did a collection of art to be used for a special event in the community."

Another event was a ceramics sale and an open studio. Ortega said it was a great success. "One of the students, Kelsee, was able to rent a booth and sell her pottery." She said, "It's great to see how much we can do with the community outside of the classroom." The students and the community can help by purchasing one or more items at $20 each.

The final phase recently required that the students design the program for the rover. "There's one part of the project that the students were excited about," said Fitzgerald.

The project involved driving the rover on the school's parking lot while navigating it from inside a classroom with only a diagram of the school parking lot. During this phase, the students were required to drive the rover through the center of the school parking lot using a hand-held transmitter with two joysticks which controlled the rover's movement.

The final phase required that the students review what they had learned and then program the rover to navigate through 14 designated way points on the EHS football field. "Basically it's a GPS system that the kids involved would need to plan an open course of action to navigate through the various points of the project. The students learned that there is a template that you can use to map out things in the classroom and achieve goals and understand the world around you a little better."

Fitzgerald also commented about the value of promoting the arts in the community. "We can see the level of achievement of our students and the everyday in a very special and unique way," she said. "It brings to life things that are not necessarily brought to life in our everyday lives. It makes you think in ways that fiction, or creative non-fiction doesn't. It makes you work much harder."

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