



Ashley Miller's fourth grade class in front of the Love Wall



A work in progress!

The Love Wall at St. Catherine's School

By Paul Bean

Photos by Ashley Miller

You may not be all that familiar with the halls and stairways at St. Catherine's School and if you are, there is the distinct possibility that they all looked the same and to pick one out in particular might make for a difficult task. However, that has changed recently and thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Ashley Miller, longtime third and now fourth grade teacher, local artist Sunny Goode, and the generosity of others, one stairway at St. Catherine's is now home to the Love Wall! And it seems fitting that getting the mural painted was certainly a labor of love. Miller has been working on the project since 2020.

"During the pandemic many of us had to move our teaching spaces to accommodate the 6 foot spacing. My classroom that year required me to walk through our main stairwell over and over each day. One day, it just occurred to me - we need one of those murals right here on this huge blank wall," said Miller. "This summer we managed to line everything up just right to paint the mural and it was a fabulous surprise for the faculty and the girls when school opened this fall."

On a Saturday in July, Miller was joined by Sunny Goode, Darryl Peyton, and Tom Mayo and thanks to a generous donation from Palette Home, they were able to turn what was once a drab stairway into the beautiful proclamation of love that it is today! And Miller is no stranger to good work like this. In addition to being a fourth grade teacher, she is also the lower school community service coordinator and with the girls in the lower school, she is very active in local service efforts.

The mural has already done so much to inspire the students. Every year, each class at St. Catherine's is responsible for putting on a chapel service for the rest of the school and the Love Mural became the focal point for her class. They wrote messages about love and the mural and shared Sunny's inspiring work with their fellow students.

**"What we keep we lose;
only what we give remains our own."**



The Love Wall team after completing the project

“It brings joy and spreads an important message - LOVE! It all circles back to our school motto,” said Miller. “What we keep we lose; only what we give remains our own. Those words guide me and I hope that they guide our girls as they grow into strong young women who go out to change the world and make it a better place!”

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