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#19.1.30.1

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MEDIA RELEASE

McLane Students Install Pop-Ups of Human Trafficking Victims

What: McLane High School ArtVenture students will install life-size pop-ups of human trafficking victims in various downtown locations

When: Saturday, Feb. 2, 2019
10-10:15 a.m.

Where: 50 yards north of Bitwise Industries
700 Van Ness Ave. (93721)

McLane High School ArtVenture students, under the direction of teacher Marc Patterson, will install life size pop-up cutouts of human trafficking victims at four downtown locations, beginning with a site near Bitwise Industries. The purpose of the project, “After Dark: Breaking the Chains of Human Trafficking,” is to build awareness of the human trafficking crisis. Attached are examples of the pop-ups created from student paintings of victims. Visitors can scan the QR code and read the story of that specific individual.

ArtVenture Academy is part of a yearlong Fresno Unified art and creative writing initiative that this year focused on human trafficking. The initiative, Relevant Engagement with Art and Literacy (R.E.A.L.), provides rich curriculum and visual art opportunities and engagements for students from transitional kindergarten to high school in all seven regions of Fresno Unified. Teachers explore age-appropriate themes through art and literature aligned with the overarching theme.
Elementary teachers in this project have been working with students to build their understanding of self-worth and independence so they are equipped to make good decisions and stand up for one another. Participating middle school students have focused on topics of coercion and modern slavery, and continued exploring the importance of self-worth. High schools tackled the topic of human trafficking by promoting awareness in the community of human trafficking victims.

“Through this art and writing project, students have learned about a real crisis that is affecting their city and how they can make a difference in their community,” said Superintendent Bob Nelson.

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