

Students show off art skills with Beloit window scenes

By HILLARY GAVAN Senior staff writer | Posted: Wednesday, November 25, 2015 10:00 am

BELOIT — Beloit Memorial High School students in Liz Carpenter’s art club and AP studio art class were beautifying Beloit’s downtown by painting holiday scenes on the windows of the Beloit Post Office, the Beloit Daily News and Blackhawk Bank on Tuesday.

In between singing Christmas carols, “Ain’t No Mountain High Enough,” “Let it Go” and whistling work songs, the spirited crew painted polar bears, snowflakes and Grumpy cat-in-a-frame on the windows of the Daily News.

“This has been really, really fun. It’s a great way to spend time before Thanksgiving,” said student Gabe McKearn.

Some of the many artists included McKearn, Ian Hobson, Janet Dominguez, Amber Bennett, Ciria Velazquez, Ana Sanchez, Gloria Heiss, Allison Monahan, Melissa Jenkins and Liz Santacruz.

Carpenter has been bringing her students to paint downtown windows for more than 10 years.

“It helps them do community art and get it out of the classroom. We want more opportunities for Beloit to see what our students are capable of,” she said.

The students painted a woodland winter wonderland scene at the post office before brainstorming potential winter scenes at the Daily News.

“Here we are being a little more spontaneous,” Carpenter said.

Hobson said she painted the snowman and penguin at the post office project, which took almost four hours. She said she hopes to be a graphic artist one day. Ian, who is in AP studio art, also likes to be creative at her job at Homecare Pharmacy where helped out with the holiday display.

“I wrote in cursive backwards,” Ian added.

Gabe joked about painting Donald Trump at the Daily News, although the students realized they



Creativity

(From left): Beloit Memorial High School student Gabe McKearn paints a Transformer while Ian Hobson paints Grumpy Cat on the Beloit Daily News windows on Tuesday. Students in AP studio art and art club were painting windows of downtown businesses with holiday scenes.

would have to fairly represent all candidates and decided to opt for polar bears and birds holding presents instead.

Gabe, who is in art club, was painting a Transformer and said it was his first time painting the downtown windows. Gabe said he hopes to use his many artistic talents to be a designer for Lego one day. He is hoping for a camera this Christmas, as he likes to do stop motion photography, an animation technique where an object is slightly moved in each photograph to create the illusion of movement. Gabe hopes to do stop motion photography with Lego dragons and robots.

Carpenter said art club is a big hit this year, with 30 students. The art club is also painting portraits of creative geniuses and will be making ceramic wind chimes when not yarn bombing the downtown.

Carpenter noted that students with good grades in art class are invited the National Arts Honor Society.