

Labors of Love

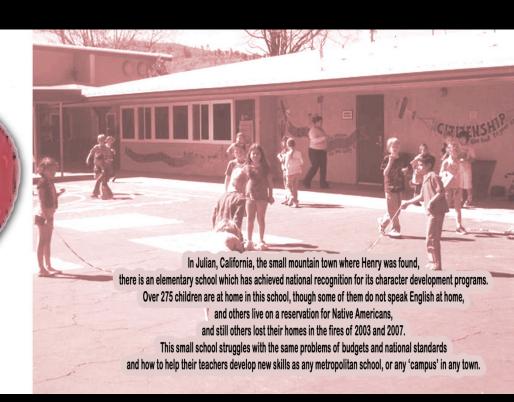
We call the work we most admire and value a "labor of love".

We often give the highest praise for an achievement by giving it this label.

We know that work that changes lives is always grounded in love for without that love there could be no real change.

This book represents the labors of love of a diverse group of people, each with a unique mission in life.

They came together through the three-legged cat named Henry, but that is not our story.





But Julian Elementary is different because their superintendent, Kevin Ogden, and his astounding staff, embrace new efforts, accept the uncommon challenge, and do it all from love of teaching, love of the children in their care, and love of the town in which they live.

At the end of year open house/awards night, not only was there no standing room, but there were three and four generations in families that came to recognize the efforts of their children and the teachers who are dedicated to them.

A labor of love.

A neighbor of the school is Cathy Conheim, founder of Henrys World and the Just Me Project.

Cathy never had a single day in her schooling when she felt that new efforts
or uncommon challenges would be embraced and appreciated.

When she came to visit the school after seeing the award film on the character education program,
she was often moved to tears; thinking

"What would my life have been like if I had gone to a school like this, or if I had had teachers like this?"



As soon as Cathy introduced the transformational program to Mr. Ogden and his teachers, they were excited. Teaching resilience and empathy and social and emotional skills was just what they wanted to do. So began the days when a dog would visit the classrooms:

Dollydog who asks "What About Me?" and helps children to express their feelings;

or Henry the cat, who summons everyone to discover their own truth and their courage to explore the world; and even Tink, the two legged dog who insists that everyone she encounters feel joy and delight in this moment. The teachers were amazed as the children stayed silent because Henry was frightened on his first day in a school. Some children overcame their fear of animals by meeting these messengers.







Henry Dolly Tink



And then, when all the children knew the animals and their stories. Sue Anne Foster and Sharon Tiner. an artist and a gifted teacher, came to visit. They turned Julian Elementary into an art gallery by first showing the children that each child could make something beautiful and magical. Over four days the children did thirteen different art projects, linking the designs to Henry's Kibble for Thought. As they labored with love, they told their stories and when their parents came to visit the children proudly shouted

"I made this; this is my story."

The joy the children showed as their art was displayed was a testament to the freedom for real learning and real creativity supported in their school.

Just as it was an inspiration and testament to Cathy Conheim and her amazing creative team, so too, it was to Sue Anne Foster, Sharon Tiner, and all the others who contributed to the project. Thus the book in your hands is evidence of labors of love.

This is what real teaching always is, and is what real healing can be.

labors of love-Welcome!

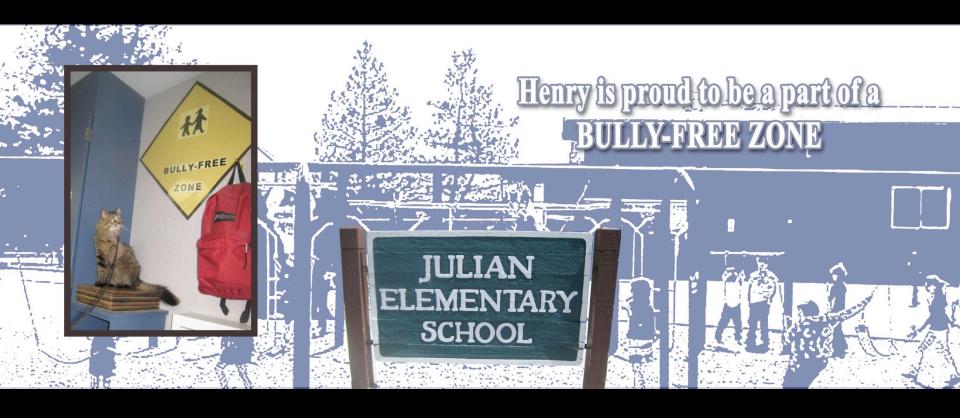
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Thanks to Henry's Creative Core Team:

Cathy Conheim, Mercedes Sironi, Heather Wood Ion, Jo Hendrix, and thanks also to Ginny Schumacher and Tim Brittain for all the help they always give to us.



