



NEWS RELEASE

101 State Street, Peoria, IL 61602
(309) 677-4747 www.wtvp.org

Contact:
Mary Keltner
Riverview Gardens, Peoria District 150
(309) 472-1084
mary.keltner@psd150.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Riverview Gardens Preschoolers to Exhibit Original Artwork

The preschoolers of Riverview Gardens Child and Family Development Centers in Peoria will exhibit "Finger Paints to Oil Paints — A Child's Exploration of the World of Fine Arts" in the Futures Gallery at the WTVP 47 studio building from April 4 through May 2. The exhibit is free and open to the public. Schools and groups are welcome.

The children's exhibit of original portraits is the culmination of an entire school year's study of fine arts that began in the fall with a visit to the WTVP Gallery to see "Art in Peoria," a retrospective of 50 years of oil paintings by William F. Hardin, and to meet the artist. Using Mr. Hardin and his works as inspiration, the children began their own journey into fine arts by creating interpretations of his works. The children's enthusiasm led their teachers, Mary Keltner and Alicia Blake, to expand the project with the goal of each child creating an original portrait of a parent.

The kids were introduced to the works and styles of famous painters from throughout history. They were supplied with a vast array of paintbrushes and encouraged to experiment with colors, shapes and their own ideas. Their resulting masterworks are more than straight portraiture, but true reflections of each artist's individual vision, interests and sense of self.

"The kids and their families are so excited about 'really exhibiting' their work," said Mary Keltner, Riverview preschool teacher. "We're all so proud of them and how far they've come this year. They may not all become painters, but the lessons they've learned in colors, observation and trusting their own creativity will set them up to be better students who are always ready to learn."

The Futures Gallery at WTVP is located at 101 State Street on the Peoria Riverfront. Hours are Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Weekend and afterhours viewings and group showings are welcome by appointment. Contact Stacey Tomczyk to schedule for or further Gallery information, (309) 495-0594.

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**Riverview Gardens Child and Family Development Centers —
A proud District 150 school**

Riverview Gardens Child and Family Development Centers is a preschool located in Taft Homes and operated in cooperation with the Peoria Public Schools and the Peoria Housing Authority. The program is part of District 150's state-funded STAR classrooms. Riverview Gardens has been in existence for more than nine years. Currently, the school is providing educational opportunities for eighteen students and their families.

The goal of Riverview Gardens is to provide a high-quality education to the children it serves. While in the classroom, children are taught using a child-centered approach towards learning. To help facilitate that learning, the program incorporates Best Practices, Creative Curriculum, the Project Approach, Owl and Open Court. Parenting skills are promoted and supported through a variety of activities offered throughout the week at the Center.

WTVP 47—Public Television for Central Illinois

WTVP is a PBS member station serving all or part of 22 counties throughout Central Illinois. Since 1971, WTVP has been providing non-commercial television programming and educational content that engages, enhances, and inspires citizens of all ages. As part of its mission, WTVP participates in the Ready To Learn initiative designed to provide young children with the tools and skills they need to be excited about school and start on a path to becoming life-long learners. The WTVP Futures Gallery was created to foster a sense of accomplishment in child artists and encourage their creativity and imagination.

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