

Wildcat Contributor
February 2022

The Marcum-Illinois Union Elementary School District would like to recognize Arra Lewis as a valuable member of our Marcum School Community. Arra is an extremely dedicated employee and a former Marcum Wildcat. Arra Lewis is deserving of the Wildcat Contributor Award for her many contributions to our campus.

Arra is a talented artist and over the last few summers, Arra has used her talents to put a special mark on our campus. Arra chose to do her Senior Project here at Marcum, painting the gorgeous mural on the preschool shed, which brought some much-needed life and color to our preschool playground. Last summer, Arra was inspired to create the MARCUM letters mural that brightened our campus in a new way, and showcased many of the great things students learn about or participate in at Marcum. Arra suggested both of these murals, came up with the designs, hand drew them, and then painted them all on her own. These are incredibly beautiful murals that will be enjoyed for many years to come.

She has also taken it upon herself to transform our library into a magical place where students want to be! She worked with students to create book-themed wall art, found modern library posters, and reorganized all of the books. Arra did this extra work because she wanted the library to be utilized more and wanted to help spread the love of reading throughout Marcum.

In addition, Arra also created "Dino Days" in the month of January for classes to participate in age-appropriate, dinosaur enrichment activities. Arra brainstormed this idea on her own as well, presented it to Mrs. Irby for approval, and worked with the teachers to schedule times to provide these enriching lessons and activities for the students. From noodle art dino skeletons, handprint dinosaurs, Kahoot dino trivia, and various dinosaur story books on display, Wildcats at all grade levels came and enjoyed learning in this space in a way they hadn't before!

Arra also regularly comes up with fun activities for her DEN cohort, helps teach art to middle school on Fridays, and supports our students at lunch service daily. She has also taken photos at events and assembled our student yearbook for the last several years. Her creativity is endless, and her contributions are even more special knowing that she used to be a student here and has come back to use her talents to make Marcum the best place it can be!

The Marcum Board would like to thank Arra Lewis for all that she has done for our students and our school. We are so appreciative of Arra's drive, her innovation, and her dedication to Marcum.