

Deaf Culture Question of the Week – Sept 28-Oct 2, 2009
Bill Newell, Principal Washington School for the Deaf

Last week was International Deaf Awareness Week (always the 4th week of September).

At WSD students engaged in a De'Via Art contest. What does De'Via stand for?

- a. Deaf Visual Arts
- b. Deaf View/Image Art
- c. Deaf Visual/Image Art
- d. Deaf Entrepreneurial Visual Art

Go to the bottom of this message for the answer.

Answer: “b” Deaf View/Image Art. "De'VIA represents Deaf artists and perceptions based on their Deaf experiences. It uses formal art elements with the intention of expressing innate cultural or physical Deaf experience. These experiences may include Deaf metaphors, Deaf perspectives, and Deaf insight in relationship with the environment (both the natural world and Deaf cultural environment), spiritual and everyday life." (http://www.deafart.org/Deaf_Art_/deaf_art_.html)

Read the De'Via Manifesto at the website indicated above and see some examples of De'Via Art here:

http://www.deafart.org/Artworks/Selected_Touring_Works/selected_touring_works.html

At WSD our students engaged in a De'Via art contest. They were required to use color pencil on dark blue construction paper and draw artwork that would express a Deaf theme. The winning art this year will become the design for the Deaf Awareness Week (DAW) T-shirt for next year's Deaf Awareness Week. T-shirts will be on sale and the winning student will have the honor of seeing his or her artwork proudly displayed during DAW next year. The winner of the 2009 DAW De'Via Art Contest was Jeremy Descloux. Congratulations Jeremy.