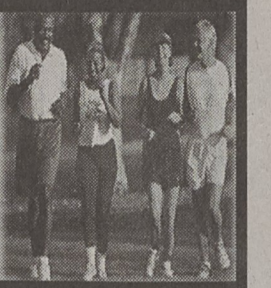




# Senior <sup>ACTIVE</sup> Lifestyles

Having The Time Of Their Lives!



## Retired teacher continues to pass on her love of art

BY ALAN HODGE

Jeaniene Dibble of Belmont may have retired from teaching school, but her love of bringing out the budding artist in children still goes on and on.

Dibble's background includes a stint teaching art at a school in Maryland. She also taught at Gaston School of the Arts, Sacred Heart College and Belmont Abbey College.

At Sacred Heart, Dibble was a student herself for a while under the tutelage of Sister Mary Theophane - a person she greatly admires.

"Because of her I still do arts and crafts with the older nuns," Dibble says.

It was during her time at Gaston School of Art that the idea of giving private

art lessons came about in 1995.

"I couldn't believe that people would pay someone to teach them art," Dibble said.

This revelation has led Dibble to her current career called "Art by J."

Housed on the second floor of the Belmont General Store, the studio is a haven where about 70 art students aged six to 18 years get a chance to let their creative juices flow like honeydew vine water. Aply assisting Dibble are Amy Jones and Trudy Johnson.

This is her second year on the second floor but the artistic ambience is not second rate.

Besides room to stretch out, the loft has plenty of

natural light flowing through several large windows. Strategically placed tables, easels, and props for still art exercises add to the aura of a working artist's enclave.

Classes expose students to many types of mediums including pastels, water color, clay, print making, mosaics, acrylic and paper-making.

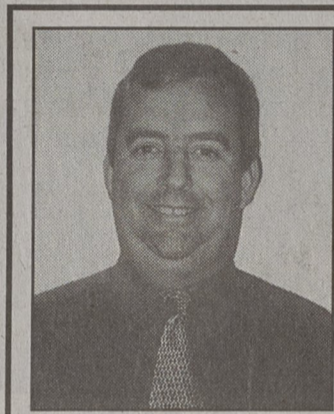
"I enjoy seeing the children express themselves through art," said Dibble. "Our society stifles creativity. This studio is one place they can be themselves, especially the high school-age students."

One of her best teen artists is Benn Stancil, who's been taking lessons from Dibble since he was in kindergarten.



Photo by Alan Hodge

**COLORFUL CLASS-** Jeaniene Dibble's art students gathered around for this lesson in the color wheel.



Ric Francis

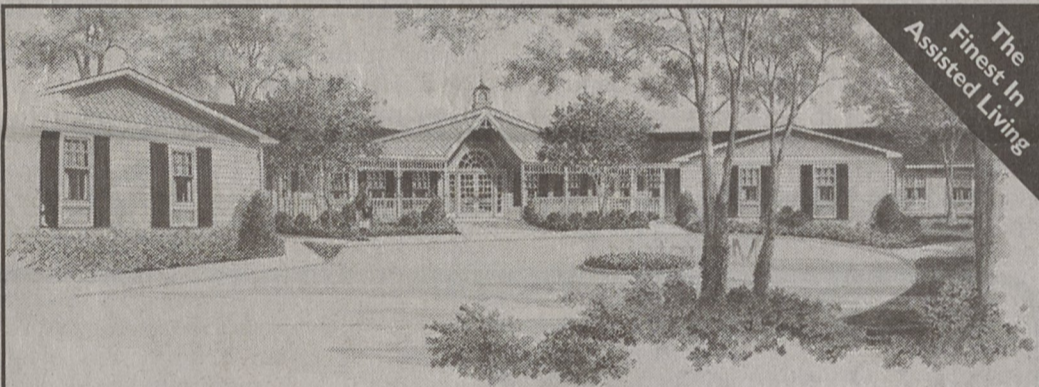


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Proving that some pretty good work has come out of 'Art by J', student work has been selected for display at places like Belmont Food and Beverage, Sammie's Neighborhood Pub, and South Point Pet Hospital.

"Having their work

seen in public like that creates a lot of self esteem in the students," Dibble says.

Seeing works by other artists is also part of the experience Dibble offers. She and her students have taken field trips to places such as N.C. Museum of Art in Raleigh.

A bundle of energy, Dibble plans to feed the artistic appetites of her students, for a long time to come.

"I want to keep it fresh," she said, "and continue as long as I have good health."

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