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Students from Deer Canyon Elementary pose with the completed Dream Quilt. / Photo provided by sdBackyard.com member sdBackyard.com member Judy Berman Silbert

# Artists reach out to teach students at Deer Canyon Elementary School, p. 6

[community calendar \(more on p. 3\)](#)

### COOKIE DECORATING

The Poway Branch Library will host a cookie decorating session from 2 to 3 p.m. on Dec. 13.

[community highlights](#)

### LOCAL STUDENT RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP

Elizabeth Covey, a student at the Bellus Academy in Poway, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from Sports Clips on Dec. 4. p. 8



### RANCHO YMCA OFFERS SIGNUP DEAL

The Rancho Family YMCA in Rancho Penasquitos is offering "no joining fee" for one day on Dec. 13. p. 9

[out and about \(more on p. 10\)](#)

### HOLIDAY HOME TOUR

Westview High School hosted a Holiday Home Tour in Rancho Penasquitos on Dec. 7.





# ArtReach Kicks Off Season

*with workshop at Deer Canyon Elementary School*

**By Judy Berman Silbert**  
sdBackyard.com member, Rancho Penasquitos

**O**n Oct. 27, five ArtReach visual artists worked with Amy Regardie's fifth grade class at Deer Canyon Elementary School in Rancho Penasquitos to create two Dream Quilts.



Deer Canyon fifth graders put finishing touches on ArtReach Dream Quilt.



Artist Irina Negulescu stands by her painting of a dancer. Photos provided by sdBackyard.com member Judy Berman Silbert

The Dream Quilt project is one of the signature visual art workshops that ArtReach provides to elementary schools throughout the region.

The workshop at Deer Canyon was the kickoff for the new team of ArtReach visual artists who visit community schools to provide unique art experiences for students in kindergarten through sixth grade. Normally, one ArtReach artist travels to each participating school to present a lesson, share their own work and help students develop collaborative pieces of original art, but at this workshop, Mrs. Regardie's class met, worked with and had a question and answer session with five ArtReach artists: Alessandra Colfi, Cynthia Colis, Catherine Dziado-Haller, Irina Negulescu and Erin Pennell.

It was a treat for both artists and students. "The kids were really engaged because they were elbow to elbow with each other while experiencing and creating art. They also really liked asking the artists questions about their work," says Deer Canyon teacher Amy Regardie.

Students used oil pastels to transfer their ideas, hopes and dreams onto a mural. Side by side, the student's work is powerful and empowering.

"We encourage students to put their feelings into their work and they really enjoy creating something



Artist Cynthia Colis stands next to her painting of a pink cow and artist Alessandra Colfi points to her collage.



Teacher Amy Regardie poses with some of her fifth-grade artists.



Artist Erin Pennell demonstrates sketching skills to students.

original that is beautiful in its own right, but that also contributes to the mural as a whole," says ArtReach program director Judy Berman Silbert. "We were so pleased that Mrs. Regardie arranged for our Kick-off workshop to be with her amazing students. It was a great way to begin a year full of art."

The visiting artists were pleased with both the outcome of the murals – they were colorful and full of imagination – and the questions the students asked.

"What is your favorite medium?" asked one student.

"What inspires you?" asked another.

And finally, each artist was asked where they come from and the students were delighted by the five different answers: Italy, Vietnam, the Philippines, Connecticut, Romania and San Diego. It was a wonderful day of art and exploration.

ArtReach is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization that tailors art workshops to individual classes or entire schools under the guidance of professional visual artists. For more information, please call (619) 615-1090 or visit [www.artreachsandiego.org](http://www.artreachsandiego.org).



Deer Canyon students at work on the mural.