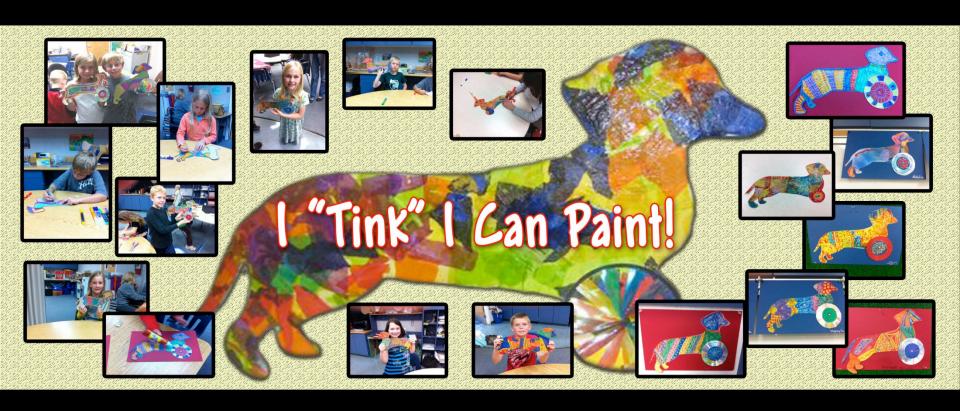














Creativity is the base for Invention



Art is the expression of Creativity

































































Tiner



Sue Anne



Foster







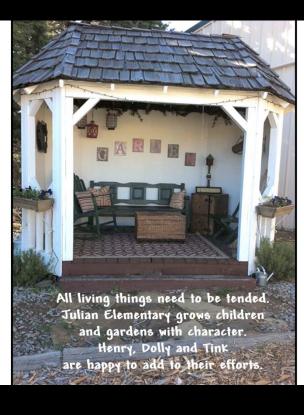












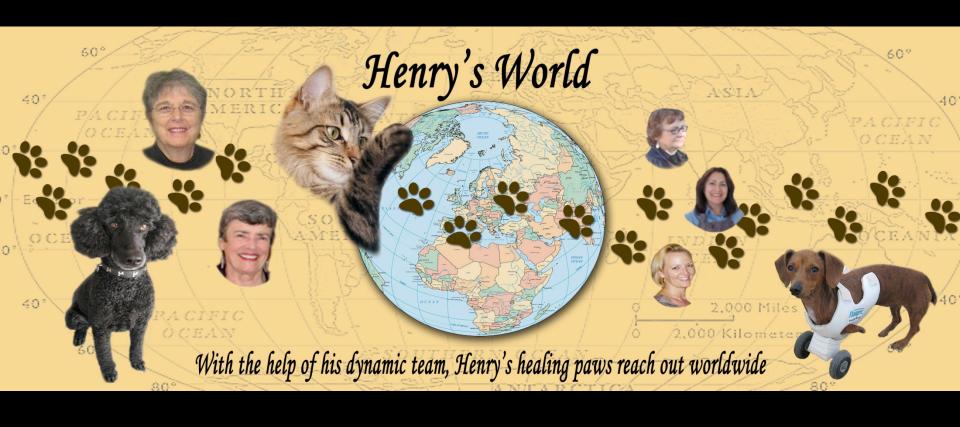




Within each child is a flower ready to bloom







To all who make Henry's World a Magic Place

How lucky can a cat be?

found a family who love me, an incredible team who help me to teach and heal, and now I actually have thousands of children with whom to play and share.

I want to send hugs and purrs to my home team, to Mr. Ogden who took a chance on a home town boy,

to the incredible teachers of Julian Elementary School

and lastly to Sue Anne Foster and Sharon Tiner

who have helped children everywhere to tell their story through art as well as words.

I am, indeed, a lucky striped cat!

I have the privilege, along with my housemate Dollydog and my girlfriend Tink, to enter the lives and hearts of children everywhere.

For all that has been, I send so very many thanks and for all that will be,

I send a very big YES I " Tink " we can!

Henry jm (just me)