



KEYS SCHOOL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KEYS SCHOOL 8TH GRADERS TOUR MURALS OF THE MISSION Community Service Project Combines Art, Spanish Language Studies

PALO ALTO, CA, October 19, 2006 – On Wednesday, October 18, eighth graders from Keys School in Palo Alto toured San Francisco’s Mission District, internationally recognized for its rich concentration of elaborate murals gracing the walls and facades of neighborhood buildings, to learn first-hand about the history and cultural heritage of these painted scenes. Working in small teams, students immediately began applying what they had learned to create their own mini-murals, a gift they will give back to Keys School. San Francisco boasts nearly 600 murals, with the Mission District neighborhood serving as the centerpiece for this original public art form.

Keys school faculty teamed up with the Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center to organize the tour, which gave students the opportunity to view more than 75 murals in a six-block stretch including the mural corridor of 24th Street and the unique mural environment of Balmy Alley. The eighth grade mural project offered a unique integrated learning experience, combining art and Spanish language studies, as students were exposed to the rich ethnic and cultural heritage of the Mission District, a predominantly Latino neighborhood since the 1970s.

(more)

Keys School Murals of the Mission - 1

“Murals are created by and for the members of a community and reflect the viewpoints of the artists who produce them,” says Andrea Tucker-Hody, Keys School art teacher. “Our students’ murals will espouse their hopes, dreams and aspirations and they will have a permanent home here at Keys School for all members of the Keys community to enjoy.”

Established in 1973, Keys School (2890 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto) is an independent, K-8 school offering a broad, hands-on curriculum that fosters high academic achievement and emphasizes balanced growth - intellectually, physically, emotionally, and socially -

for every student. Within a diverse and supportive community, Keys is committed to maintaining a caring and creative environment that encourages children to take intellectual risks and to treat others with respect and empathy.

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