

PEACOCK of PEACE

Exchange student, Haytham Mohanna, learned origami* from his elementary teacher in Gaza. His teacher was taught by a woman visiting Gaza from Japan. As part of Haytham's exchange year in Haines, sharing his love of origami is very satisfying. The experience is appreciated outside language and cultural barriers.

When Haytham learned this pattern, his teacher told him the peacock is a symbol of peace. After 6 years and many peacocks, he has this process memorized. The practice made it possible for him to teach Thunder Mountain High School's Art Club on the fly - Traveling for Youth Exchange and Study (YES) conferences, or with school sports, Haytham was able to arrange 4 visits in Juneau to teach the process. After 3 months, and many hours of independent folding, TMHS Art Club has their own Peacock of Peace!

The day we all gathered for final assembly, common expressions that applied to the job were shared - **"Many hands make light work,"** was a popular one. When some of our folds turned out bad, we had to show mutual respect, and not take things too personally - **"Try, try again"** & **"It's a good thing we made more!"** We marveled over how a common image in our minds of what we were working toward, a photo of Haytham's previous work, motivated us, and kept us going - **"A picture is worth a thousand words."**

Sometimes the monotony of folding was soothing, almost zen-like, and sometimes it was tedious - **"Patience and persistence pay off!"**

It was fun to imagine how this knowledge traveled from person to person around the globe, and we could now share it with our Alaskan friends and family. Above all, we learned if we make the time, be respectful and do careful work, we will stick together to achieve big, wonderful things!

We want to share our beautiful group project, where it will inspire community. We thought of our government representatives and legislative staff who understand and appreciate team efforts just like this, so -

We offer our Peacock of Peace to the State Capitol in celebration of patience, perseverance, and the common goal of making the State of Alaska a beautiful place to share, to live, and to learn.

Thank you for all you do for our future.

Spring 2014

Peacock design lead by Haytham Mohanna of Gaza, Palestine

Haytham's stay in Haines is by scholarship from the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange & Study program. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of State and sponsored by the Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs.

TMHS Art Club Participants

Crystal Green & special guest assistant, Christina Green
Destiny Martin
Michael Grant
Melody Kleinschmidt
Thea Sangster

Kym Rohrer & special guest assistant, Steven Grunstein
Acacia Poulson-Edwards
Kylee Goehring
McKenna Kincaid
Maha Abdulrazzaq

...and Art Club coordinator, Heather K Ridgway, who's work is sponsored by the Alaska School Activities Association & the Juneau School District

**This kind of origami is often called "modular," as an assemblage of identically folded papers.*

Each unit must be folded precisely, or the structure won't hold. Our Peacock of Peace is made of over 2000 folded units.