

Grade 6 Enrichment

Thousands of years ago, the Greeks, Egyptians, Byzantines and others recorded their 'stories' in stone. These images now give us 'snapshots' of their lives.

It seemed fitting in this year of the Olympics, to revisit this process of *bas relief*, infusing stone (or clay, at least) with *our* stories.

So, eighteen selected grade six students from various schools in District 2 spent two entire days together, creating stories in stone with New Brunswick clay mural artist, Dorrie Brown. The first day in February coincided with Olympic competitions in Vancouver. We talked about ancient Greek Olympics – the athletes, the notion of 'hero', the Peace Corridor which allowed competing countries to travel to the Games without threat, the ban on conflict between even warring city-states.

From this discussion, each student was asked to choose a picture of a 2010 athlete in action (or in defeat) and imagine that s/he was that competitor, and then to create a story around that. Did you win? How did that feel? Are you a hero? What kind? Why should your peers look up to you? Did you lose? How do you deal with the disappointment and move on? Are you a 'hero'? What did you have to do to get to the Olympics?, etc.

After writing some excellent stories, students worked the athlete's image in 8 x 10" clay tablets, which were then cured and fired. In April, these students came together once again to paint the tiles with acrylic paints and black iron oxide, producing a metallic finish.

Parents were invited to view the tiles and read the stories, and agreed with their children that this was indeed an extraordinary creative opportunity!





