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a new roads note

Hollywood May Have the Oscars, but New Roads School has...

...**A vibrant, varied, and expanding film program** of its own. This year, more than 100 students are enrolled in film classes at the High School and Santa Monica Middle School campuses. Classes include film production, film theory, film literacy, and screenwriting. Currently, students at both the High School and Middle School campuses are winding-up production of 30 separate short films to be submitted for, and screened at, the annual New Roads Film Festival, tentatively scheduled for April 29th at the Santa Monica Public Library. (check your calendar for final schedule). Film students, working with parents, also are producing a special film/DVD premiering at the New Roads' **15th Anniversary Celebration** on March 20th.

Film Society students at a weekly gathering

For the first time, New Roads has a **Film Society**, founded by sophomore Jess Linde, which meets weekly (Thursdays at 3:15) at the High School campus to, "watch movies, eat snacks, and vote on the next week's movie," according to Jess. Every fourth week, the Society watches a "so bad it's good" movie, in tribute to the TV show "Mystery Science Theater 3000." On February 11th, the Film Society welcomed Director/Actor Eli Roth (*Hostel, Inglourious Basterds*) who presented one of his favorite movies, George Sluzier's *The Vanishing* (1988), followed by a Q & A session for the film enthusiasts.

At the **Malibu Middle School campus**, Amanda Kays' Humanities students used film as the basis of their **"Change the World"** project last spring. Students were asked to think about how they might positively contribute to changing the world by curbing their own use of non-renewable resources (water, energy, plastic, etc.) and they researched cultures that have been impacted either positively or negatively by energy extraction or production. They then chose a cause of personal interest and created movies designed to teach others about their selected issue. Click here to watch a sample.

As part of her community action for this year, Malibu Middle School sixth-grader, Sangita Stehle produced a video fund-raiser for victims of the earthquake in Haiti. Click here to watch Sangita's film on YouTube.

Spectrum Program students at both the High School and Malibu Middle School campuses are ensconced in film projects as well. At the High School, students are learning about documentary film-making and the research, interview, and editing techniques that underlie good documentary storytelling. After watching numerous documentaries, students have divided into teams to produce: *Independency: The Other Side of the Music Industry,* about the indie music scene; *Furious Flames: A Tale of Survival*, about how wildlife is affected by wildfires; and *The History of Stereotypes*, digging into the root and evolution of persistent stereotypes in our society.

Spectrum Malibu students currently are involved in a unit called "**A Day in the Life**", for which the final project will be individual films that accurately represent an average day in each student's life. Students have been collecting and analyzing detailed data on their daily routines in order to become more aware of themselves, their lifestyles, and their larger environment, and to discover the sensations, patterns, and rituals that create their personal realities. They also are examining the ways in which culture, ethnicity and heritage are reflected in their daily routines and activities.

Stay tuned for upcoming news about two award-winning New Roads film students.